

Cork County Council
County Hall
Cork

Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant at Shanbally, Co. Cork

Volume II

February 2008



*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme

Environmental Impact Statement

Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant at Shanbally, Co. Cork

Issue and Revision Record

Rev	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description
A	Jan 2008	OF/EB	PK	FMcG	Final Draft Issue
B	Feb 2008	OF/EB			Final Issue

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Mott MacDonald being obtained. Mott MacDonald accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequence of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person using or relying on the document for such other purpose agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm his agreement to indemnify Mott MacDonald for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Mott MacDonald accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person by whom it was commissioned.

To the extent that this report is based on information supplied by other parties, Mott MacDonald accepts no liability for any loss or damage suffered by the client, whether contractual or tortious, stemming from any conclusions based on data supplied by parties other than Mott MacDonald and used by Mott MacDonald in preparing this report.

List of Contents Page

Chapters and Appendices

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Legislative Framework	1
1.3	Methodology	2
1.4	Environmental Impact Statement Format	3
1.5	Consultation	4
1.6	Information to Assess the Project & Difficulties Encountered	7
1.7	Acknowledgments	8
2	Description of the Development	9
2.1	Introduction	9
2.2	Existing Public Sewerage Scheme	9
2.2.1	Description of the Existing Collection Scheme	9
2.3	Consideration of Alternatives	11
2.3.1	Alternative Waste Water Treatment Scheme	12
2.3.2	Alternative WWTP Locations	14
2.4	Procurement Options and Alternatives	16
2.4.1	Comparison of Procurement Options	16
2.5	Characteristics of the Development	21
2.5.1	General	21
2.5.2	Proposed Waste Water and Sludge Treatment Plant Site	21
2.5.3	Proposed Design	22
2.5.4	Alternative Treatment Options	25
2.5.5	Proposed WWTP Options	35
2.5.6	Proposed Site Layout	44
2.5.7	Plant Flexibility and Future Expansion	44
2.6	Construction of WWTP	44
2.7	Commissioning of WWTP	46
2.8	Licensing Requirements	47
2.9	Operation of WWTP	47
2.10	Waste Water Monitoring	48
2.11	Ancillary Developments	49
2.11.1	Collection and Conveyance Systems	49
2.11.2	Access	52
2.12	Power, Water and Chemical inputs	52
2.13	Climate Change	54
2.14	Sustainability	54
2.15	Decommissioning	55

3	Receiving Environment	71
3.1	Human Beings	72
3.1.1	Introduction	72
3.1.2	Methodology	72
3.1.3	Existing Environment	73
3.1.4	Impact Assessment	82
3.1.5	Mitigation Measures	89
3.1.6	Residual Impacts	92
3.2	Terrestrial and Marine Ecology	97
3.2.1	Introduction	97
3.2.2	Methodology	97
3.2.3	Existing Environment	99
3.2.4	Impact Assessment	109
3.2.5	Mitigation Measures	116
3.2.6	Residual Impacts	119
3.3	Water Quality	125
3.3.1	Introduction	125
3.3.2	Methodology	125
3.3.3	Existing Environment	126
3.3.4	Impact Assessment	137
3.3.5	Mitigation Measures	144
3.3.6	Residual impacts	145
3.4	Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology	146
3.4.1	Introduction	146
3.4.2	Methodology	146
3.4.3	Existing Environment	149
3.4.4	Impact Assessment	162
3.4.5	Mitigation Measures	167
3.4.6	Residual Impacts	169
3.5	Material Assets	176
3.5.1	Introduction	176
3.5.2	Methodology	176
3.5.3	Existing Environment	177
3.5.4	Impact Assessment	182
3.5.5	Mitigation Measures	186
3.5.6	Residual impact	188
3.6	Air Quality, Odour and Climate	189
3.6.1	Introduction	189
3.6.2	Methodology	189
3.6.3	Existing Environment	193
3.6.4	Impact Assessment	204
3.6.5	Mitigation Measures	211
3.6.6	Residual Impacts	214
3.7	Noise and Vibration	227
3.7.1	Introduction	227
3.7.2	Methodology	227
3.7.3	Existing Environment	232
3.7.4	Impact Assessment	238
3.7.5	Mitigation Measures	244
3.7.6	Residual Impacts	246
3.8	Cultural Heritage	255

3.8.1	Introduction	255
3.8.2	Methodology	255
3.8.3	Existing Environment	257
3.8.4	Environmental Impacts	265
3.8.5	Mitigation Measures	283
3.8.6	Residual Impacts	285
3.9	Landscape and Visual Assessment	305
3.9.1	Introduction	305
3.9.2	Methodology	305
3.9.3	Existing Environment	307
3.9.4	Impact Assessment	313
3.9.5	Mitigation Measures	320
3.9.6	Residual Impacts	321
4	Interactions of the Foregoing	329
4.1	Human Beings Interactions	329
4.2	Terrestrial and Marine Ecology Interactions	330
4.3	Water Quality Interactions	331
4.4	Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Interactions	332
4.5	Material Assets Interactions	332
4.6	Air Quality, Odour and Climate Interactions	333
4.7	Noise and Vibration Interactions	333
4.8	Cultural Heritage Interactions	333
4.9	Landscape and Visual Assessment Interactions	333

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

List of Figures

Figure 2.1:	Location of Existing Outfalls and Proposed Outfall	56
Figure 2.2:	Location of Potential WWTP Sites	57
Figure 2.3:	Site Location - Regional	58
Figure 2.4:	Site Location - Local	59
Figure 2.5:	Proposed WWTP Schematic Flow Profile (Indicative Design Nr. 1)	60
Figure 2.6:	Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1	61
Figure 2.7:	Proposed WWTP Schematic Flow Profile for SBR System (Indicative Design Nr.2)	62
Figure 2.8:	Indicative Site Layout Nr. 2	63
Figure 2.9:	Associated Development Works	64
Figure 2.10:	Site Location Plan – Proposed West Beach Pumping Station	65
Figure 2.11:	Site Location Plan – Proposed Carrigaloe Pumping Station	66
Figure 2.12:	Site Location Plan – Proposed Monkstown Pumping Station	67
Figure 2.13:	Site Location Plan – Proposed Raffeen Pumping Station	68
Figure 3.1.1:	District Electoral Division of Carrigaline (Cork Rural District)	93
Figure 3.1.2:	Proximity of Residential Dwellings	94
Figure 3.1.3:	Adjacent Land Uses	95
Figure 3.2.1:	Conservation Designated Sites in the Study Area	120
Figure 3.2.2:	Habitat Map of Selected Marine Areas	121
Figure 3.2.3:	Habitat Map of WWTP Site	122
Figure 3.2.4:	Location of Marine/ Estuarine Sampling Sites.	123
Figure 3.2.5:	Sites with Oyster Aquaculture Licences and Oyster Order Sites in Cork Harbour	124
Figure 3.3.1:	Faecal coliform concentrations in Cork Lower Harbour at High Tide	131
Figure 3.3.2:	Faecal coliform concentration in Cork Lower Harbour at Low Tide	132
Figure 3.3.3:	Location of fifteen points of interest within Cork Lower Harbour.	134
Figure 3.4.1:	Local Bedrock Geology	170
Figure 3.4.2:	Proposed WWTP & Collection System with Underlying Bedrock	171
Figure 3.4.3:	Marine Cross section	172
Figure 3.4.4:	Structural Geology	173
Figure 3.4.5:	Radon Levels in Cork Harbour	174
Figure 3.6.1:	Overview of Air Quality Monitoring Locations A1 to A7	217
Figure 3.6.2:	Overview of monitoring location A8 (Raffeen Pumping Station)	218
Figure 3.6.3:	Overview of Monitoring Location A9 (West Beach Pumping Station)	219
Figure 3.6.4:	Overview of Monitoring Location A10 (Monkstown Pumping Station)	220
Figure 3.6.5:	Overview of monitoring location A11 (Carrigaloe Pumping Station)	221
Figure 3.6.6:	Overview of monitoring location A12 (Church Road Pumping Station)	222
Figure 3.6.7:	Predicted odour emission contribution with odour abatement protocols implemented	223
Figure 3.6.8:	Predicted odour emission contribution with odour abatement protocols implemented	224
Figure 3.6.9:	Predicted odour emission contribution of total OCUs to odour plume dispersal	225
Figure 3.6.10:	Predicted odour emission contribution excluding OCUs	226
Figure 3.7.1:	Location of Proposed WWTP Site and Baseline Noise Survey Locations N1 to N8	247
Figure 3.7.2:	Layout of Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme, Pumping Station Locations	248
Figure 3.7.3:	Plot of measured noise levels at 24hr measurements, positioned at WWTP site	249
Figure 3.7.4:	Calculated construction noise levels	250
Figure 3.7.5:	Variation of noise levels at a given house,	251
Figure 3.7.6:	Calculated night-time noise levels due to operating WWTP	252
Figure 3.7.7:	Calculated daytime noise levels due to operating WWTP	253
Figure 3.7.8:	Measured ground vibration at 1m from existing Church Road Pumping Station	254

Figure 3.8.1:	Location of Underwater and Intertidal Survey Areas	286
Figure 3.8.2:	Townland Boundaries in the Passage West/Monkstown Area	287
Figure 3.8.3:	Townland Boundaries in the Carrigaline Area	288
Figure 3.8.4:	Townland Boundaries in the Shanbally Area	289
Figure 3.8.5:	Townland Boundaries in the Ringaskiddy Area	290
Figure 3.8.6:	Townland Boundaries in the Cobh Area	291
Figure 3.8.7:	RMP Sites within the Vicinity of the proposed Marine Crossing	292
Figure 3.8.8:	Survey Area and Seabed Observations at Site of Proposed Marine Pipeline Crossing	293
Figure 3.8.9:	RMP Sites within the Vicinity of the proposed Foreshore Pipeline Route	294
Figure 3.8.10:	Aerial Photo showing CH Locations (Monkstown Area)	295
Figure 3.8.11:	Aerial Photo showing CH Locations for Cobh and Environs	296
Figure 3.8.12:	Aerial Photo showing CH Locations (WWTP Site Area)	297
Figure 3.8.13:	Aerial Photo showing CH Locations (Ringaskiddy Area)	298
Figure 3.8.14:	Aerial Photo showing CH Locations(Carrigaline Area)	299
Figure 3.9.1:	Visual Envelope and Photo Locations	322
Figure 3.9.2:	Planting Schedule	323
Figure 3.9.3:	Landscape Proposals Boundary Treatment, Section A-A & Detail 1	324

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

List of Tables

Table 2.1: &M Period and Plant Life Expectancy	18
Table 2.2: Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme – Base Year (B.Y.) and Design Year (D.Y.) Loadings	24
Table 3.1.1: Criteria for assessing the quality of impacts	73
Table 3.1.2: Criteria for assessing impact magnitude	73
Table 3.1.3: Criteria for assessing impact duration	73
Table 3.1.4: Population of Selected Settlements in the Cork Lower Harbour Area (2002 & 2006)	74
Table 3.1.5: Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Carrigaline Town for 2002	77
Table 3.1.6: Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Monkstown (Passage West, Glenbrook, Monkstown) Urban for 2002	77
Table 3.1.7: Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Cobh Town	77
Table 3.1.8: Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for the N28 (Cork-Ringaskiddy)	81
Table 3.1.9: Traffic turning data for minor roads L2490 and LS472	82
Table 3.2.1: Criteria used in assessing the ecological importance of ecological features.	98
Table 3.2.2: Criteria for assessing impact type	99
Table 3.2.3: Criteria for assessing impact magnitude	99
Table 3.2.4: Fish species expected in areas affected by the proposed development.	108
Table 3.2.5: Designated Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas in Ireland, (October 2005)	108
Table 3.3.1: Criteria for assessing the quality of impacts	126
Table 3.3.2: Criteria for assessing impact magnitude	126
Table 3.3.3: Criteria for assessing impact duration	126
Table 3.3.4: Quality Requirements for Bathing Water	128
Table 3.3.5: Water quality results 2005-2007 (Cork City Council)	130
Table 3.3.6: Outfall locations and discharge rates (2004 data)	133
Table 3.3.7: Average and maximum concentrations of faecal coliforms/ <i>E. coli</i> in Cork Lower Harbour in 2010 (untreated effluent).	135
Table 3.3.8: Average and maximum concentrations of <i>Norovirus</i> in Cork Lower Harbour in 2010 (untreated effluent).	136
Table 3.3.9: Maximum and average concentrations of nitrogen, ammonia and nitrate in Cork Lower Harbour in 2010 (untreated effluent).	137
Table 3.3.10: Average and maximum concentrations of faecal coliforms/ <i>E. coli</i> in Cork Lower Harbour in 2010 (treated effluent)	139
Table 3.3.11: Average and maximum levels of intestinal enterococci in Cork Lower Harbour in 2010 (treated effluent).	140
Table 3.3.12: Average and maximum concentrations of <i>Norovirus</i> in Cork Lower Harbour in 2010 (treated effluent).	141
Table 3.3.13: Concentration of organic nitrogen, ammonia and nitrate in raw and treated sewage.	142
Table 3.3.14: Maximum concentrations of nitrogen, ammonia and nitrate in the Lower Harbour area in 2010.	142
Table 3.4.1: Geology and Groundwater Sensitivity	148
Table 3.4.2: Definition of Magnitude of Impacts Criteria	148
Table 3.4.3: Assessment of Significance Criteria for Impacts on Geology and Groundwater	149
Table 3.4.4: Assessment of the Duration for Impacts on Geology and Groundwater.	149
Table 3.4.5: Borehole Summary Details	152
Table 3.4.6: Trial Pit Summary Details	153
Table 3.4.7: Bedrock Geology Summary	155
Table 3.4.8: Summary of GSI Bedrock and Aquifer Data	159
Table 3.4.9: Vulnerability Mapping Guidelines (GSI, 1999)	160
Table 3.5.1: Criteria for assessing the quality of impacts	176
Table 3.5.2: Criteria for assessing impact magnitude	177

Table 3.5.3: Criteria for assessing impact duration	177
Table 3.6.1: Description of Air Monitoring Locations	190
Table 3.6.2: Baseline Air Quality - Average BTEX concentrations at each location as measured by passive diffusion tubes.	194
Table 3.6.3: Average NO ₂ concentrations at each location as measured by passive diffusion tubes	195
Table 3.6.4: Average SO ₂ concentrations at each location as measured by passive diffusion tubes	195
Table 3.6.5: Average ambient baseline CO concentrations for the proposed site development.	196
Table 3.6.6: Average ambient PM ₁₀ concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed development	197
Table 3.6.7: Total depositional dust levels at each monitoring location	197
Table 3.6.8: Hydrogen sulphide levels at each monitoring location	198
Table 3.6.9: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A6-WWTP	199
Table 3.6.10: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A7-WWTP	199
Table 3.6.11: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A8-Raffeen Pumping Station	200
Table 3.6.12: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A9-West Beach Pumping Station	200
Table 3.6.13: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A10-Monkstown Pumping Station	201
Table 3.6.14: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A11-Carrigaloe Pumping Station	201
Table 3.15: Speciated VOC profile and concentrations in the vicinity of the proposed site location at monitoring location A12-Church Road Pumping Station (existing)	202
Table 3.6.16: Predicted overall odour emission rate from proposed Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme WWTP specimen design with the incorporation of odour mitigation protocols	209
Table 3.6.17: Predicted overall odour emission rate from the five major pumping stations with the incorporation of good design and odour management systems (i.e. tight fitting covers, etc.)	210
Table 3.7.1: Maximum Permissible Construction Noise Levels at the Façade of Dwellings during Construction (NRA 2004)	228
Table 3.7.2: Gradation of adverse noise impact as function of construction noise level, and duration of noise exposure	229
Table 3.7.3: Overview of measured noise levels at N1 to N8.	233
Table 3.7.4: Daytime and night-time noise surveys at the sites of the proposed major pumping stations	234
Table 3.7.5: Daytime short-term orientation noise surveys at 20 proposed minor pumping stations	236
Table 3.7.6: Night-time short-term orientation noise surveys at 20 minor pumping stations	237
Table 3.7.7: Calculated noise levels at a house, due to excavation works at roadside adjacent to the house	239
Table 3.7.8: Calculated highest construction noise levels, during the early site preparation and excavation phases for the proposed major pumping stations.	240
Table 3.7.9: Predicted noise levels from proposed WWTP, and noise impact assessment	242
Table 3.8.1: Detail of Townlands within Study Area	261
Table 3.8.2: List of finds from Townlands along the pipeline (National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files)	262
Table 3.8.3: List of RMP for the Foreshore Pipeline Corridor	264
Table 3.8.4: Archaeological constraints Inventory of Recorded Monuments	268
Table 3.8.5: Architectural constraints inventory of Recorded Structures within study area	277
Table 3.8.6: Further potential Architectural Constraints within study area	278
Table 3.8.7: Mitigation Measure Summary	284
Table 3.9.1: Criteria for assessing the quality of impacts	306
Table 3.9.2: Criteria for assessing impact magnitude	307

Table 3.9.3: Criteria for assessing impact duration	307
Table 3.9.4: Summary of Construction Impacts on the Landscape	313
Table 3.9.5: Summary of Operational Impacts on the Landscape	315
Table 4.1: Interactions of Impacts during Construction and Operation of Proposed Development	334

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme Waste Water Treatment Plant (also referred to as the Cork Lower Harbour Sewerage Scheme) is a scheme for the provision of collection systems and waste water treatment facilities in the Cork Lower Harbour area. The provision of a WWTP (which provides secondary treatment) for Cork Lower Harbour is a requirement under European and National law. The *Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001* (S.I. No. 254 of 2001) as amended, require sanitary authorities to provide treatment plants which offer secondary treatment or equivalent treatment by specified dates according to the population load entering the collection system. Upgrading of the sanitary services infrastructure has been set as an objective of the *Cork County Development Plan 2003* and *Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2005* (revised in 2007). The Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) is the driving force behind water infrastructure. The Cork County 2007-2009 WSIP identifies Cork Lower Harbour Sewerage Scheme as one of the projects identified for investment during this period.

Cork County Council appointed MMP to prepare an EIS for the construction of a new secondary WWTP at Shanbally as part of the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme. Included in the proposed development is an upgrade of the waste water collection system and construction of a new marine pipeline crossing. The proposed location for discharge of the treated effluent is the existing Industrial Development Authority (IDA) foul sewer at Ringaskiddy. It is anticipated that the construction of the proposed WWTP will proceed as a Design/ Build/ Operate contract.

Cork Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world and one of the most important industrial and recreational areas in Ireland.

Waste water from Cork Lower Harbour and its environs is currently discharged, untreated, to Cork Harbour. The upgrading of the existing sewerage scheme and the development of a secondary WWTP is required to cater for the existing loading on the system and for the future expansion of the area.

The environmental impact of the proposed discharge of treated municipal effluent from the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme via an existing marine outfall and the associated collection system is considered within this EIS.

1.2 Legislative Framework

The *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 to 2006* and legislation contained in the *Planning and Development Acts 2000 and 2006* and enforcing regulations, bring the requirements of EC Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended by EC Directive 97/11/EC, generally known as the *Environmental Impact Assessment Directive*, into effect in Ireland. The EIA Regulations require that an EIS is prepared in respect of certain defined categories of developments to accompany the planning application for the proposed development.

The categories of development requiring an EIS are contained in the First Schedule of the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 93 of 1999)*. In addition, the Fifth Schedule of the *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001)*, which brings the *Planning and Development Act 2000* into effect, specifies developments for the purposes of Part X of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, that is developments proposed by a Local Authority that require the preparation of an EIS and approval for the development by An Bord Pleanála. Under both pieces of legislation WWTPs with a capacity greater than 10,000 population equivalent require an EIS.

The proposed WWTP at Shanbally has a design capacity of 80,000 population equivalent (PE). Therefore the development requires an EIS. Cork County Council has commissioned the preparation of this EIS in order to assess the environmental impact of the proposed development.

The Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme WWTP Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted as part of an application by Cork County Council to An Bord Pleanála (as the competent authority for development control purposes) under *Part X, Section 175* and *Part XV, Section 226* of the *Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000*, as brought into force by the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. 600 of 2001)*, for approval of the proposed development. The application is being made to An Bord Pleanála under *Section 175* and *Section 226* of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000* as the proposed development is being carried out by or on behalf of the Local Authority and limited elements of the development are to be located wholly or partly on the foreshore.

This EIS and such further information relating to the application to An Bord Pleanála will be available for public inspection and/or purchase at the offices of Cork County Council between 9.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday and excluding public holidays. The address of Cork County Council is:

Cork County Council,
WSIP Project Office,
Model Business Park,
Model Farm Road,
Cork

For inspection purposes only. Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

1.3 Methodology

The primary objective of the EIS is to identify the baseline environmental and socio-economic conditions in the area of the proposed development, to predict potential beneficial and/or adverse effects of the development and to propose appropriate mitigating actions, where necessary.

In addition to a detailed assessment of the WWTP site, the EPA have recommended in their guidance documents the inclusion of secondary developments/ancillary works which directly arise because of the project. For this reason the proposed footprint of the collection system has been included in the assessment.

In preparing this EIS, MMP have taken into account the following:

The requirements of European Communities Directives and Irish Regulations regarding Environmental Impact Assessment; and

The 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements' and the 'Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)' published by the EPA in March 2002 and September 2003 respectively.

Information on the project and the receiving environment was obtained through a number of means including:

- Site visits
- Field surveys
- Review of existing data for the environs of the proposed WWTP site
- Review of existing studies carried out in the Cork Harbour Area
- Meetings and discussions with Cork County Council representatives
- Consultation with interested parties

Specialist contributions to the EIS were made as follows:

- Noise & Vibration Assessment: ANV Technology Limited
- Air Quality (incl. Odour): Odour Monitoring Ireland Limited
- Terrestrial & Marine Ecology: Ecofact Environmental Consultants Limited
- Hydrodynamic Modelling: University College Cork
- Cultural Heritage: Aegis Archaeology Limited & ADCO
- Landscape and Visual Assessment: Brady Shipman Martin

1.4 Environmental Impact Statement Format

This EIS has been prepared according to the 'Grouped Format Structure' as outlined in the EPA's *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. The EIS is divided into four main chapters:

Volume I - Non Technical Summary

Volume II - EIS

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Description of the Development
- Chapter 3 Receiving Environment, Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Chapter 4 Interactions of the Foregoing

Volume III - Appendices

Chapter 3 is divided into nine sub-sections addressing the topics as set out in the Second Schedule of the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (S.I. No. 93 of 1999)* as follows;

Human Beings

- Human Beings (Section 3.1)

Flora and Fauna

- Terrestrial and Marine Ecology (Section 3.2)

Soils

- Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology (Section 3.4)

Water

- Water Quality (Section 3.3)

Air and Climatic Factors

- Air Quality, Odour and Climate (Section 3.6)
- Noise and Vibration (Section 3.7)

Landscape

- Landscape and Visual Assessment (Section 3.9)

Material Assets (incl. Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage)

- Material Assets (Section 3.5)
- Cultural Heritage (Section 3.8)

Interrelationships

- Interactions of the Foregoing (Chapter 4)

Within each sub-section individual topics are assessed with reference to the existing environment, the proposed development, the likely impacts and, where necessary, mitigation measures. Where relevant, the inter-relationship between the above factors is addressed within each section or included in *Chapter 4- Interactions of the Foregoing*.

All figures and plates referenced in the text are included at the end of each relevant chapter/section.

1.5 Consultation

Submissions regarding the development and the scope of the environmental impact assessments were invited and/or received from a number of relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees specified in Section 4 of the EPA's *Advice Notes on Current Practice* (2003) as follows:

- An Bord Pleanála
- The Arts Council (An Comhairle Ealaíon)
- An Taisce
- Fáilte Ireland (formerly Bord Fáilte)
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (formerly Agriculture, Food and Science)
- Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
- Department for Trade, Enterprise and Employment

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Head Office, Development Applications Unit, National Monuments Section, National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Local Conservation Ranger – Danny O’Keeffe)
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
- Department of Community, Rural and the Gaeltacht Affairs
- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (incl. Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform)
- Commission for Electricity Regulation
- Dublin Airport Authority (Cork Operations)
- National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health
- National Roads Authority
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Cork County Council (County Archaeologist, Water Services, Planning Department, Heritage Section, Environment and Waste, Housing – South Rural & City Hinterland Areas, Coastal & Recreation – South Cork Divisional Services, Infrastructure & Development, Community & Enterprise, Waste Management Operations, Roads)
- Office of Public Works
- Railway Procurement Agency
- Dublin Transport Office
- Central Regional Fisheries Board
- South Western Regional Fisheries Board
- The Heritage Council
- Health Services Executive (HSE) - Southern Area
- Badger Watch Ireland
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Bird Watch Ireland
- Bord Gáis
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara
- Botanical Society of the British Isles
- Cobh Angling Centre
- Cork City Development Board
- Cork County Bat Group
- Cork Harbour Boats
- Cork Historical & Archaeological Society
- Éircom
- Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)

- Great Island Historical Society
- Iarnród Éireann
- Irish Federation of Sea Anglers
- Irish Underwater Council
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Marine Institute Headquarters
- Port of Cork Company
- Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland
- South West Regional Authority

Copies of correspondence received concerning the content of the EIS are included in Volume III Appendix 1A of this statement. The reader is recommended to review all the correspondence included, however for the purposes of the introduction to this statement, please find detailed hereunder a list of some of the extensive topics raised in the correspondence received:

- An Bord Pleanála – alternative treatment processes considered, alternative locations, potential alternative procurement methods, current impacts on water quality and ecology, impacts and relationship with other effluent discharges, baseline study of nutrient levels and fish species, visual impact assessment of the WWTP on the landscape, impact of the discharge on flora and fauna of ecological value, likely effects on human beings in the vicinity in relation to odours, noise and traffic generated, information on all planned and approved developments in the vicinity of the site, odour dispersion patterns and the level of potential odour generation from the different process operations, and the likely effects on items of archaeological interest arising from the construction of the outfall and WWTP. These items are addressed in Chapter 2 - Section 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5, and Chapter 3 – Section 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9.
- South Western Regional Fisheries Board – physical impacts of waters containing fisheries, effects of sediment disturbance, and impact on commercial/amenity fisheries from the marine crossing. Impact on shellfisheries. Impacts on fish habitats & water quality (chemical & microbiological). Assessment of the potential for untreated effluent to discharge to harbour waters and Monkstown Creek. Nutrient loading effects on Cork Lower Harbour which is periodically affected by phytoplankton blooms. Measures to avoid and prevent pumping station overflow discharges during operation. These items are addressed in Chapter 2 - Section 2.11 and Chapter 3 - Section 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.
- Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources – noise and vibration details should be noted and limited in accordance with relevant legislation, specify in the EIS if dredging for the marine crossing is required, details to be provided on proposed pipelines in the foreshore incl. timing/duration, refer to the designation of Shellfish Waters, and potential impacts on navigational safety and passage of migratory fish. These items are addressed in Chapter 3 - Section 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.7.
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group – Identified importance of minimising impacts from acoustics marine mammals such as whales, dolphins and porpoise.
- Bat Conservation Ireland – A number of bat species have been recorded in the vicinity the proposed development. A bat survey has been recommended for road schemes to determine the roosting, commuting and foraging potential for local bat populations. These items are addressed in Chapter 3 - Section 3.2.

- Birdwatch Ireland – Cork Harbour has been identified as highly important for wintering waterbirds and no deterioration in their habitat quality should occur. Site 4030 has been designated a SPA under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These items are addressed in Chapter 3 - Section 3.2.
- National Roads Authority – Impacts of dust generated by activities on roads, the need for a traffic and transport assessments, assessment of the trips generated and their impacts, traffic exhaust emissions and road traffic noise implications. These items are addressed in Chapter 3 - Section 3.1, 3.6 and 3.7.
- Development Applications Unit – As part of an environmental review for the development, a full archaeological impact assessment was recommended. These items are addressed in Chapter 3 - Section 3.8.
- Office of Public Works – issues of potential flood risk in the area that may result from the proposed works should be addressed. These items are addressed in Chapter 2 - Section 2.4 and Chapter 3 - Section 3.4.
- Eircom – Identified extensive telecommunication services in the area; not to be interfered with.
- Geological Survey of Ireland – Identified 3 geological heritage sites in the region (not impacted on by the proposed development areas). These items are addressed in Chapter 3 - Section 3.4.

Public Consultation:

A summary report of the scheme was presented to local councillors at the Carrigaline Area Committee meeting on 18/09/2006. Following requests from the councillors an overview of the Cork Harbour Scheme was presented to the Council members on 16/10/2006. In addition, an overview of the scheme was presentation to local interested parties in Shanbally on 28/11/2006.

A Public Open Evening was widely advertised and held at Ringaskiddy Community Hall from 3pm to 11pm on 11/01/2007 where a significant portion of the local residents and businesses attended.

A second Public Open Evening was presented to the local residents and interested parties in Ringaskiddy Community Hall on 06/12/2007 from 6pm to 9pm. Details of the EIA for the proposed scheme were displayed.

During the development of the project a commitment was given to Elected Members of the Council that intake and sludge management at the WWTP would be located at the western end of the proposed site (to minimise impacts on residential dwellings). This has been incorporated in the WWTP design and the EIS as an objective of the Scheme.

1.6 Information to Assess the Project & Difficulties Encountered

MMP is satisfied that adequate information was collated, in the preparation of this EIS, to assess the likely effects of the proposed development on the environment. Where it is considered that information was limited, this has been identified in the EIS.

Any difficulties encountered during the specialist field surveys are detailed in the specialist reports included in Volume III of this statement.

At present no specific detail on construction activities is available. However, the contractor will be required to prepare and agree a detailed construction management plan with Cork County Council prior to construction work commencing on site. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be a part of this and will incorporate the mitigation measures specified in this EIS. An Operation Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) will also be generated by the Contractor and submitted to Cork County Council for agreement in advance of commencing development operations.

1.7 Acknowledgments

Mott MacDonald Pettit Limited would like to acknowledge the assistance and courtesy extended by the staff of Cork County Council throughout the research and preparation of this EIS.

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

2 Description of the Development

2.1 Introduction

The objective of the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme is to provide waste water treatment for the towns and villages in the lower Cork Harbour area. The main population centres to be served by the scheme include Cobh, Passage West/Glenbrook, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy (including Shanbally and Coolmore), Carrigaline and Crosshaven.

The proposed development includes for the construction of a WWTP, which will include for sludge treatment, and a collection system to convey the waste water to the new plant. The proposed scheme also includes for upgrading the existing drainage network to modern standards and expanding the network in order to cater for the future needs of the area. The Scheme will be designed to meet the needs of the Cork Harbour Area to the year 2030. This section describes the existing drainage system, and the characteristics of the proposed development.

The proposed WWTP will be constructed using the Design/Build/Operate (DBO) procurement system. A Contractor will be appointed to design, build and operate the WWTP for a period of 20 years to achieve the required standards within defined design constraints. As a consequence the Contractor will be required to produce a detailed design as part of the procurement process.

Nevertheless, it is possible to describe the necessary level of treatment to be provided to achieve the required effluent treatment standards. The treatment requirements and treatment options are discussed in Section 2.5. In order to assess the environmental impact of the development, indicative designs of the proposed Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme WWTP have also been undertaken. The indicative designs achieve the required discharge standards and are described in detail in Section 2.5.5.

2.2 Existing Public Sewerage Scheme

2.2.1 Description of the Existing Collection Scheme

Currently, waste water from the population centres within Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme (namely Carrigaline, Ringaskiddy (including Shanbally and Coolmore), Cobh, Monkstown, Passage West/Glenbrook and Crosshaven) is generally not treated (significant elements receiving no treatment and limited volumes receiving comminution) and is discharged directly to the Lower Harbour.

The existing drainage infrastructure within the Lower Harbour area comprises sewers, culverts, manholes, pumping stations, overflows and outfalls. Some of these structures have been in existence for more than 50 years and in some cases are no longer adequate for their intended purpose due to structural damage, excessive infiltration and lack of capacity.

The locations of the existing outfalls discharging to Cork Harbour from the towns/villages to be served by the Scheme are shown in Figure 2.1 *Location of Existing Outfalls and Proposed Outfall*. A description of the existing collection systems in each population centre is provided below.

(i) Carrigaline Collection System

The Carrigaline collection system consists of both combined and separate sewers. There are two foul interceptor sewers and three collector storm sewers within the catchment. New housing estates have separate local foul and storm water sewers in place.

The two foul interceptor sewers were constructed in the mid-eighties and run from the town centre, along either side of the Owenboy River, to the comminutor and main pumping station on Church Road. The southern interceptor sewer crosses the estuary to join the other interceptor sewer approximately 1.3km east of Carrigaline Bridge.

Effluent from the Carrigaline catchment is directed to the Church Road pumping station via the interceptor sewers. From the Church Road pumping station, the waste water is pumped via twin rising mains into the main gravity sewer serving the IDA industrial lands in Ringaskiddy which discharges through a long outfall into Cork Harbour.

There are also two smaller pumping stations in Carrigaline (Waterpark Pumping Station (PS) and the Crosshaven Road PS), which pumping the waste water from the central low-lying catchments on either side of the Owenboy River to the interceptor sewers.

(ii) Ringaskiddy, Shanbally & Coolmore Collection System

The main collection system serving the industrial section of the Ringaskiddy catchment was developed by the IDA. A foul sewer and a storm sewer run parallel to each other through the middle of the IDA owned lands. These sewers were sized in order to cater for full industrial development of the area. Discharge of the screened effluent is via marine outfall to deep water.

The IDA sewer runs through the centre of the Shanbally/Coolmore residential development areas. Shanbally is served by a combined sewer system which gravitates to the Shanbally pumping station. The pumping station lifts flow to a gravity sewer serving the southern Shanbally area and discharges to the IDA foul sewer. Two other smaller sub catchments North and West of Shanbally are served by septic tanks.

South of the IDA sewer in the Coolmore area, all developments are connected to septic tanks. The IDA storm sewer, which runs parallel to the foul up to this point, turns south to discharge into the Owenboy River.

Ringaskiddy Village has its own combined collection system which discharges the untreated effluent directly north of the village.

Untreated effluent from Carrigaline is pumped from Church Road pumping station to a foul manhole located on the IDA sewer upstream of the Shanbally connection.

(iii) Crosshaven Collection System

Effluent originating from Crosshaven is currently pumped without treatment to the collection system in Carrigaline. The design loads have been incorporated into the Carrigaline catchment.

(iv) Passage West/Monkstown Collection System

This collection system serves the population centres of Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown.

The collection system drains to three major outfall points in the catchment. There are five submersible pumping stations within the system, two of which are situated in Passage West, one in Glenbrook and two in Monkstown.

In Passage West, the Cork Road pumping station serves the low-lying catchments to the north west of the town. All flows from this area are directed to the Passage outfall via a comminutor chamber near the old railway line in North Passage. The Passage West Centre pumping station serves the centre of Passage West. All flows from central Passage, Glenbrook and Carrigmahon are directed to the Glenbrook comminutor and outfall adjacent to the Glenbrook ferry slipway.

All flows from Monkstown are directed to a comminutor and pumping station on the sand quay at the centre of the village Boatyard and pumped to the Monkstown outfall by the old railway tunnel north of Monkstown village.

The Coast Road pumping station takes the flow from the houses south of Monkstown village and pumps it to the pumping station on the sand quay in the centre of the village.

(v) Cobh Collection System

The waste water from Cobh Town discharges largely untreated into the tide with the exception of the waste water from Eastern Cobh, which passes through a comminutor before discharging into the harbour via an outfall in Whitepoint.

The collection system drains to five major outfall points serving different catchment areas within the town. There are also a number of smaller outfalls serving independent areas in Cobh.

Flow from East Cobh is directed to two major outfalls. Pilot Pier outfall is located opposite the Mall near the slipway and breakwater. Corbett outfall is sited opposite Fr. Corbett Terrace at the junction between Harbour Terrace and Connolly Street. In East Cobh there is also a small outfall east of Lynch's Quay serving apartments on the waterfront and two further outfalls opposite Connolly Street.

Two major outfalls serve central Cobh. The King's Quay outfall is located under the Jetty at King's Quay. The West Beach Outfall is located at the Pier opposite Cobh Square. There is also an existing outfall serving the railway station and Heritage Centre which discharges at the promenade.

The majority of flows from West Cobh are directed to a major outfall at White Point. The Whitepoint outfall is located near the slipway in southern White Point and is the largest outfall serving western Cobh. There are also a number of smaller outfalls serving low-lying areas close to the shore.

2.3 Consideration of Alternatives

Alternative treatment options, plant designs and outfall locations were evaluated on environmental, economic and engineering criteria.

2.3.1 Alternative Waste Water Treatment Scheme

Initially nineteen potential WWTP sites were evaluated in the Lower Harbour Area to determine the optimum sites for construction and operation of a WWTP. This preliminary evaluation considered WWTP's serving a single population centre, a number of population centres or the entire catchment area. Figure 2.2 *Location of Potential WWTP Sites* shows the location of the nineteen sites evaluated. Criteria used to assess the sites included:

- Availability of sufficient site area
- Land Zoning
- Ecological Considerations
- Proximity to human beings
- Elevation (required elevation to prevent flooding and facilitate gravity discharge against high tide)
- Distance from the treated effluent outfall point
- Distance from nearest habitable dwelling
- Distance from Population centres
- Access to the site
- The Sludge Management Plan for County Cork, 2000
- Capital Costs
- Operating and Maintenance Costs

The preliminary evaluation identified ten sites as being unsuitable for the location of the WWTP. The nine *sites* considered further were Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2), Loughbeg West (Site Nr. 3), Coolmore (Site Nr. 8), Marino (Site Nr. 11), Shanbally (Site Nr. 18), Ringaskiddy (Site Nr. 1), Carrigaline Pumping Station (Site Nr. 7), Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16) and Carrigrennan on Little Island [Cork City WWTP] (Site Nr. 19).

Of the nine sites the following five sites were identified as having good potential to accommodate waste water treatment facilities for the entire catchment to be served and to act as a hub centre for the treatment of sludge from Region 19 (refer to section 2.5.4 (v)) and these were then subjected to a more detailed evaluation in terms of incorporation into the overall scheme:

- Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)
- Loughbeg West (Site Nr. 3)
- Coolmore (Site Nr. 8)
- Marino (Site Nr. 11 – waste water only & not sludge treatment)
- Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)

A further four sites were identified as having good potential to accommodate local WWTP facilities or pumping stations. These were then included for further evaluation on this basis only in terms of their incorporation into the overall Scheme:

- Ringaskiddy (Site Nr. 1)
- Carrigaline Pumping Station (Site Nr. 7)
- Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16)

Carrigrennan on Little Island [Cork City WWTP] (Site Nr. 19)

Each potential WWTP site has associated with it a number of alternative conveyance systems depending on which or how many population centres it is to serve. The above nine sites were assessed for the collection and conveyance system to convey raw waste water from each population centre to the optimum treatment plant location (s).

The following Sewerage Scheme *options* were considered.

One WWTP serving all of the specified population centres. The five potential sites identified included:

- Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)
- Coolmore (Site Nr. 8)
- Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)
- Loughbeg West (Site Nr. 3)
- Cobh at Marino (Site Nr. 11)

Two WWTP's with each plant serving one or more population centres:

- Shanbally (Site Nr. 18) & Marino (Site Nr. 11)
- Marino (Site Nr. 11) & Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)
- Carrigrennan (Site Nr. 19) & Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)
- Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16) & Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)
- Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16) & Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)
- Shanbally (Site Nr. 18) & Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)
- Carrigaline Pumping Station (Site Nr. 7) & Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)

Three WWTP's:

- Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2) & Marino (Site Nr. 11) & Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)
- Marino (Site Nr. 11) & Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16) & Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)
- Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2) & Marino (Site Nr. 11) & Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16)
- Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2) & Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16) & Shanbally (Site Nr. 18)

Four WWTP's, with one serving each major population centre:

- Passage/Monkstown: Site at Ardmore, Passage West (Site Nr. 16)
- Cobh: Site at Marino (Site Nr 11)
- Carrigaline (Site Nr. 18)
- Ringaskiddy: Loughbeg (Site Nr. 2)

The preliminary evaluation reduced the number of potential collection treatment and disposal scheme options for further evaluation to ten. A detailed evaluation was carried out for ten different scheme configurations comprising of the potential treatment plant sites and various conveyance system options for the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme. These options are outlined briefly below.

- **Option 1:** A single WWTP constructed at Ringaskiddy, with the Passage West and Monkstown waste water pumped to Cobh and the combined flow pumped to Ringaskiddy via a second marine crossing. Waste water from Crosshaven and Carrigaline would be pumped directly to the site. Treated effluent would be discharged via the existing Ringaskiddy outfall.
- **Option 2:** A single WWTP at Shanbally. Waste water from Cobh would be pumped across to Monkstown (which would be the only new marine work required), with the combined Passage West, Cobh and Monkstown flow pumped to the site. Combined flows from Crosshaven and Carrigaline would be pumped via the existing rising mains to the site. The treated effluent would be pumped to the existing Ringaskiddy outfall.
- **Option 3:** Two WWTP's (at Shanbally and Marino) with the site at Marino treating waste water from Cobh, and the Shanbally site providing treatment for waste water from population centres on the western side of the harbour so that no marine crossings would be required. A new outfall is required at Marino.
- **Option 4:** As per Option 3 with the two WWTP's (Shanbally and Marino), but with the Passage West and Monkstown waste water pumped to Cobh (via a marine crossing) for treatment at the Marino site rather than to Shanbally. A new outfall would be required at Marino.
- **Option 5:** As per Option 4 with two main WWTP's but with a third smaller WWTP at Loughbeg serving only the Ringaskiddy catchment. This would require one marine crossing (Passage – Cobh) and one new outfall (from Marino site).
- **Option 6:** A variation of Option 2 with a major WWTP at Shanbally, and a marine crossing conveying waste water from Cobh to Monkstown. A second smaller plant would be located at Loughbeg to treat the waste water from only the Ringaskiddy catchment. Only one new marine crossing would be required.
- **Option 7:** A variation of Option 3 with a major WWTP at Shanbally, but with the Marino WWTP of Option 3 replaced with a marine crossing transferring the waste water from the Cobh catchment to the Cork WWTP at Carrigrennan. Only one new marine crossing would be required.
- **Option 8:** A variation of option 5 with a major WWTPs at Shanbally, but with Marino WWTP of Option 5 replaced with a marine crossing transferring the waste water from the Cobh, Passage West and Monkstown catchments to treatment at Carrigrennan (similar to Option 7). Two new marine crossings would be required.
- **Option 9:** A variation of Option 3 with two major WWTP, one at Shanbally serving Crosshaven, Carrigaline and Ringaskiddy and the second at Marino serving Cobh. An additional smaller plant would be provided to the North of Passage West to provide treatment for Passage West and Monkstown flows. This option would require two new outfalls (Passage West and Marino).
- **Option 10:** A variation of Option 1 with a major WWTP at Loughbeg (Ringaskiddy) treating flows from Crosshaven, Carrigaline, Cobh and Ringaskiddy. The waste water from Passage West and Monkstown would be treated in a separate plant to the north of Passage West. This option would require the provision of one marine crossing and one new outfall.

2.3.2 Alternative WWTP Locations

An evaluation of the various WWTP sites favoured the following two sites.

Option 2: A single WWTP at Shanbally. Sewage from Cobh would be pumped across the Harbour to Monkstown, from where the combined Passage West, Cobh and Monkstown flows would be pumped to the WWTP. Waste water from Crosshaven and Carrigaline would be pumped via the existing rising mains to the WWTP. The treated effluent would be pumped to the existing Ringaskiddy outfall. The only marine work required would be at Cobh to Monkstown marine crossing.

Option 3: Two WWTP's (Shanbally and Marino) would be provided, with no marine crossings required. However, a new outfall would be required at Marino.

A detailed environmental assessment of the two sites was undertaken. Flora and fauna, noise and archaeological surveys were carried out and reported for both of these short-listed sites ("Shanbally" and "Marino") in order to identify the more favourable site in terms of environmental impact. A summary report of the environmental assessment and a letter, by the ecologist, recommending the proposed site is provided in *Volume III Appendix 1B*.

In comparison to "Shanbally", the "Marino" site was considered to have a greater diversity of habitats such as treelines, scrub, stone walls and disused stone building. Due to the layout, avoiding the removal of substantial portions of the existing habitats would be difficult. An IFI industrial complex is located directly across the road, approximately 22m from the boundary. Levelled remains of 'Marino Farm' are located at the northern end of the site.

On the basis of these surveys and assessments the "Shanbally" site was identified as the preferred location for the proposed WWTP. Option 2 was therefore selected as the preferred configuration, which involves a single WWTP at Shanbally, a marine crossing between Cobh and Monkstown with the treated effluent discharged via the existing IDA marine outfall from Ringaskiddy.

In summary, Option 2 is considered the most advantageous location. The main advantages with this option are summarised below:

- Least environmental impact in terms of the two favoured sites
- One single WWTP is preferable from a management perspective
- Utilises the existing IDA outfall
- Discharge is to the outer harbour (less sensitive waters)
- Site is zoned for utilities and infrastructure use
- Site is distanced from existing residential dwellings
- Site has sufficient scope to provide for future expansion and the incorporation of a sludge hub centre
- Most cost effective
- Adequate access can easily be provided to the site
- Services readily accessible (power, water, gas)
- Site is central to the population centres being considered

A detailed description of the proposed site and alternative treatment options are discussed in Section 2.5 *Characteristics of the Development*.

2.4 Procurement Options and Alternatives

2.4.1 Comparison of Procurement Options

It is proposed to advance part or all of the works in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

A number of different procurement routes are available for the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme under a PPP arrangement. These include:

- Design / Build (DB)
- Design / Build / Operate (DBO)
- Design / Build / Finance / Operate (DBFO)

The advantages/disadvantages of the PPP process compared to the conventional procurement route have been described below in general terms.

Conventional Method:

In “Conventional Procurement” the Client appoints a Consulting Engineer to carry out the detailed design of the works. Where the layout of the works is particularly dependent on the size and type of plant and equipment to be incorporated into the works, as is the case with a WWTP, it is necessary for the Consultant to select the process and specific items of plant before the design of the civil elements can be carried out.

In the case of pumping stations and WWTPs, the normal route is to tender for any Process Plant and Mechanical/Electrical (M&E) work separately, and design the Civil Works around the plant layout in a separate Civil Engineering Contract. Hence there will be two separate contracts running together which require considerable liaison in order to match the interfaces.

The main advantages of the conventional procurement route are:

- It uses forms of Contract which are well understood and tested in law
- It allows the Client more control over the final product, including type of plant and equipment
- Operational preferences can be built into the design

The main disadvantages of the conventional procurement route are:-

- The overall programme for implementation is generally longer with more potential for design decision delays
- Less certainty in construction and operational cost estimation – potential for delay and cost increase is greater
- There can be interface problems between the M & E and Civil Contracts
- Complicates the guarantee, as there are split responsibilities
- Less effective allocation of risk for performance, in particular with regard to responsibility for process design, performance guarantees and liability

Design / Build (DB):

Under the Design and Build procurement route, a Consultant is appointed to prepare tender documents for a Design and Build Contract, and act as Client's Representative to administer the Contract. To ensure a competitive and comprehensive bid, the following information needs to be included:-

- Definition of Client's essential performance requirements
- Plant Flow/ Load
- Discharged Water Quality Requirements
- Geotechnical survey – site investigation data
- Planning constraints – conditions of the certified EIS if applicable
- Definition of performance requirements e.g. treated water quality, final sludge quality etc.
- Operational and Maintenance needs

The main advantages of the Design/Build procurement route are:

- Faster implementation of the project
- Contract interfaces are reduced – one Contractor is responsible for both the Process Plant and the Civil Works Design
- Advantage can be taken of innovative solutions to design issues put forward by the Tenderers within the constraints of the conditions contained within the specification
- Much, but not all, of the risks that lead to significant cost increases can be passed to the Contractor
- The bids can be evaluated taking due account of both Capital and Operating costs to establish the best value for money, using guaranteed figures
- Lends itself to the inclusion of an Operations element

The main disadvantages of the Design/Build procurement route are:

- It is difficult and expensive to make client led changes once the Contract is signed
- It is more difficult to allow for expansion of the plant
- It allows the Client less control over the type of plant

Design, Build and Operate (DBO):

There is little difference between this option and the Design and Build option, other than the addition of operation of the WWTP. Operational Contracts have an important role to play ensuring that the works procured are built and maintained to a high standard.

The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Period should be of a reasonable duration of greater than 15 years. The accumulation of changes in catchment characteristics and the potential for technological advance would suggest that it would be unwise to opt for a very long period, with 40 years representing an absolute upper limit. The possibility of re-tendering for a follow-on O&M Contract can always be considered in the event that “out-sourcing” is still considered appropriate.

In considering the influence of O&M costs, one aspect that can be assessed is the effect of the duration of the O&M period on the overall Contract price. In order to encourage a tenderer to give a valid tender, with efforts made to minimise operational costs, as well as capital costs, it is desirable that both components of cost contribute to the tender amounts used for assessment. With a discount rate of 5% in accordance with normal Department of Finance Guidelines for the Evaluation of Public Projects, a balance is achieved with an operational period of greater than 15 years. Any lesser period involves the tenderer to adopt a solution based on lower capital cost and accepting higher running costs. This is not in the long-term interest of the Local Authority.

Therefore, from the point of view of encouraging tenderers to seek technical solutions biased towards low running costs, it would appear that an Operational Period of 15 years should be considered as a minimum duration, with longer periods providing even greater encouragement. However, for periods of more than 30 years, the significance of a further extension of the Operating Period begins to diminish.

The life expectancy of the major items of mechanical and electrical plant is typically 20 years. The maintenance of the works will require many activities to be carried out much more frequently, ranging from monthly maintenance schedules to pump impeller replacement (perhaps at 5 year intervals). The significance of the duration of the O&M Period, from the point of view of the life expectancy of the plant, is considered in Table 2.1 *O&M Period and Plant Life Expectancy*.

Table 2.1: O&M Period and Plant Life Expectancy

O&M Period (years)	Plant Condition	Contractor's Incentive
5	Plant still relatively new, any residual commission problems resolved, but medium and long-term reliability not demonstrated.	Little incentive for good design or good maintenance.
10	Medium term reliability will have been demonstrated but specified plant life expectancy not yet demonstrated.	Greater incentive for good design, but not necessarily to full specification. Short and medium term maintenance practices should have been optimised.
15	Efficient plant operation dependent on good maintenance practices.	Incentive for good design, but reduced incentive to maintain ageing plant through to the end of its design life.
20	Plant at the end of normally specified life expectancy. Need to undertake major refurbishment.	Incentives for good design and efficient maintenance are maximised. Contractor could be asked to undertake refurbishment, or competitive tenders could be sought.
25	Plant will be in good condition following refurbishment, but it may have been upgraded because of new technology, and/or increased throughput, and/or change in raw water quality and/or change in legislation.	Contractor in strong position to negotiate conditions and payment for refurbishment. Difficult for Employer to engage another Contractor to undertake refurbishment whilst original Contractor is operating the works. Original tendered rates for O&M becoming increasingly out-dated.
30	Plant likely to be different from the original supplied.	Contractor committed to uncertain obligations, may be including significant sums for unknown risks.
35	Difficult to predict.	Difficult to predict.

The factors presented in Table 2.1 *O&M Period and Plant Life Expectancy* suggest a 20 year O&M Period, which tie in with the normally specified life expectancy of the major items of plant. The Local Authority would then be in a position to commission a major refurbishment, for which the Contractor could be invited to bid, but under the pressure of a competitive tendering process.

Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO):

This form of PPP partnership is similar to the DBO form, but with the private sector Contractor responsible for financing the construction of the facility. The private sector Contractor would recover its costs solely from Cork County Council.

In accordance with circular L10/01, DBFO should only be examined as a potential PPP option at the specific request of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Internationally, DBFO is more common than DBO, largely driven by the need for private sector finance to implement necessary infrastructure, where public sector funding is not sufficiently available. It is considered that the estimated cost of the scheme is not high enough to attract sufficient interest from financial bodies and, as such, the DBFO option would not provide adequate value for money. Therefore the elements of the scheme are only assessed between DB, DBO, and Traditional methods of procurement.

The Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme can be split into three main elements for the purpose of this assessment:

1. Gravity Sewers & Rising Mains
2. Pumping Stations
3. WWTP

Gravity Sewers & Rising Mains

It is recommended that the procurement of gravity sewers and rising mains follow the conventional route with detailed design by a Consultant Engineer, followed by open tendering.

The main reasons for opting for the traditional type arrangement and individual contracts for each of the schemes are as follows:

- If difficulties arise with progressing the scheme in one of the collection systems, (e.g. due to difficulties with land acquisition, foreshore applications, planning permission etc.), this scheme will not interfere with progress on the others if each is procured using a separate contract
- None of the advantages of following the DB / DBO route would apply, e.g. as there is little or no scope for innovative solutions, new technology, maintenance, etc.
- Operation and maintenance deliverables in the case of gravity sewers and rising mains are qualitative and would be difficult to determine and enforce contractually

- The Local Authority can maintain a level of control over items that possess risks from the public acceptance point of view. These would be difficult to assess and agree contractually prior to the beginning of the works
- The potential for the phasing of some elements of the collection system would be more suited to the traditional type contract agreement

Pumping Stations

It is recommended that the procurement of pumping stations within the collection system follow the conventional route of detailed design by the Consultant Engineer, followed by open tendering. Pumping stations pumping directly to the WWTP will form part of the WWTP contract. The reasons for this assessment are as follows:

- All work on the collection system can be carried out by the same contractor (i.e., gravity sewers, rising mains and local pumping stations), thereby reducing level of interface required between contractors and contracts
- The local authority can maintain responsibility over the civil works of the schemes, excluding the WWTPs, and therefore will have additional control over works that may come under scrutiny from a public acceptance perspective
- Pumping stations within the WWTPs and feeding to them can be considered integral parts of the treatment processes

WWTP

It is recommended that the procurement for the WWTP should follow the DBO route. The main reasons for use of the DBO procurement route are as follows:

- The proposed discharge of treated effluents will have special requirements in relation to environmental impact and effluent discharge standards and it would be important to take advantage of innovative solutions
- Contract interfaces are reduced – one Contractor is responsible for both the Process Plant and the Civil Works Design
- The project can be implemented faster than through the conventional route due to a single contractor and contractor design for each site
- Risks that lead to significant cost increases can, for the most part, be passed to the Contractor
- The bids can be evaluated taking due account of both capital and operating costs to establish the best value for money
- The operational responsibility within of the Contract will ensure that the works are constructed and maintained to a high standard and efficiency

2.5 Characteristics of the Development

2.5.1 General

The proposed development consists principally of the construction of a large sized urban WWTP including a sludge treatment plant to serve the population centres of Cork Lower Harbour and its' environs. The proposed WWTP is an essential element of the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme. Associated works, which will be carried out as part of the proposed development, include:

- The widening and upgrading of the site access road;
- Marine crossing;
- New waste water pumping stations;
- The laying of rising mains, surface water sewers and gravity waste water sewers to direct the waste water to the new treatment plant; and
- New waste water treatment plant.

The proposed collection system associated with the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme including Pumping stations, sewers, rising mains and the marine pipeline crossing is described further in Section 2.11 *Ancillary Developments*.

2.5.2 Proposed Waste Water and Sludge Treatment Plant Site

The proposed site is a greenfield site located approximately 11km south of Cork City and 2.24km west of Ringaskiddy in the townland of Shanbally (refer to Figure 2.3 *Site Location - Regional* and Figure 2.4 *Site Location - Local*). The village of Shanbally is located 625m to the north east of the site and the town of Carrigaline is located circa 1.06km to the south-west.

The N28 is a National Primary Road which links Cork City to Ringaskiddy and is less than approximately 490m from the northern boundary of the site. There are proposals to improve the existing N28 by constructing a new section of roadway which will by-pass the villages of Shanbally and Ringaskiddy on lands immediately north of the proposed WWTP site.

The proposed site consists of portions of two large agricultural fields located on sloping ground and is currently used for pasture. A view of the site from the south western boundary is given in Plate 2.1 while Plate 2.2 represents an aerial view of the site. The site has an area of approximately 7.36ha and is situated on a south facing slope at approx. 30m OD Malin Head. The site is located between two overhead high voltage power lines to the north and south of the site. The level and height of the proposed development in relation to existing features is addressed in detail in Section 3.9 *Landscape and Visual Assessment*.

With the exception of a small Bord Gáis substation, which adjoins the south-west corner of the site, the site is bordered on all sides by adjoining agricultural fields (see Plate 2.2). The boundaries of the two fields consist primarily of managed, immature to semi-mature hedgerow. A large ESB substation is situated circa 160m west of the site and a sports field is located circa 80m to the northeast of the site.

The site is zoned for Utility and Infrastructure development by the *Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan, 2005* and adopted amendments (January 2007). A significant portion of land in the general vicinity of the site has been either zoned for industrial development according to the *County Cork Development Plan, 2003* and the *Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan*. An area of approximately 5.23ha is located 134m from the site boundary is zoned residential. Planning for residential development has been granted at this site. Land use zoning and development policy maps for the area are shown in *Volume III, Appendix 1C*.

There are no existing site services. Access to the site will be provided via an existing access road to the Bord Gáis substation currently bordering the site. The proposed site is located approximately 405 metres east of the minor road LS427 (locally known as Cogan's Road) which links to the N28 National Primary Route just east of Raffeen Bridge.

2.5.3 Proposed Design

The proposed WWTP will be designed to meet the needs of the Lower Cork Harbour area to the year 2030. A layout plan, showing the scope of the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme WWTP is shown in *Volume III, Appendix 1C*. The loading rates to the proposed WWTP from the various population centres over the design horizon of the plant are provided in Table 2.2 *Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme – Base Year (B.Y.) and Design Year (D.Y.) Loadings*.

The WWTP design and the quality of the treated waste water must meet the waste water standard as required by the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and subsequent amendments. In Ireland S.I. No. 254 of 2001, *Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001* and amendment S.I. No. 440 of 2004 *Urban Waste Water Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2004* give further effect to the EU Directive 91/271/EEC and the *Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC*. The discharge standards, which shall apply to the proposed WWTP are:

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	25 mg/litre
Total Suspended Solids	35 mg/litre
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	125 mg/litre

The treated waste water will be discharged to Cork Lower Harbour (see Figure 2.1 *Location of Existing Outfalls and Proposed Outfall*) which has not been designated as a “sensitive” or “less sensitive” area by the Department of the Environment in accordance with the terms of the *EU Council Directive on Urban Waste Water Treatment (91/271/EEC)*. Therefore, nutrient removal (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus) will not be required at present. However, this situation may change in the future as the designation of sensitive areas will be periodically reviewed, as required by the Directive. The proposed WWTP will be designed to allow easy retrofitting of nutrient removal facilities at a later stage should it be required.

The overall area of the two fields on which this proposed WWTP will be constructed is approximately 17.5ha. However, the fields are traversed by overhead high voltage electrical cables. By providing sufficient clearance from these power lines a suitable area of approx. 7.36ha is available between the power lines. This area is considered adequate for the construction of the proposed WWTP, including facilities for organic-material removal, nutrient removal, sludge treatment and appropriate landscaping measures.

The current *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* (March 2000) recommends that all municipal sludge produced in Region 19 be treated in a hub centre to be located in the Ringaskiddy area. The principle population centres of Region 19 consist primarily of the Lower Harbour towns and include Cobh, Passage West, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Carrigaline and Crosshaven, Shanbally, Coolmore, Minane Bridge, Whitegate and Aghada.

It is proposed that in addition to treating the sludge arising from the population centres from the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme that sludges will also be imported from Minane Bridge septic tank (100PE).

Whitegate and Aghada are located at the opposite side of Cork Harbour. Domestic sludge produced at these locations will be transported past the Midleton hub centre for Region 21. It is therefore recommended that the municipal sludge produced in Whitegate and Aghada be transported to Midleton for treatment, since the Midleton treatment plant is less than half the distance from Whitegate and Aghada to the site of the Cork Harbour WWTP.

The *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* recognises the potential for the co-treatment of municipal waste water and biological industrial sludge at a hub centre located in the Ringaskiddy area. No provision will be made in the design of the sludge treatment system at the Cork Harbour WWTP for the treatment of industrial sludges produced in the region. The treatment and disposal of sludge is discussed further in Section 2.5.4.

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

Table 2.2: Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme – Base Year (B.Y.) and Design Year (D.Y.) Loadings

LOADING ^{Note 1}		Cobh		Carrigaline		Passage West & Monkstown		Ringaskiddy, Shanbally & Coolmore		Crosshaven		Total	
Category	Parameter	B.Y.	D.Y.	B.Y.	D.Y.	B.Y.	D.Y.	B.Y.	D.Y.	B.Y.	D.Y.	B.Y.	D.Y.
Domestic	Flow (m ³ /d)	1,608	3,076	1,917	3,496	760	1,437	179	202	300	485	4,764	8,696
	BOD (kg/day)	643	1,230	767	1,398	304	575	71	81	120	194	1,905	3,478
	SS (kg/day)	750	1,435	895	1,631	355	671	83	94	140	226	2,223	4,057
Infiltration Flow	Flow (m ³ /d)	>697	1,025	3,130	1,165	>1,000	479	60	67	100	162	1,588	2,898
Commercial	Flow (m ³ /d)	293	492	342	559	122	230	30	32	48	78	833	1,391
	BOD (kg/day)	117	197	139	224	49	92	11	13	19	31	335	557
	SS (kg/day)	136	230	162	261	57	107	13	15	22	36	391	649
Institutional	Flow (m ³ /d)	178	146	114	120	37	43	5	28	Note 2	36	334	374
	BOD (kg/day)	72	56	57	60	19	22	3	14	Note 2	18	150	170
	SS (kg/day)	84	65	66	70	23	25	3	16	Note 2	21	175	197
Industrial	Flow (m ³ /d)	0	344	607	1,458	0	0	0	0	0	0	602	1,482
	BOD (kg/day)	0	138	16	456	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	594
	SS (kg/day)	0	2,300	22	531	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	2,831
Total	Flow (m ³ /d)	>2,776	5,083	6,105	6,478	>1,919	2,189	272	329	448	761	8,121	14,841
	BOD (kg/day)	832	1,621	978	2,138	371	689	86	108	139	243	2,406	4,799
	SS (kg/day)	971	4,030	1,145	2,493	433	803	100	125	162	283	2,810	7,734
	Peak Flow (l/s)	181.6	N/A	251	N/A	81	N/A	19	N/A	31	N/A	564	N/A
	PE (60 gBOD/h/d)	13,865	27,020	16,305	35,636	6,189	11,478	1,426	1,798	2,317	4,050	40,102	79,982

Note 1: Loadings are based on figures calculated in Cork Harbour Main Drainage Preliminary Report (Mott MacDonald Pettit, 2007). Base Year= Year 2001, Design Year= Year 2030.

Note 2: The effluent loadings relating to Institutional sources was not quantified separately from that of the other categories of sources of effluent loadings in Crosshaven.

Note 3: Design treatment capacity is taken as 80,000 p.e.

2.5.4 Alternative Treatment Options

The Cork Harbour WWTP will be constructed using the Design/Build/Operate procurement method, with the type of treatment process and associated technology to be selected by the successful Contractor. A Contractor will be appointed to design, build and operate the WWTP for a period of 20 years to achieve the required discharge standards within defined design constraints. Therefore the exact details regarding the design of the development and the waste water and sludge treatment processes to be used are not available at this stage. Nevertheless an indicative design has been undertaken in order to assess the environmental impact of the development.

A number of different process options suitable for large WWTPs are available. Any of these options must meet certain criteria with regard to the design and operation.

These criteria should include:-

- Capability to consistently treat the waste water to the required standard
- Optimum capital and running (operating and maintenance) costs
- Modular type design to cater for both present and future design loads and seasonal load fluctuations
- Design flexibility to allow for future extension or retrofitting for nutrient removal and/or further treatment
- Minimisation of environmental impacts, including odour, noise and height and appearance of plant/buildings
- Land area requirements

The principal elements of a treatment plant of the type and scale proposed include preliminary, primary and secondary treatment of the waste water stream with further provision for treatment of sludge arising from the primary and biological stages of the treatment process. The various unit processes likely to be incorporated in any design are as follows:

- Preliminary Treatment including
 - Pre-Treatment (if required)
 - Screening
 - Grit/Grease Removal
- Storm Water Handling and Disposal
- Primary Treatment
- Secondary Treatment
- Sludge Treatment
- Sludge Storage
- Sludge Reuse

The treatment options are described in more detail below with particular reference to the Cork Harbour WWTP.

An indicative design (*Indicative Design Nr. 1*) and layout for the proposed WWTP is provided in Section 2.5.5. This represents a conservative type of system with a large footprint, within which adequate scope is available for the successful Contractor to incorporate innovative technologies with smaller footprints without difficulty. Indicative Design Nr. 1 is considered the worst case scenario and has been used as the specimen design for assessment of environmental impacts. An alternative indicative design (*Indicative Design Nr. 2*) is also provided in this section.

(i) Preliminary Treatment

The objective of preliminary treatment is to remove objects or material which could damage mechanical equipment or interfere with the subsequent treatment processes. Preliminary treatment in similar sized urban WWTPs normally consists of screening and grit removal. The preliminary treatment at the Cork Lower Harbour WWTP must also include for septicity control in addition to screening and grit removal. Preliminary treatment facilities will be incorporated within a building with air extraction to an odour control system. The inlet works including channels and chambers, the screening and grit removal systems and the septicity control system will be covered with headspaces vented to an odour control system.

Pre Treatment - Septicity Control

There is a strong potential for septic conditions to arise in the collection and conveyance systems en route from the waste water sources in the different towns to the WWTP due to the length of the conveyance system and the distance from the population centres to the treatment plant.

Parts of the town of Cobh are approximately 12km in sewer length from the proposed WWTP, with Passage West and Crosshaven being up to 11km in terms of sewer length from the proposed plant. The resultant residence time in the sewer network and conveyance system would be expected to give rise to septic conditions in the waste water.

To overcome this, it is intended to provide septicity control in the form of chemical addition at critical pumping stations and locations in the collection/conveyance system. Septicity control at the WWTP is also required to address the risk of residual septicity in the waste water.

The two principal methods used for septicity control are the addition of chemicals or the aeration of the waste water. The chemicals most widely used are nitrate compounds or ferric sulphate. Nitrate compounds are generally dosed into the waste water at the pumping stations feeding the WWTP to reduce the formation of hydrogen sulphide in the delivery pipework.

Ferric sulphate is generally dosed upstream of the primary settlement stage at the WWTP, and has the effect of precipitating the dissolved hydrogen sulphide from the raw waste water into the sludge.

Aeration for septicity control usually takes the form of injection of high pressure air into the rising mains or sewers feeding the WWTP, or else the addition of air into the raw waste water at a lower pressure in a designated chamber.

Due to the odour nuisance associated with septicity and the long residence times of raw waste water in the conveyance systems it is essential that the inlet channels and chambers be covered, vented and connected to an odour control system.

Screening

Screening of the raw waste water is essential:

- to prevent blockage or malfunction of downstream equipment due to build up or deposition of gross solid material (rags, plastics etc.), to protect downstream equipment from damage,
- to ensure good quality treated effluent with no visible waste water derived debris floating near the outfall and,
- to maintain a good quality sludge product.

Screening to 6mm will be provided for all of the waste water flows arriving at the Cork Harbour WWTP.

There are numerous types of screen available on the market for this application. In general the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of screens are more dependent on the bar spacing or aperture size of the screen than on the specific make. A basic requirement of the screen is that the screen be automatically cleaned using a mechanised rake or brush. A bypass channel, fitted with a manually raked screen, should be provided to facilitate maintenance or isolation of the mechanical screen.

It is inevitable that some organic and faecal matter will be removed in the screened material. It is therefore essential to provide screenings treatment in the form of washing to improve the aesthetics of the screenings, to reduce the odour potential and to render it less objectionable for disposal. The wash-water containing the organic matter gravitates back into the main flow for treatment with the waste water. The screenings are de-watered and compacted to minimise the volume of screenings for disposal.

Due to the odour potential of the raw waste water, the screening system will be enclosed and connected to an air extraction system. The vented air will be passed through an odour control unit.

Grit Removal

Removal of grit from the raw waste water prevents its deposition and build up in downstream stages of treatment, reduces the corrosive wear on pump and other mechanical equipment, and also improves the quality of sludge produced. Generally grit particles of less than 0.2mm in size are acceptable and cause few problems.

The optimum grit/grease removal system for a particular situation generally depends on the size of the sewerage scheme and the quantity of waste water to be treated. The two principal types of system used for WWTPs of this scale are the aerated grit channels and the vortex type grit separator. Both systems are equally effective at removing grit particles down to 0.2mm in size. The aerated grit channel does have the advantage of facilitating the removal of fats, oils and greases from the waste water. However, it does have a greater plant footprint. The vortex type of grit trap has a smaller footprint and is more widely used.

It is inevitable that some faecal matter will be removed from the waste water in the grit. It is therefore necessary to provide grit treatment and washing, with the resultant washwater returning the organic matter to the main flow for treatment. This reduces the odour potential and makes the grit less objectionable for storage and disposal.

Screenings and grit removed from the waste water will be stored in either covered skips or else automatically bagged prior to disposal off site to a licensed landfill.

Due to the odour potential of the raw waste water, the grit removal systems will be enclosed and connected to an air extraction system. The vented air will be passed through an odour control unit.

(ii) Storm Water Handling and Disposal

Waste water is diluted with storm water during rainfall events due to surface runoff and infiltration entering the collection system. While the collection systems in newer residential areas and from industries will not contain a storm water contribution, it is not feasible to completely eliminate storm water from older combined sections of the collection system.

Future developments in the catchment area will be provided with separate foul and storm water collection systems and no storm contribution will be conveyed to the treatment plant from these areas.

The peak flow reaching the WWTP will correspond approximately to 6 times the Dry Weather Flow (6 DWF) at the design year 2030 loadings, and will be experienced when all of the duty pumps at Carrigaline, Raffeen, Ringaskiddy, Coolmore and Shanbally are operating simultaneously at full capacity (refer to Section 2.11 *Ancillary Developments* for collection system details). There will be periods when not all of the pumps are operating simultaneously and much lower flows can be expected for periods each day.

The variation in flows reaching the WWTP can be dealt with in one of two ways. The simplest option is to design the entire WWTP to accommodate flows of 6 DWF. However, this results in operational difficulties and much larger tankage.

Alternatively, the main treatment stages could be designed to accommodate only flows up to 3DWF, with flows in excess of this being overflowed upstream to a storage tank where it would be allowed to settle. As the incoming flow rate decreases the contents of the storage tank would be returned to the main waste water stream for treatment. This will result in smaller settlement tanks and downstream pipework and channels.

The storm water settlement tanks typically used are either circular radial flow tanks and fitted with rotating scraper mechanisms or else rectangular tanks, without sludge scrapers. In both cases the settled storm water will overflow a weir and gravitate to the treated effluent discharge line. Both options are comparable and either could be used at the Cork Harbour WWTP.

(iii) Primary Treatment

The aim of primary treatment is to remove the maximum amount of polluting matter (in the form of readily settleable solids) from the waste water. The units used in primary treatment are commonly known as primary sedimentation tanks, primary settlement tanks or primary clarifiers.

The principle advantage of primary settlement is that it provides for a simple means of removing approximately 30% of the BOD and 60% of the suspended solids from the waste water with a very low energy requirement. This reduces the loading on the secondary treatment stage, resulting in a reduction in tank volumes and energy requirements. While the primary sludge produced can be odorous it is ideally suited to treatment by anaerobic digestion with consequent energy recovery.

Primary Settlement for WWTPs of this scale is generally provided in rectangular horizontal flow tanks or in circular radial flow tanks. The radial or horizontal flow tanks reduce the velocity of the waste water flow such that a proportion of the suspended matter settles out. Solids in the waste water sink to the bottom (primary sludge) whilst the liquid fraction overflows at the surface of the tank. Both types of system would incorporate overflow weirs and continuous sludge scraper mechanisms. A hopper, located at the centre or edge of the tank, is used to collect the settled sludge. The sludge scraper mechanism is usually employed to move the settled sludge into the hopper. The collected sludge is then removed to a sludge treatment area.

Circular radial flow tanks are more suitable to this application because the continuous rotating scraper mechanism keeps the settled sludge moving toward the collection hopper and minimises the residence time of the sludge in the tank. Regular withdrawal (by pumping) of the primary sludge from this hopper is essential. The circular tanks also provide the maximum weir length for a more even flow of the settled waste water.

Because of the potential for septic conditions in the sludge, and the odour potential associated with these tanks (primarily at the overflow weirs) the design of these primary tanks should incorporate adequate odour control measures.

There are some secondary treatment processes which can provide the necessary standard of treatment without primary settlement, and therefore do not produce a primary sludge.

(iv) Secondary (Biological) Treatment

The main objective of the secondary or biological treatment stage is the removal of carbon measured as BOD or COD effluent to comply with the required discharge standards. It is not necessary at this stage to provide for nutrient removal at the Cork Harbour WWTP but the plant will be designed to allow easy retrofitting of nutrient removal facilities at a later stage should it be required.

The secondary treatment stage will involve the biological degradation of the organic content of the waste water by encouraging the growth of suitable micro-organisms within a particular process. The micro-organisms consume the organic content of the waste water and biomass or sludge is produced. The growth of micro-organisms in the structure can be encouraged on fixed media or as a suspended biomass within the waste water body.

A wide range of biological treatment systems are available. These include:

- Activated Sludge (AS) Processes such as
 - Completely mixed conventional aeration system
 - Extended Aeration Activated Sludge
 - High Rate Activated Sludge Systems
 - Plug Flow Systems
 - Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR)
- Bio filtration processes such as
 - Conventional Trickling Systems
 - Biotower
 - Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC)

- Hybrid Systems such as
 - Biological Aerated Filters (BAF)
 - Membrane Bioreactors
 - Integrated Fixed-Film Activated Sludge Process (IFAS) system
 - Moving Bed Bioreactor (MBBR)
- Various configurations of the above

This WWTP will be constructed using the Design/Build/Operate method with the type of treatment technology and process to be proposed by the successful Contractor and agreed with Cork County Council. The processes that are most commonly and effectively used for medium to large sized municipal WWTPs are suspended growth (such as activated sludge), and fixed film (such as biofiltration) systems. In recent years, a number of hybrid systems have also been developed which incorporate elements of both suspended growth and fixed film systems.

The treatment of domestic type waste water is well understood and all of the available systems can be designed to treat the waste water to the required standards. The essential elements common to most of the systems noted above include process structures/tanks, aeration devices, pumps, mixers, monitoring equipment, pipelines and access facilities. In any case the size and height of the structures will depend on the type of process. Regardless of the process all tanks/process structures will be restricted to a maximum height of 12m above the current ground level.

Secondary treatment systems may require separate final settlement tanks (such as with the conventional Activated Sludge System) or settlement can be achieved within the main process tanks (such as with the SBR System). Where separate final settlement tanks are required these are likely to be constructed at a lower level than the main process tanks and are typically circular concrete tanks.

The main element of the mechanical equipment associated with the secondary treatment process is the aeration equipment. It is recommended that aeration equipment be installed completely within the process tanks or alternatively in a building adjacent to the process tanks. Noise levels associated with air blowers can be significant and as such, it is recommended that the blowers be located in acoustic enclosures or housed.

(v) Sludge Treatment

The main objective of sludge treatment is to produce a product with optimum reusable potential. The *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* divides the County into five regions, namely regions 18 to 22, for the purposes of municipal waste water sludge treatment. The Ringaskiddy area is proposed as the most suitable location for the treatment hub-centre for Region 19 (*Sludge Management Plan for County Cork*, 2000). Region 19 consists primarily of the towns/villages included within the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme i.e. Cobh, Passage West, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Crosshaven and Carrigaline but the region also includes Whitegate, Aghada and Minane Bridge. The towns to be served by the proposed new WWTP will not generate sludges locally.

The *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* identifies 6,082 tonnes of dry solids generated annually for Local Authority non hazardous waste water sludges in the county. The volume of this sludge generated in Cork County is expected to more than double between 1998 to 2020. The volumes of sludge for the proposed WWTP are detailed in Section 2.5.5 (Indicative Design Nr.1 and Indicative Design Nr.2).

It is proposed that the sludge from the septic tank serving Minane Bridge which has a design population equivalent of 100PE be transported to the proposed to the Cork Harbour WWTP.

Although it is recommended that sludges from Whitegate and Aghada be diverted to Midleton hub centre for treatment, they may also be transported to the proposed WWTP site and as such sludge reception facilities to cater for all three locations will be incorporated in the design of the proposed plant. Sludge delivered to the site will be unloaded at the sludge reception facility. The mechanism by which the sludge is handled and discharged will be designed so as not to cause an odour nuisance.

The *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* recognises the potential for co-treatment of municipal waste water sludge and biological industrial sludge at a hub centre located in the Ringaskiddy area. No provision will be made in the design of the sludge treatment system at the Cork Harbour WWTP for the treatment of Industrial sludges. The proposed development will include for the handling, treatment and disposal of sludges produced on site and the imported domestic sludges imported from Region 19.

Initially all sludges produced on site will first be thickened to reduce their volume, and the size of the main sludge treatment processes. The sludge thickening processes are optimised by providing separate systems for the primary and secondary sludges. The type of sludge treatment system to be employed at the Cork Harbour WWTP depends on the ultimate end use of the biosolids product, and also on the type of waste water treatment process producing the sludge. As the WWTP will be constructed using the Design/Build/Operate procurement method the type of sludge treatment process will be selected by the successful contractor.

The *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* recommends Advanced Fluidised Composting, which is a sludge destruction technology, as the sludge treatment technology to be used at the Ringaskiddy sludge treatment centre. This is on the basis of co-treatment of municipal waste water and industrial biological sludges to produce a biosolids product which may not be suitable for beneficial reuse in agriculture due to industrial constituents in the sludge. However, as stated above provision is not being made for the co-treatment of municipal waste water and industrial biological sludges at the proposed Cork Harbour WWTP at this stage.

In the absence of industrial sludge contribution to the sludge being treated, the ultimate end use of the biosolids product is not restricted to disposal to landfill, and could include beneficial reuse in agriculture. Similarly, the type of sludge treatment technology to be employed will not be restricted to the solids destruction technologies such as Advanced Fluidised Composting.

As indicated in the *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork*, agricultural land in the Cork Harbour tidal area is unsuitable for landspreading of the biosolids product as this area displays a nutrient surplus in terms of phosphorus. In addition, 40% of agricultural lands in the Cork Harbour tidal area lie on an extremely vulnerable, regionally important aquifer. However, based on phosphorus balances undertaken for the *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork*, there is sufficient spare capacity in County Cork as a whole to facilitate the landspreading on agricultural land of all of the municipal waste water sludge produced in the County. The contractor responsible for operating the waste water and sludge treatment plant may therefore transport the biosolids further afield from Region 19 for landspreading on suitable agricultural land.

The most attractive option would be to produce a biosolids product for use in agriculture. If the treated sludge is to be reused as biosolids in agriculture, it will be necessary for the biosolids product to comply with the *Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 1998 to 2001* and the *Codes of Good Practice for the Use of Biosolids in Agriculture*.

The list of acceptable sludge technologies which could produce a biosolids product suitable for use in agriculture are as follows:

- Mesophilic anaerobic digestion with pre- or post- pasteurisation
- Thermophilic anaerobic digestion
- Thermophilic aerobic digestion
- Composting (windrows or aerated piles)
- Alkaline Stabilisation
- Thermal Drying

The type of technology to be used is not limited to this list, as other innovative technologies may be developed which would also produce a biosolids product of acceptable quality. However, not all of the above technologies may be suitable for use at the Cork Harbour WWTP.

Alternatively, the appointed Contractor may determine that it would be more economical to employ a solids destruction form of sludge treatment (such as Advanced Fluidised Composting) on site, and dispose of the end product to landfill. Either option would be compatible with the general recommendations of the *Sludge Management Plan for County Cork* (March 2000).

However, Article 14 of the *Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)* states that “sludge arising from waste water treatment shall be reused whenever appropriate.” Since some income can be obtained from the “beneficial reuse” option it is most likely that this will be the option preferred by the Contractor. To facilitate the ultimate end use of the biosolids (e.g., seasonal nature of landspreading) it will be necessary to provide adequate storage at the WWTP for the biosolids product. It will also be necessary to provide for storage on site for untreated sludge to facilitate repairs and routine maintenance of the sludge treatment equipment.

The Cork Harbour WWTP will be constructed using the Design/Build/Operate procurement system. The treatment processes and types of technology which will be employed will therefore be selected by the successful contractor. The treatment process most likely to be adopted is thermal drying (either with or without anaerobic digestion of the sludge prior to drying). However, the appointed Contractor may have innovative developments to offer, and these should be considered at that stage if commercially and environmentally viable.

Sludge process tanks and structures such as pasturisation tanks and digesters will depend on the sludge treatment process chosen but regardless of the process all tanks will be restricted to a maximum height of 12m above the current ground level. All buildings will be restricted to a maximum height of 10m above the current ground level.

Thickening and dewatering facilities are likely to be provided for sludges as part of the proposed development. If primary settlement tanks are installed it will be necessary to install a primary thickening tank. This tank will be roofed and the headspace will be extracted to an odour treatment process. Dewatering facilities may be installed to reduce the volumes of sludge for disposal or to produce a product suitable for drying. The dewatering facilities are usually mechanical devices such as belt presses or centrifuges and should be installed in a Sludge Treatment Building. The dewatering areas within the building must include air extraction systems, which shall be directed to an odour control system.

In order to increase flexibility for reuse of the sludge, sludge drying may be included as a possible process to be included as part of the development. A sludge dryer will be housed within a Sludge Treatment Building. The Sludge Treatment Building/Buildings shall be restricted to a maximum height of 10m above existing ground level. The dryer will incorporate an exhaust stack, which will extend approximately 2.0m above the height of the building.

(vi) Sludge Storage

Sludge storage facilities will be provided on site. The number of tanks and the location of the tanks within the site will depend on the proposed treatment processes. All sludge holding tanks will be covered and the headspaces of same will be vented to an odour treatment facility. The capacity of the sludge storage facilities will allow for a buffer period to cater for short-term delays in the removal of the sludge off-site.

(vii) Sludge Reuse/Disposal

The proposed development includes for the transportation of sludge off-site and the reuse at sites yet to be identified. The sludge is likely to be recycled to agricultural lands (nutrient recovery). However, it is possible that the sludge may be used in energy recovery systems or other applications. The use of sludge in agriculture will be carried out in accordance with established codes of practice and will adhere to statutory regulations concerning this practice. Any off-site storage facilities that may be required for the management of sludge during the winter months will be subject to separate planning permissions.

The volume of sludge transported off-site will depend upon the dry solids content of the final product. For example at maximum design loading if the sludge is dewatered to approximately 20% dry solids (DS), this will require approximately two to three truck loads leaving the site each day. If the sludge is dried the truck loads leaving the site will reduce to approximately two per week.

(viii) Energy Recovery System

Methane gas is produced as a by-product of sludge digestion processes. The gas is a valuable energy source and can be burned to produce heat for the digestion and drying processes, or electricity to power plant equipment or to export to the public grid. All energy recovery systems will be installed in the Sludge Treatment Building.

(ix) Gas Storage Tank / Gas Flare

Gas storage tanks may be provided for sufficient storage of gas to operate sludge drying facilities and/or energy recovery systems. The tanks are typically spherical or cylindrical in shape. A gas flare will be installed to burn off surplus gas.

(x) Odour Control

Odour control facilities will be installed as part of the development. These will comprise a combination of systems designed to cater for the various off-gases generated from treatment processes and generated during the handling of liquids or sludges.

Typical systems which may be utilised include the following:

- Biofilters and bioscrubbers
- Wet chemical scrubbing
- Catalytic oxidation
- Dry scrubbing and adsorption

A number of these units may be installed external to buildings. These will typically be biofilters, which will comprise steel enclosures on concrete plinths.

(xi) Buildings

The WWTP will include buildings to house a number of elements, which may include the following:

- Administration Offices
- Canteen and Sanitation Facilities
- Laboratory
- Workshop
- Electrical Control Panels
- Inlet Works
- Sludge Thickening and Dewatering Facilities
- Sludge Treatment System
- Aeration Equipment (if applicable)
- Odour Control Equipment

The number of buildings and the facilities accommodated in each will depend upon the final process design selection. However the Contractor will be restricted in terms of building heights. All buildings within the site will be restricted to a building height of at least 10m above the current ground level (all tanks will be restricted to a maximum height of 12m above the current ground level). In addition the overall plan area occupied by buildings will not exceed 3,100m².

(xii) Instrumentation Control & Automation

The proposed WWTP will incorporate process control and monitoring equipment. The equipment will be capable of monitoring the individual process parameters and the status of various plant items and utilities.

Information from the plant instrumentation will be automatically tracked and logged together with any relevant faults, actions and alarms. In the event of alarms occurring when the system is unmanned, an automatic call-out facility to relevant personnel will be activated.

(xiii) Treated Effluent Discharge

The treated effluent from the WWTP will be discharged directly into the nearby IDA sewer, which gravitates to the Ringaskiddy outfall. The elevation of the site discharge is higher than the IDA sewer, eliminating the need for treated effluent pumping.

(xiv) Outfall Location

The existing outfalls and proposed outfall are identified in Figure 2.1 *Location of Existing Outfalls and Proposed Outfall*. It is intended to utilise an existing IDA outfall for the proposed development. This currently discharges untreated municipal waste water from Carrigaline and Crosshaven and also discharges treated industrial effluent from the Ringaskiddy area into Cork Lower Harbour. The existing marine outfall extends eastwards terminating at the Dognose Bank on the eastern side of the mouth of Cork Harbour.

(xv) Site Drainage

Any hard standing area with the potential for contamination should drain to the WWTP for treatment. Surface water from other areas on the site e.g. rainwater from roof tops etc. will be diverted to the IDA storm sewer.

2.5.5 Proposed WWTP Options

As stated previously the Cork Harbour WWTP will be constructed using the Design/Build/Operate procurement method, with the type of treatment process and associated technology to be selected by the appointed Contractor. For the purpose of providing an indication of the type of plant and site layout, an indication is provided below of the treatment processes considered most likely to be employed. This is based on experience of other plants of this scale and on current developments in technology.

The principle differences between Indicative Design Nr. 2 compared to Indicative Design Nr. 1 are the omission of the primary settlement stage and associated sludge treatment system, replacement of aeration and secondary settlement tanks with sequencing batch reactors, and the exclusion of anaerobic sludge digestion. In addition rectangular storm water settlement tanks fitted with mixers are included instead of the radial flow tanks.

Indicative Design Nr. 1 is used for the assessment of impacts throughout the EIS. This is considered the 'worst case scenario' for potential impacts (based on the extent of the WWTP footprint, the treatment process and the type of plant proposed).

(i) Indicative Design Nr. 1 - Considered the 'Worst Case Scenario'

The treatment process is shown schematically on Figure 2.5 *Proposed WWTP Schematic Flow Profile for Conventional Activated Sludge System (Indicative Design Nr. 1)*.

Waste Water Treatment Process

The indicative treatment process described below is based on a conventional activated sludge process preceded by primary settlement, with the resultant sludge produced being treated by anaerobic digestion and thermal drying. This represents a conservative type of system with a large footprint, within which adequate scope is available for the successful contractor to incorporate innovative technologies with smaller footprints without difficulty. An indicative layout of the proposed WWTP is provided in Figure 2.6 *Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1*.

It is acknowledged that not all of these unit processes are essential to produce a treated effluent and sludge of the required standards, but their exclusion will impact on the sizes and treatment capacity requirements of the remaining process units. The unit sizes below are therefore based on the inclusion of each of these treatment stages.

Preliminary Treatment System

A complete preliminary treatment system with the following elements would be located within the Preliminary Treatment Building:

- 2 Nr. (duty/duty) mechanically cleaned fine screens (with 6 mm spacing), in parallel channels each approximately 2m wide. These will be capable of passing the maximum flow of 979l/s.
- 1 Nr. manually raked bypass screen to facilitate maintenance on the fine screens.
- 2 Nr. (duty/assist) screenings washing, de-watering and bagging facilities
- 2 Nr. (duty/duty) vortex type grit traps complete with air lift grit removal system with a diameter of approximately 3.65m and each capable of passing 490l/s
- 2 Nr. (duty/assist) grit classifiers.

The preliminary system will also include 1 Nr. covered pre-aeration tank with an operational capacity of 590m³ and 2 Nr. (duty/standby) air blowers rated at 1,057 Nm³/hr to aerate the contents of the pre-aeration tank.

The quantity of screenings removed on site for disposal (note that screening systems employed at Cobh retain the screenings in the flow) is estimated at 1.7m³/day based on 85m³ per 10⁶ m³ of waste water at average flow. This will be taken off site for disposal at the Cork County Council landfill site.

The quantity of grit produced on site for disposal off site is estimated at 0.39m³/day (with 0.21m³/day grit already removed in Cobh) based on a typical grit removal rate of 30m³ per 10⁶ m³ of waste water.

All of the waste water channels and chambers within the preliminary treatment building will be covered, with the air in the enclosed headspaces extracted and vented through an odour control unit. This unit is likely to be outside of the building, and will discharge the treated air to the atmosphere.

Because of the risk of the presence of flammable gases such as methane in this building, it will be zoned as a hazardous area, with all electrical equipment including motors and instruments suitable for such an environment. The associated control panels should be installed in a separate non-hazardous room within the building. Also the presence of hydrogen sulphide and other gases in the raw waste water require that the building itself is also vented, with the extracted air passed through an odour control system.

Preliminary Treatment Building:

Housing inlet screens, grit removal plant and pre-aeration tanks. Maximum plan area of approximately 550m² with a maximum above ground building height of 6.5m.

Storm Water Treatment

The storm water management and treatment system on site is likely to restrict the flows to primary settlement and secondary treatment to 3 DWF, and to allow flows in excess of this to overflow to a storm water treatment system. This system may comprise of:

- 1 Nr. storm water overflow weir in a designated chamber
- 2 Nr. radial flow settlement tanks constructed in reinforced concrete, and fitted with a rotating sludge scraper mechanism and a peripheral overflow weir system. These are sized to provide the equivalent residence time of 2 hours for the excess 3DWF, i.e. with a combined operational capacity of 3,710m³. When full, these tanks will overflow to the treated effluent discharge pipeline. Based on a typical average water depth of 3.5m in these tanks, these would each have a diameter of 26.0m.
- 1 Nr. storm water return sump common to both tanks, and fitted with 2 Nr. submersible pumps to operate on a duty/assist basis to return the contents of the tank to the main waste water flow upstream of the primary settlement tanks. This flow will be returned when the main flow for treatment reduces to 2DWF or less.

Primary Settlement

The provision of primary settlement tanks operated at an upward flow rate of 1.2m³/m².hr will remove at least 50% of the suspended solids from the raw waste water, and provide a reduction in BOD reduction of at least 30%. With careful operation and management of these tanks higher removal efficiencies are possible, but the figures quoted here are conservative and allow for flexibility in the systems offered.

- 2 Nr. radial flow settlement tanks each with an internal diameter of 31.4m and a sidewall height of 2.5m, of which only the top 1.0m will be above ground level. Each tank will be constructed in reinforced concrete and will be fitted with a rotating scraper sludge system and an access bridge. The depth of the overflow weirs will be kept to a minimum to reduce turbulence at the weirs and to reduce odour. It is also most likely that each of the primary settlement tanks will be covered with their head space vented through an odour control system.

- 1 Nr. primary sludge sump fitted with 2 Nr. sludge pumps will be provided to serve both primary settlement tanks. This chamber will also be covered with the headspace vented through an odour control system. These will be pumping the primary sludge at a sludge thickness of 2% dry solids to the primary sludge thickener.
- The maximum height above ground including covers will not exceed 5.0m.

Secondary Treatment

To achieve the treated effluent standard required a completely mixed activated sludge system is likely to be provided. This would comprise the following:

- 3 Nr. selector tanks constructed in reinforced concrete and each with an operational capacity of 417m³ would be provided upstream of the aeration tanks. These would be aerated and fitted with a fine bubble diffused air aeration system
- 3 Nr. aeration tanks constructed in reinforced concrete, and each with an operational capacity of 1,866m³. These would be operated at a top water level of 4.5m and would be fitted with a fine bubble diffused air aeration system, and flow directional mixing system.
- 3 Nr. positive displacement air blowers to operate on a duty/assist/standby basis would be installed within acoustic enclosures in a designated blower building near the aeration tanks. These would each be rated at 3,112 Nm³/hr, and would supply the entire air requirements of the selector and aeration tanks.
- 1 Nr. dissolved oxygen control system, which would control the output of the aeration blowers to match the demand of the loading and mixed liquors.

Secondary Treatment Building:

Housing sludge thickening equipment, blowers, control panels, stores and workshops. Maximum plan area 1,200m² with a maximum height above ground of 10.0m.

Secondary Settlement

Each of the above aeration tanks would have a designated secondary settlement tank (with interchange possible) which would be constructed in reinforced concrete.

- 3 Nr. radial flow secondary settlement tanks each fitted with a rotating bridge and scraper system and a peripheral overflow weir. Each of these will have a plan area for settlement of 619m² and a corresponding internal diameter of 28.1m.
- 3 Nr. pairs of duty/standby sludge return pumps will be provided, with each returning the activated sludge to its designated selector/aeration tank.
- 2 Nr. sludge wastage pumps to pump the surplus activated sludge to the activated sludge thickening system.

Sludge Thickening

Because of the different thickening characteristics of primary and surplus activated sludge, separate thickening systems will be provided.

- 1 Nr. gravity sludge thickener installed in a glass reinforced steel tank and fitted with a rotating picket fence assembly will be provided to increase the thickness of the primary sludge from 2% to 6% dry solids. This tank will have an operational capacity of 206m³ and an internal diameter of 8.1m. Due to the odorous nature of primary sludge this tank will be roofed, with the air extracted from the headspace and vented through an odour control system.
- 1 Nr. gravity belt thickener with an odour enclosure fitted will be installed in the Sludge Treatment Building to increase the thickness of the surplus activated sludge from 0.5% to 6% dry solids. To achieve this sludge thickness the sludge will be dosed with a polyelectrolyte solution. This unit will be required to thicken approximately 95kg dry solids per hour. This thickener will also be connected to an air extract system and odour treatment unit.
- 2 Nr. thickened sludge pumps (duty/standby) will be provided for each of these thickeners to pump the sludges to a common sludge buffer tank.

Sludge Treatment

To provide maximum flexibility in the use of the biosolids produced, the sludge treatment system to be installed here may include an anaerobic digestion process, preceded by a pasteurisation stage and followed by dewatering and subsequent sludge drying. This system will produce 4.97 tonnes of biosolids per day (1,814 tonnes per annum) for which a market and end use must be sought.

- 1 Nr. sludge buffer tank constructed in glass enamelled steel and into which the thickened primary and secondary sludges would be pumped. This tank would be fitted with a mixer, and would have an operational capacity of 320m³ corresponding to three days sludge production.
- 1 Nr. sludge pasteurisation tank constructed in steel and thermally insulated would be provided with an operational capacity of 6m³. This would be maintained at a temperature of 57 °C.
- 2 Nr. anaerobic digesters constructed in glass enamelled steel and thermally insulated to maintain the temperature of the contents at 37 °C. Each tank will be fitted with an internal gas mixing system. The operating volume of each of these will be 798m³, with a tank diameter of 10.5m and a sidewall height of 10m.
- 1 Nr. digester heating system comprising of a combined heat and power (CHP) system and standby boiler capable of operating with either natural gas or biogas. These will be used to heat the digester contents by the use of heat exchangers. This heating system will be installed within the Sludge treatment Building.
- 1 Nr. biogas holder constructed in glass enamelled steel will be erected near the digesters. This will have an operating capacity of 431m³, and will have a diameter of 12m and a maximum height of 10 m based on a bell-over-water type with the bell at its maximum lift.
- 1 Nr. flare stack
- 1 Nr. digested sludge storage tank constructed in glass enamelled steel will be provided adjacent to the digesters. This will be identical in size to the digesters and will be roofed. This will have an operational capacity of 798m³, corresponding to 7 days sludge processing capacity. The contents of this tank will be mixed continuously.
- 1 Nr. high pressure sludge dewatering belt press capable of dewatering up to 200 kg dry solids/hour. This press will be enclosed and housed in the sludge Treatment Building. A polymer dosing system will be provided to enhance the dewatering process.

- 1 Nr. dewatered sludge silo constructed in either glass reinforced plastic (GRP) or steel will be provided with a capacity equivalent to one day's production of dewatered sludge, i.e. 22.5m³.
- 1 Nr. sludge dryer capable of drying 4,469kg dry solids/day. This will be operated with an evaporation rate of approximately 0.70m³/hr of water taking into account the necessary 125% peaking factor. The dryer will incorporate all necessary feed and discharge screws, heat generation system, heat exchangers, condenser and air scrubbing system. The dryer will be installed within the Sludge Treatment Building.
- 1 Nr. sludge silo constructed in either GRP or steel will be provided with a capacity equivalent to 4 day's production of dried sludge, i.e. 20m³.
- 1 Nr. bagging system will be provided for the dried sludge.

Sludge Treatment Building:

Housing sludge dewatering equipment, sludge drying equipment, energy recovery systems, control panels, odour control facilities, stores and workshop. Maximum plan area 1,100m² with a maximum height of 10.0m.

Odour Control System

All of those unit processes with odour potential must be connected to a negative air extraction and odour treatment system. Less offensive sources (the aeration tankage, secondary settlement tankage and storm water tankage) are considered low risk in terms of odour and do not require odour control units (OCU).

Based on the preliminary site layout prepared, (Figure 2.6 *Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1*) this may comprise three separate odour treatment units with one in each of the locations shown. The units are likely to be installed at the Preliminary Treatment Building, at the Activated Sludge Building and adjacent to the Sludge Treatment Building.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| OCU 1 | inlet works, preliminary treatment (screening, grit removal and pre aeration) and primary settlement tanks (Figure 2.6 <i>Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1</i> , Note 15). |
| OCU 2 | primary sludge thickener tank and activated sludge building (Figure 2.6 <i>Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1</i> , Note 16). |
| OCU 3 | anaerobic sludge digesters, digested sludge storage tank, sludge treatment building (containing the digested sludge dewatering system and sludge drying plant) and the dried sludge storage silo (Figure 2.6 <i>Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1</i> , Note 17). |

The types of odour control unit most commonly used for this application are biofilter units with a shell based media. The number of odour control units and number of stages in the odour control system will be selected by the contractor; however the contractor will be required to meet the overall maximum allowable emission rates specified in Section 3.6 *Air Quality, Odour and Climate*. An odour limit of less than 1.5 Ou_E m⁻³ for the 98th percentile and 3.0 Ou_E m⁻³ for the 99.5th percentile is recommended for the nearest sensitive locations and areas of amenity. These limits are considered sufficiently conservative to provide protection to the community at large taking into account the latest suggested odour impact criteria by environmental agencies in Ireland, the UK and the Netherlands.

Noise Attenuation

The treatment of the waste water requires the use of several elements of rotating machinery, such as pumps, air blowers, compressors, centrifuges, aerators, etc. The noise levels associated with these items can be quite significant, and attenuation is required if nuisance levels are to be avoided. Section 3.7 *Noise and Vibration* addresses the potential noise impacts and the required mitigation measures.

A design noise criterion of 45 dB(A) at 20m from the boundary of the WWTP, and a design criterion of 45 dB(A) at 5m from the pumping stations is specified. This represents the noise emissions from continuous plant and processes.

In addition, for the WWTP site, a daytime design noise criterion of less than 55 dB(A) at 20m from the boundary is proposed to ensure negligible noise impact due to daytime work activities and vehicles operating within the site.

Plant Control

Provision of sophisticated modern process monitoring and control equipment allows for efficient operation of the treatment process by increasing information levels and staff efficiency.

To optimise the operation and performance of this plant a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will be necessary. This will significantly reduce the level of manual intervention required for plant operation, and will also enable continuous plant operation without continuous manning of the site. It will incorporate an automatic dial-out system to alert personnel to any critical plant failures when the plant is not manned. Critical information will be made available and transmitted to the relevant Cork County Council office.

Provision of continuous monitoring and sampling of waste water flow entering and leaving the site will be provided. This will also include monitoring and measuring of the storm water content. This waste water monitoring is critical not only in terms of controlling plant operation but also in terms of complying with the *Urban Waste Water Regulations 2001 & 2004* amendments. To comply with the *Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations* of 2007, a Waste Water Discharge licence will be required from the EPA for the Cork Harbour WWTP. The purpose of the licence is to make provision for the protection of human, animal and plant life from harm and nuisance caused by the discharge of dangerous substances to the aquatic environment as well as to ensure compliance with National law.

Incoming and Outgoing Control - There will be deliveries by road tanker of imported influents and sludge, collections and transport off site of grit, screenings and bio-solids product on a daily basis. Facilities are required to monitor the volume and quality of the different loads being received and dispatched.

(ii) Indicative Design Nr. 2 - Alternative Treatment System

A schematic flow profile of an alternative waste water treatment system which may be employed on site is shown in Figure 2.7 *Proposed WWTP Schematic Flow Profile for SBR System (Indicative Design Nr.2)*, with an indicative layout provided in Figure 2.8 *Indicative Site Layout Nr. 2*.

Preliminary Treatment System

- As per system described above (Indicative Design Nr.1).

Storm Water Treatment System

- 2 Nr. rectangular settlement tanks fitted with submersible mixers, tipping bucket flushing systems and an overflow weir along the outlet end of each tank. The tipping bucket is normally at rest above top water level, while the mixer is normally switched off. When it is intended to return the settled water to the main waste water stream for treatment the mixer is activated to ensure that the return flow is of a consistent nature. When all of the tank contents have been emptied and returned for treatment, the tipping bucket is lowered to empty its contents and flush the floor and side walls of the tank. The operational capacity of these tanks will be exactly the same as for the radial flow circular tanks.
- 1 Nr. storm water sump complete with 2 Nr. pumps as per main treatment option.

Primary Settlement

By the nature of this alternative treatment system the provision of primary settlement tanks is not a requirement for this option.

Secondary Treatment

To achieve the treated effluent standard required a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) activated sludge system is likely to be provided as an alternative treatment option. This would comprise of the following:

- 4 Nr. SBR reactor tanks constructed in reinforced concrete, and each with an operational capacity of 2,000m³ (larger capacity than required for conventional system). These would be operated with a top water level of 5.0m and a bottom water level of 3.85m. Each tank would be fitted with an automated feed system, desludging system and decanting weir. Aeration would be provided by a fine bubble diffused air aeration system. Each of the SBR tanks would incorporate a Selector compartment with an operational capacity of 313m³ at the SBR inlet. These compartments would also be aerated and fitted with a fine bubble diffused air aeration system.
- 3 Nr. positive displacement air blowers to operate on a duty/assist/standby basis would be installed within acoustic enclosures in a designated blower building near the aeration tanks. These would each be rated at 4,000 Nm³/hr, (larger than requirement for conventional system) and would supply the entire air requirements of the selector and aeration tanks.
- 4 Nr. pairs of duty/standby sludge recycle pumps will be provided, with each returning the sludge from the SBR to its selector zone.
- 1 Nr. dissolved oxygen control system, which would control the output of the aeration blowers to match the demand of the loading and mixed liquors.

Secondary Settlement

Separate secondary settlement tanks are not required for the SBR.

- 2 Nr. sludge wastage pumps to pump the surplus sludge to the sludge thickening system.

Sludge Thickening

Because there will be no primary sludge produced on site by this treatment option only surplus activated sludge thickening system will be provided.

- 2 Nr. gravity belt thickeners with an odour enclosure fitted will be installed in the Sludge Treatment Building to increase the thickness of the surplus activated sludge from 0.5 % to 6 % dry solids. To achieve this sludge thickness the sludge will be dosed with a polymer solution. These units will each be required to thicken approximately 95kg dry solids per hour. These thickeners will also be connected to an air extract system and odour treatment unit.
- 2 Nr. thickened sludge pumps (duty/standby) will be provided for each of these thickeners to pump the sludges to a common sludge buffer tank.

Sludge Treatment

The sludge treatment system to be installed here might not include an anaerobic digestion stage and therefore only a dewatering stage followed by sludge drying will be required. This system will result in the production of approximately 7 tonnes per day (2,555 tonnes per annum) of biosolids product for which a market end use must be sought. This is approximately 41% more than that produced by the other treatment option.

- 1 Nr. sludge buffer tank constructed in glass enamelled steel and into which the thickened primary and secondary sludges would be pumped. This tank would be fitted with a mixer, and would have an operational capacity of 320 m³ corresponding to three days sludge production.
- 1 Nr. high pressure sludge dewatering belt press capable of dewatering up to 280 kg dry solids/hour. This press will be enclosed and housed in the sludge Treatment Building. A polymer dosing system will be provided to enhance the dewatering process.
- 1 Nr. dewatered sludge silo constructed in either GRP or steel will be provided with a capacity equivalent to one day's production of dewatered sludge, i.e. 32m³.
- 1 Nr. sludge dryer capable of drying 6,300 kg dry solids/day. This will be operated with an evaporation rate of approximately 1.0m³/hr of water taking into account the necessary 125% peaking factor. This is approximately 40% higher than the capacity of the drying system required for the conventional activated sludge system with primary settlement and anaerobic digestion. The dryer will incorporate all necessary feed and discharge screws, heat generation system, heat exchangers, condenser and air scrubbing system. The dryer will be installed within the Sludge Treatment Building. The dryer will use natural gas from the national grid as the fuel source for the heating system.
- 1 Nr. sludge silo constructed in either GRP or steel will be provided with a capacity equivalent to 4 day's production of dried sludge, i.e. 28.2m³.
- 1 Nr. bagging system will be provided for the dried sludge.

2.5.6 Proposed Site Layout

An indicative site layout for the proposed WWTP based on the conventional activated sludge process is described above and shown in Figure 2.6 *Indicative Site Layout Nr. 1*. To optimise the use of the sloping nature of the site, the preliminary treatment and primary settlement stages would be located at the higher elevations on site. Since these would be constructed for the most part below ground level only the tops of the chamber walls would be visible. These would be screened from view by local vegetative screening.

Similarly, the storm water settlement tanks, aeration tanks and secondary settlement tanks would be constructed in part below ground level, with only the top one metre of the side walls emerging above the finished ground levels.

2.5.7 Plant Flexibility and Future Expansion

Assuming the WWTP is operational in 2010, the waste water loads will be approximately 65% of the loads predicted for the year 2030. As such the proposed WWTP will be capable of effective operation while the loading is gradually increasing to the design loading. The modular nature of the activated sludge system described above would facilitate this requirement by operating at lower loading rates or at increasing loading rates with one of the three aeration tanks and its secondary settlement tank out of service in the initial stages of operation.

Sufficient space is also provided at the treatment plant site to facilitate further future expansion to accommodate further development in the scheme's catchment area beyond 2030.

2.6 Construction of WWTP

It is expected that the construction phase for the WWTP will extend over a two-year period. However, the timing for the commissioning of the WWTP will depend upon the completion of other associated works, such as construction of the pumping stations, drainage network, etc.

The construction works associated with this development will involve normal construction activities such as excavation, filling, lifting, pumping, pipe laying, concrete works, mechanical installation, etc. Other more specialised techniques may include piling and marine works. Blasting is not envisaged for this development.

Excavated material generated during the construction of the plant, where possible will be reused on site. For example, it may be possible to reuse excavated material for landscaping purposes in the context of the landscaping plan. However, any surplus spoil not suitable for re-use on site will be disposed of to a licensed landfill site. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure all disposal of waste is undertaken in a responsible manner. Where waste has to be transported off site for disposal, appropriate permits will be held by operators transporting the waste and an appropriate waste licence will be held at the waste disposal facility as per the requirements of the *Waste Management Act, 1996 - 2005* and associated regulations as amended. The quantity of surplus excavated materials will depend upon the final process design. However, taking a worst case situation where the secondary treatment process tanks are constructed substantially below ground, the maximum estimated volume of surplus material is in the order of 10,000m³. It is anticipated that tanks will not be excavated to depths greater than 5m below current ground level. A large proportion of this material will be subsoil (refer to Section 3.4 *Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology* for sub-surface stratification), which can be reused for landscaping works on site or for example as landfill capping material.

Site accommodations including offices, stores, workshops, canteens, etc. will be located within the boundary of the site. Likewise, parking facilities for construction vehicles and private transportation will be located within the development site. Temporary site fencing will be erected and maintained to secure the site during the construction phase.

A detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be drawn up for all construction activities to be carried out on site. This management plan will address activities likely to affect all aspects of the environment e.g. noise, dust, traffic, run-off, spillages, effluents etc. and will include environmental protection measures such as monitoring, protection barriers, operational procedures and contingency measures.

Provisions to reduce the environmental impact of the construction activities will include the following:

- Requiring contractors to ensure that no pollution or obstruction of existing streams, ponds, ground water or watercourses is caused by their operations.
- Requiring contractors to comply at a minimum with the provisions of *BS 5228 (Noise Control on Construction and Open Sites), 1997* and the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007*, S.I. No. 299 of 2007 for noise exposure within worksites.
- Requiring Contractors to take reasonable precautions to ensure that all discharged waste water (arising due to construction activities) shall not be harmful to, or cause obstruction, or deposit in, the drains or sewers and to prevent oil, grease or other objectionable matter being discharged into drains or sewers.
- Requiring contractors, during the execution of the works, to keep all plant and materials and all things connected with the construction of the works in good order and clean and tidy.
- Requiring the Contractor to ensure waste materials from the site are disposed of to a licensed waste facility.
- Requiring contractors to ensure that the public roads in the vicinity of the site are maintained free from all mud, dirt and rubbish which may arise from or by a reason of the execution of the works. To facilitate this, the Contractor could be required to provide a wheel washing facility to an approved standard within the construction site.

- Prohibiting the disposal of excess concrete on any part of the construction site. Requiring the Contractor to provide a designated bin for washing down the chutes of concrete trucks on site.
- Requiring the Contractor to keep the construction compounds free and clear of excess dirt, rubbish piles and scrap wood, etc. at all times.
- Requiring the Contractor to keep the designated parking area and other common areas clear and free of rubbish and debris.
- Requiring the Contractor to be responsible for the disposal of all wood, food, food packaging and paper and requiring them to furnish containers. Dumping these items within the construction site will be prohibited.
- Requiring scrap materials, rubbish, etc. to be hauled out of the work areas and disposed of by the Contractor on a regular basis. All hauling/disposing will be to a licensed waste disposal facility and the collectors will hold an appropriate waste collection permit.
- Requiring the Contractor to obtain any necessary permits from the Local Authority or EPA for the disposal of waste.
- At the completion of the work, require the Contractor to leave the Construction Area in neat, clean and orderly condition.
- Requiring the Contractor to provide sanitary facilities adequate for construction personnel. Sanitary facilities will include proper wash down WCs with sewer connections, or if this is impracticable, chemical closets.
- Requiring that all temporary buildings associated with construction of the development comply with the up to date *Safety, Health and Welfare Regulations*. On completion of the works, contractors will remove them entirely with all slab, drains and water mains and restore the surface of the land to its original condition or other reasonable condition. Typically with the exception of the marine crossing (where there may be a need to carry out essential night time works) construction restrictions will apply (07.00 to 19.00 for weekdays and 08.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays).

2.7 Commissioning of WWTP

Programmes for the phasing of the Works for the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme are not available at this preliminary stage and will be undertaken at detailed design stage.

There may be an interim period between the completion of the collection system and the commissioning of the WWTP where temporary mitigation measures may be required to minimise environmental impact. These measures will be set out in the CEMP and agreed with Cork County Council. At no stage will the impact be worse than prior to the construction phase.

It is expected that the WWTP will be put into operation immediately on completion of construction of the plant and other waste water conveyance systems. It is also expected that mechanical, electrical and process commissioning will extend for approximately 12 weeks after the start-up of the plant. However, the full capacity of the plant may not be utilised for some years as the design capacity is to the year 2030.

2.8 Licensing Requirements

WWTPs are exempt from requiring a waste licence under Section 3 of the *Waste Management Act* 1996. Sludge produced as a by-product of the waste water treatment process is not considered to be a waste under the *Waste Management Act* 1996 when it is reused in agriculture. Ultimately, the treatment of sludge and the final reuse of the sludge will determine whether a waste licence is required.

A waste licence from the EPA is necessary where storage (for over 6 months) is provided at the proposed WWTP prior to disposal to landfill or reuse on land. It is not proposed to provide a storage capacity of 6 months or greater at the proposed plant and therefore a waste licence is not required.

Under the new *Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007)*, there will be a requirement for all waste water discharges occurring from agglomerations of over 500 PE to apply for a license. Thus, it will be necessary to attain a discharge license under the above mentioned regulations for the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme. Pre-application consultation with the EPA is recommended.

2.9 Operation of WWTP

The WWTP and pumping stations will be operational 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. It is not anticipated that the plant will be staffed 24 hours per day. Normal working hours will typically be within 8.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday, with visits to the plant on Saturday and Sunday, as required. Automatic control of the plant will be undertaken by a computerised control system, with key information and alarms relayed to the relevant Cork County Council office. When the site is unmanned, any critical alarms of the plant will activate an automatic call-out system. Sufficient, suitably qualified staff will be employed to operate the WWTP including supervisors, laboratory technicians, general operatives, electricians, fitters, etc.

Activities associated with the WWTP will include arrivals and departures of employees on a daily basis. Maintenance personnel such as electricians will arrive at the plant as required and there will be regular maintenance necessary. Parking will be included for employees and visitors.

An Operation Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) and Maintenance Manual will be produced for the site.

Locally directed on-site lighting will be provided for access and maintenance purposes. Lighting will be provided on the access roads and other locations only as required for safety and security reasons.

Access to the site by unauthorised persons will be prevented. Safety features for minimising risk to all plant personnel/visitors/intruders will include, but not limited to the following:

- Handrails to uncovered tanks, where appropriate
- Handrails and toe-boards to access platforms, walkways, etc.
- Controlled access to all stairs and platforms
- Safety chains/cages to units/ladders, where appropriate
- Safety grid flooring to all ducts and channels
- Local emergency stop buttons on all machinery

- Life buoys at strategic locations around all tanks
- Hand rails and harnesses for maintenance personnel
- Perimeter security fence with an intruder alarm system linked to the central control station
- Portable gas monitor and breathing apparatus for use by site personnel

The appointed Contractor will be required to comply with the appropriate health and safety legislation including:

- European Council Directive 94/09/EC – ATEX Directive
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and 2005
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 2006
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application), Regulations, 1993 as amended in 2001 and 2003
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Biological Agents) Regulations, 1994 as amended 1998
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations, 2006
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Work at Height) Regulations, 2006
- Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Control of Vibration at Work) Regulations, 2006
- European Communities (Waste Water Treatment)(Prevention of Odours and Noise) Regulations, 2005

Facilities for diverting flows from the various treatment units will be provided to effect ease of maintenance and to facilitate isolation of any integral unit should breakdown occur, without significantly impairing the overall treatment efficiency.

All critical items of plant equipment such as pumps, blowers, will be provided with stand-by facilities, which would be automatically brought into operation upon failure of “duty” unit.

2.10 Waste Water Monitoring

The Fifth Schedule of the *Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 (S.I. Nr. 254 of 2001)* stipulates the following monitoring requirements for urban WWTPs with population equivalents of 50,000 PE or over:

- A minimum of 24 samples should be taken annually at regular intervals during the year
- Flow proportional or time based 24-hour samples are to be taken.
- If 24 samples are taken annually, the waste water BOD during 'normal operating conditions' may not deviate from the standard by more than 100% for four of the samples and 150% deviation is acceptable for suspended solids standards.
- Extreme waste water quality values are not to be considered, when resulting from unusual situations such as those due to heavy rain.

These requirements will be implemented as part of the operational control of the WWTP. However it is likely that additional monitoring will be conducted by the appointed Contractor to ensure effective process control.

In advance of the WWTP becoming operational the Council will arrange pre application discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a Waste Water Discharge Licence under the *Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007)*. These regulations apply specifically to the discharge itself and storm water overflows.

2.11 Ancillary Developments

A number of ancillary structures will be required as part of the proposed development and are described below.

2.11.1 Collection and Conveyance Systems

The proposed WWTP is one element of the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme. The collection system is another element of the scheme and will convey the effluent from population centres of Cobh, Passage West (including Glenbrook), Monkstown, Ringaskiddy (including Shanbally and Coolmore), Carrigaline (including Crosshaven) to the proposed WWTP. The main elements of the proposed conveyance system include rising mains, pumping stations, gravity sewers and a marine pipeline crossing. Construction or erection of pumping stations, holding tanks or outfall facilities for waste water or storm water will require separate planning approval (Part 8, *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, S.I. No. 600 of 2001*).

The Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme also includes for upgrading the existing collection system within each population centre to cater for future development in the areas in line with the *Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001-2020*, the *Cork County Development Plan 2003* and relevant Local Area Development Plans.

The scheme also includes for upgrading the existing sewer network because of structural damage, excessive infiltration and lack of capacity for future flows. Under the proposed scheme it is expected that waste water and storm water collection will be separated as far as reasonably possible.

Overview

The proposed scheme provides for waste water from Cobh to be pumped across the Passage West Channel in Cork Harbour from Carrigaloe to Glenbrook via a marine pipeline crossing. The combined Passage West/Glenbrook, Cobh, Monkstown and Raffeen flow is to be pumped to the proposed WWTP site. It is proposed to pump the combined flow from Crosshaven, Coolmore and Carrigaline via existing rising mains to the WWTP site. Waste water from Ringaskiddy will be pumped to Shanbally where it will be pumped to the WWTP. The treated effluent would flow by gravity to the existing Ringaskiddy outfall.

The main elements of the proposed collection system and the locations of the pumping stations and the marine crossing are shown in Figure 2.9 – *Associated Development Works*.

The Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme includes for the construction of the following main elements:

- Major Pumping stations
- Minor Pumping stations
- Marine Pipeline Crossing
- Rising Mains and Gravity Sewers

Major Pumping Stations

The following four major pumping stations will be constructed as part of the proposed Scheme:

- West Beach Cobh
- Carrigaloe
- Monkstown
- Raffeen

The proposed location of each of the above pumping station is shown on Figure 2.10 *Site Location Plan – Proposed West Beach Pumping Station*, Figure 2.11 *Site Location Plan – Proposed Carrigaloe Pumping Station*, Figure 2.12 *Site Location Plan – Proposed Monkstown Pumping Station* and Figure 2.13 *Site Location Plan – Proposed Raffeen Pumping Station*. The existing Church Road pumping station in Carrigaline is also considered a major station and will be upgraded as part of the Scheme.

It is noted that the potential impact on the receiving waters from emergency overflows from the Carrigaloe, Monkstown and Raffeen pumping stations is likely to be more negative than the current situation. Overflow discharges at these pumping stations will include the waste water from Cobh, and from Passage West in the case of the pumping stations at Monkstown and Raffeen. Therefore, at a minimum an automated control operating system should be put in place to ensure that if a downstream pumping station fails to operate, the upstream pumping station will cease pumping.

These pumping stations are likely to be Dry Well/Wet Well type pumping stations and therefore will be housed within an above ground building. The emergency operation of these stations is essential to minimise the environmental risk. It is essential that the pumping stations include for standby power arrangements to prevent the overflow discharge of raw effluent to the harbour. These arrangements are discussed in further detail below.

Noise and Odour abatement measures will also be included at the pumping stations and this is discussed further in Section 3.6 *Air Quality, Odour and Climate* and Section 3.7 *Noise and Vibration*.

Minor Pumping Stations

The minor pumping stations will be submersible type structures with typically only a kiosk and a vent stack visible above ground. These stations will pump much smaller flows in comparison the major pumping stations. The proposed location of minor pumping stations are shown on Figure 2.9 *Associated Development Works*.

Storm Water Overflows & Emergency Overflows

The peak flow reaching the WWTP will correspond approximately to 6 times the Dry Weather Flow (DWF) at the design year 2030 loadings, and will be experienced when all of the duty pumps at Carrigaline, Raffeen, Ringaskiddy, Coolmore and Shanbally are operating simultaneously at full capacity. Pumping stations have been designed (preliminary design) to pump forward flows up to 6 DWF. This is in accordance with industry practice. In the situation where the pumping stations receives a combination of both foul and surface waters, industry practice dictates that 'Formula A' should be adopted. Typically, pump forward flows will be in the range 6-7DWF, as a consequence. This approach has been recognised by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as a core design principle on many sewerage schemes throughout the country.

Currently all waste water from the population centres within the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme is not treated and is discharged directly to the Lower Harbour. Consequently, the quality of the discharge from any future overflows will be a significant improvement on current practice. Where overflows occur, their design will be refined at detailed design to the extent that they meet all accepted industry design parameters. All pumping stations and associated overflows will be designed in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidelines including the guideline document issued entitled *Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows*. In addition, it should be noted that the construction of outfall facilities for waste water or storm water will require separate planning approval (Part 8, *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001*).

Emergency overflows will be located on the collection system at individual pumping stations to prevent localised flooding in the event of a pump failure or power outage. The provision of duty/standby pumping arrangements in each pumping station will minimise the potential for the discharge of raw sewage except in the event of a power outage. In this event the pumping stations will, at a minimum, incorporate facilities to allow the connection of standby generators. All overflow arrangements will be designed to minimise nuisance and associated health hazards.

Marine Pipeline Crossing

Twin rising mains will cross the West Passage Channel of Cork Harbour from Carrigaloe on Cobh Island to Glenbrook. The proposed route is downstream of the ferry crossing.

A screening and grit removal system is required upstream of the marine crossing to prevent gross solids settling out in the submerged pipelines or causing blockages, during periods of low flow or no flow.

The proposed crossing location is at a narrow stretch of the shipping channel and may interfere with shipping therefore liaising with the Port Authority is essential particularly during the construction phase. The Glenbrook/Monkstown area has steep approaches on the banks of the estuary, and these may cause problems during construction.

The precise locations of the proposed pumping stations and the routes of the gravity sewers and rising mains have yet to be finalised. There is flexibility to relocate some of these facilities without affecting the proposals for the proposed WWTP. In the event of a relocation of any element of the collection system, an environmental assessment will be required to determine that the environmental impacts are the same or less than those anticipated in the EIS.

Rising Mains and Gravity Sewers

The proposed scheme will include for rising mains and gravity sewers to convey flows from the population centres of Cobh, Passage West (including Glenbrook), Monkstown, Ringaskiddy (including Shanbally and Coolmore), Carrigaline and Crosshaven to the proposed WWTP. During the construction phase this will involve the construction of new pipelines as well as modifications to and upgrading of existing pipelines. All new and upgraded sewers and rising mains will be tested following construction to ensure the integrity of the works.

2.11.2 Access

Access to the WWTP site will be from the existing access road to the Bord Gáis substation bordering the south western perimeter of the proposed site. This access road is connected to a minor road (locally known as Cogan's Road) to the west, which currently connects to the National Primary Route to Ringaskiddy (N28). Upgrading of the existing site access road will be required in order to cater effectively with vehicles/traffic associated with the proposed development. Currently the access road for the site at the junction with LS472 is approximately 13m in width and narrows to approximately 7m at the approach to the proposed site. A 10m right of way will be required as part of the works and hence only a section of this road will be widened.

There are proposals to upgrade the N28 from Cork to Ringaskiddy. The Cork to Ringaskiddy Realignment Scheme currently has two proposed interchanges at Shannonpark and Shanbally. The proposed N28 route passes immediately north of the WWTP site and runs approximately parallel to and south of the existing N28 National Primary route.

However, the plans for the road scheme show that once constructed it will no longer be possible to access the N28 from the LS427 (Cogan's Road). Communications with the relevant road authorities (the NRA), indicate that it is not envisaged to provide direct access from the WWTP to the N28.

In the event that the road is constructed prior to the completion of the WWTP, access to the WWTP site will be from the N28 to the L2490 (Fernhill Road) and along the LS427 (Cogan's Road) for both the construction and operation phases of the project. Upgrades along this route will be carried out by the NRA as part of the proposed upgrade to the N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Realignment.

2.12 Power, Water and Chemical inputs

Water

Water will be required during the construction phase and for the operation of the WWTP. This will be supplied by a connection to the existing water mains supply.

Water is required at various stages during the treatment process for equipment operation. Requirements for water, in addition to the normal maintenance requirements, would include water for the screening, dewatering, odour control and chemical processes.

Certain functions, such as chemical preparation, require the use of potable water. However final effluent should be suitable for many of the other duties. The use of treated effluent for miscellaneous grey water activities such as screen washing, cooling, and irrigation of the odour control systems is to be encouraged and implemented where feasible. This is recommended since it will reduce the quantity of potable water utilised on site (thereby reducing cost and limiting use of a valuable resource) and also reduce the quantity of dirty wash water for treatment.

Recycled treated effluent should be used where possible e.g. cleaning the screens etc. A connection to the public water supply is available from the existing water main within the minor road adjacent to the site.

Power

Electricity is required as a power source for the electrical and electronic equipment and machinery used on site. In terms of power supply, there is sufficient capacity available from the existing network to service the proposed WWTP.

A standby generator is recommended to ensure the plant will continue operating in the case of electrical power failure. It is normal practice to locate the generator indoors to attenuate noise levels. It is likely that diesel will be transported to the site to operate the standby generator.

Gas may be required as a fuel source for particular advanced sludge treatment systems, e.g. if a drying process is adopted. A natural gas supply is also available adjacent to the site.

Chemical Inputs

The most common method employed for the removal of phosphorus from municipal waste water utilises chemical addition and subsequent precipitation of the insoluble phosphates with the biological sludge produced. The chemical addition is usually downstream of the biological stage. Chemicals most commonly used are ferric sulphate and aluminium sulphate, both of which are available in liquid form and do not require dilution prior to addition to the waste water. It is currently not a requirement to remove nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen from the Cork Harbour WWTP however should nutrient removal be required such chemicals are likely to be stored on site. Associated with this it will be necessary to provide bulk storage facilities for the chemical to be added.

Chemical conditioning of the sludge is typically associated with sludge dewatering machinery such as centrifuges and belt presses. Polyelectrolyte is added to sludge, prior to dewatering, as an aid to thickening and dewatering. The particular type of polyelectrolyte used is dependent on the sludge. Polyelectrolytes are available commercially in either solid or liquid form. Liquid polyelectrolytes are more commonly used on plants of this scale and type.

The most suitable polyelectrolyte for any particular sludge is determined by on-site testing, during the commissioning and initial operation of the plant. In addition, new products are introduced onto the market on an ongoing basis. These may offer improvements in performance. The polyelectrolyte preparation and dosing systems are housed and generally comprise storage and mixing tanks complete with mixers and dosing pumps. Additional in-line dilution is usually provided in the dosing lines.

Some waste waters require pH correction, where for example lime dosing may be required. As the waste water from the harbour area is predominantly municipal it is unlikely that this will be a requirement.

Appropriate measures such as adequate bunding of chemical storage and delivery areas must be provided on site. Chemicals storage tanks should be all contained within a bund, and have emergency shower and eyewash unit located along side. The chemical dosing pumps should be installed within the bunded area.

2.13 Climate Change

The proposed WWTP is located at an elevated site (approximately 28-40m OD), away from the foreshore and therefore will not be affected by rising sea levels and flooding. Due to the topography of the catchment, the collection system is located predominantly close to the coast.

The preliminary design of the collection system used a maximum tide level of 2.5m OD which is above the Mean High Water Spring level of 1.98m OD. The collection system has been designed to eliminate direct connections between the tidal water body and the main collection system. The foul flows are conveyed to the proposed WWTP via pumping stations. Overflows from the pumping stations are necessary to eliminate excessive storm flows from the main system. These overflows will be protected by means of valves which will negate the possibility of tidal water intrusion. Detailed design will include for the sealing of all manholes which may be impacted on through pressure differentials imposed by tide levels external to the collection system. It is therefore concluded that the collection system is sufficiently protected from impacts of climate change and excessive tidal events.

Detailed design, which will be carried out following approval of the EIS, will utilise best practice in order to factor in the impacts of climate change on the collection system. Climate change predictions have varied in their estimations for sea level rise and increased rainfall intensity over the past few years. It is a recommendation of this EIS that climate change issues will be specifically refined and predictions validated with the most up to date information during detailed design.

Where possible, the Contractor is recommended to utilise a number of measures to reduce his Carbon Footprint for both the construction and operational phases of the development. These may include locally sourced products, reduced distances for the transportation of sludge, energy efficient designs, concept of reduction and reuse, a structured approach to energy management (electricity etc.), preparation of an Energy Management Action Plan (MAP).

2.14 Sustainability

The WWTP is designed to cater for the future development in the Lower Harbour area until the year 2030. Currently waste water from the towns/villages in the Lower Harbour area is discharging untreated to the Harbour.

The proposed development supports environmental, and the economic needs in the Cork Harbour Area. In order to facilitate sustainable development and an increasing population, the provision of services including WWTP's is a vital infrastructural requirement for the Cork Harbour Area.

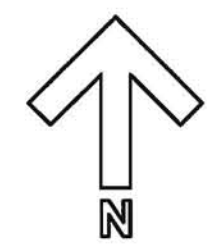
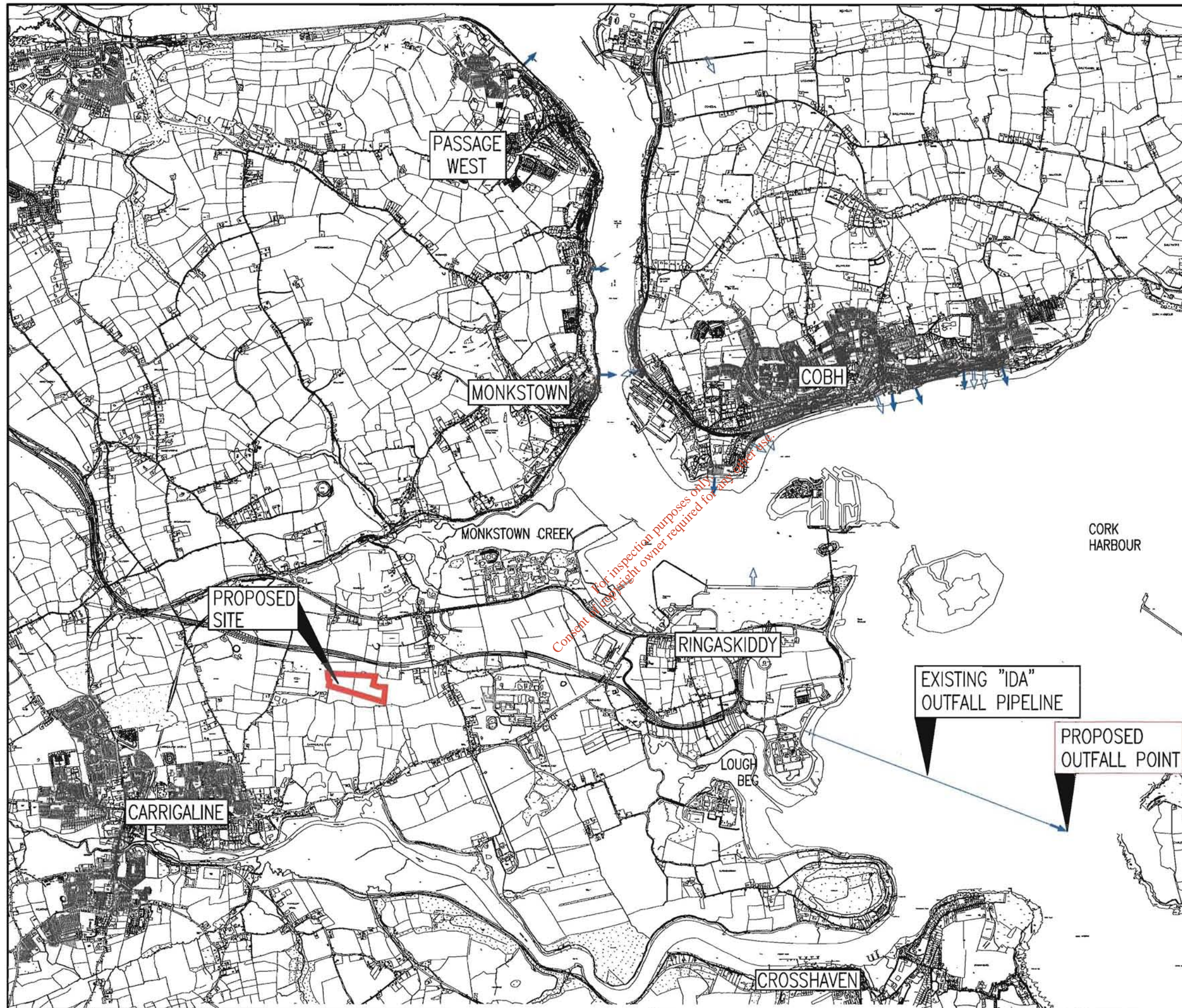
In addition to the proposed development, the Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009 for Cork County includes for the following to cater for future demands and improve water quality in the harbour area:

- Midleton Sewerage Scheme (Infiltration Reduction)
- Midleton WWTP Extension
- Little Island Sewerage Scheme
- Carrigtwohill Sewerage Scheme (Treatment & Storm Drain)

2.15 Decommissioning

Waste water treatment for population centres in the Lower Harbour area will be required indefinitely. Therefore it is unlikely that the plant will be decommissioned in the future and more likely that the proposed plant will require upgrading once the design capacity or lifetime of the plant has been reached. Nevertheless should the plant require decommissioning all tanks, structures and building etc. shall be dismantled and removed. Any contaminated material shall be removed off site. All material removed off site will be re-used/disposed in accordance with the relevant legislation at the time.

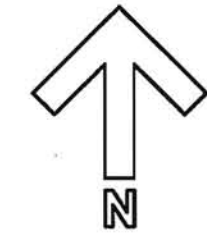
*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*



LEGEND

- PROPOSED SITE —
- MAJOR OUTFALL ➔
- MINOR OUTFALL ➔

FIGURE 2.1 LOCATION OF EXISTING OUTFALLS AND PROPOSED OUTFALL SCALE 1:35,000



LEGEND

- 1 SITE INVESTIGATED FOR W.W.T.P.
- 1 SITE SUITABLE FOR LOCAL W.W.T.P.
- 0 SITE SUITABLE FOR LARGE W.W.T.P.

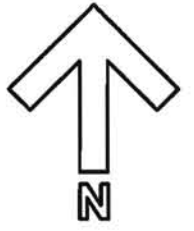
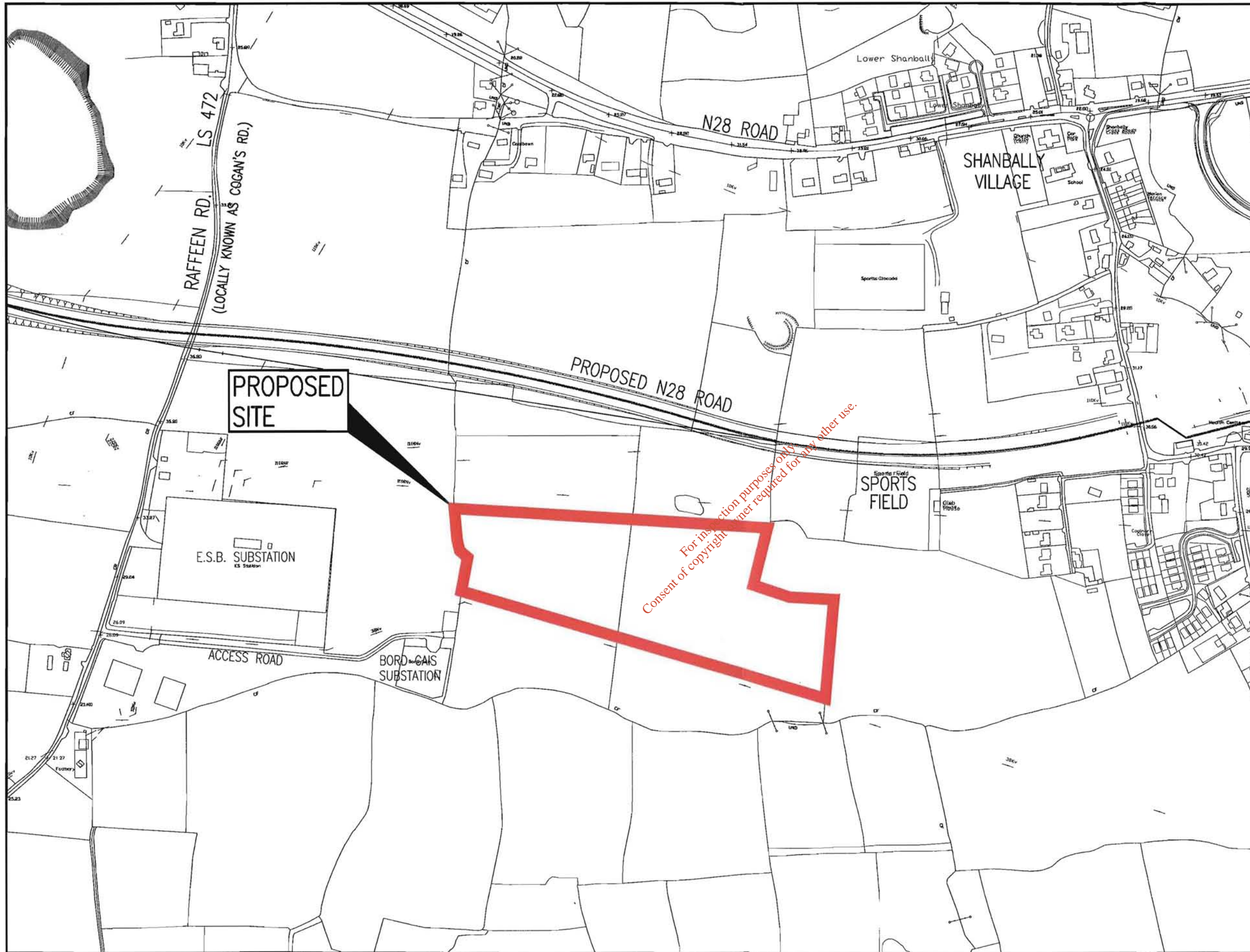


FIGURE 2.2 LOCATION OF POTENTIAL WWT.P. SITES



SOURCE: ORDNANCE SURVEY DISCOVERY SERIES OS 1806 & OS 1606

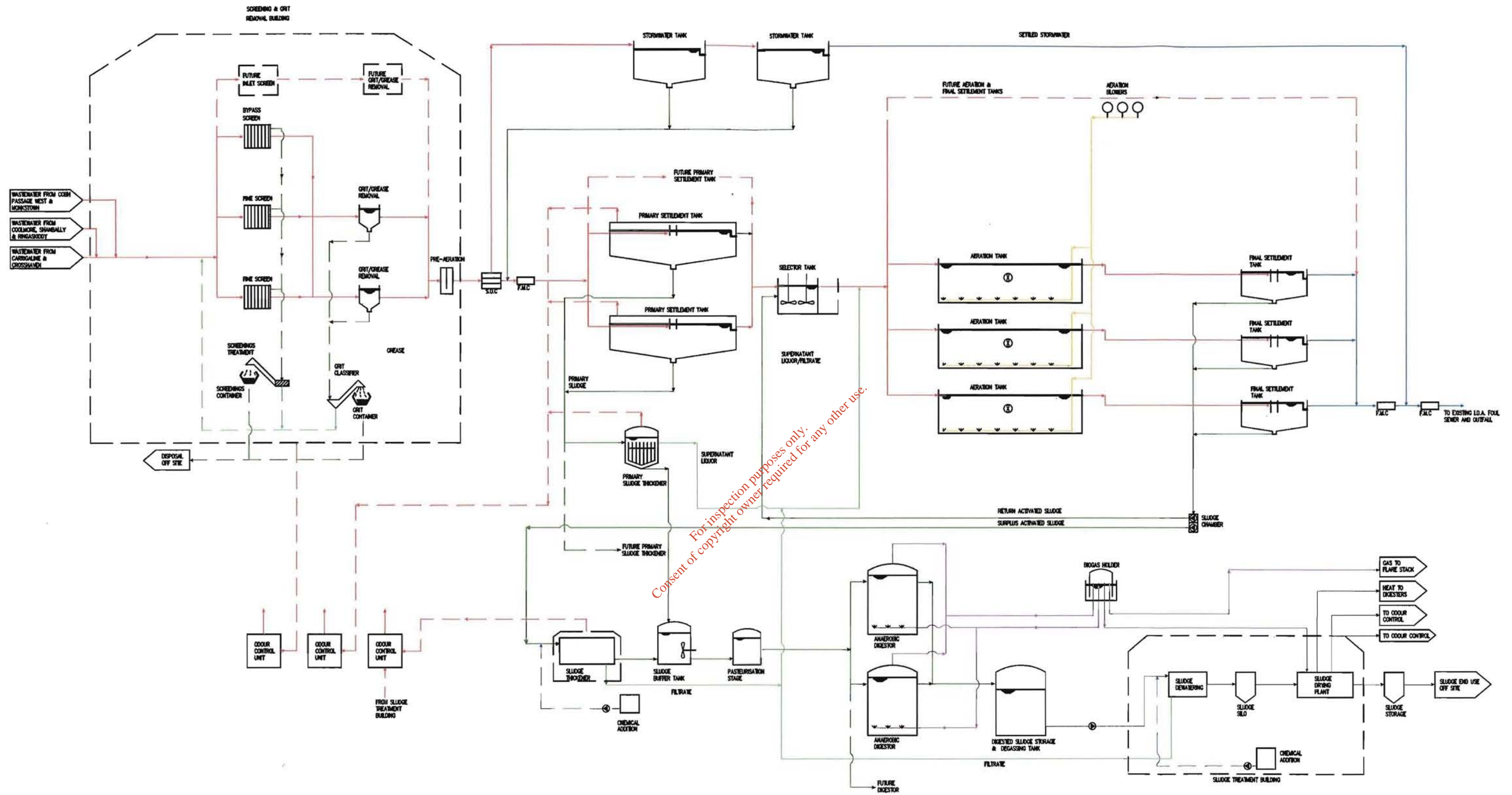
FIGURE 2.3 SITE LOCATION – REGIONAL SCALE 1:50,000



For inspection purposes only. Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

LEGEND

PROPOSED SITE █

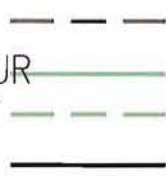


For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

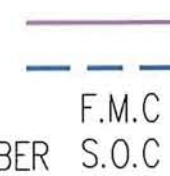
WASTEWATER
TREATED EFFLUENT/
SETTLED STORMWATER
SLUDGE



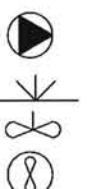
SCREENINGS/GRIT/GREASE
FILTRATE/SUPERNATANT LIQUOR
REJECT WASHWATER
AIR

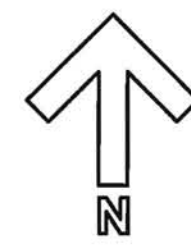
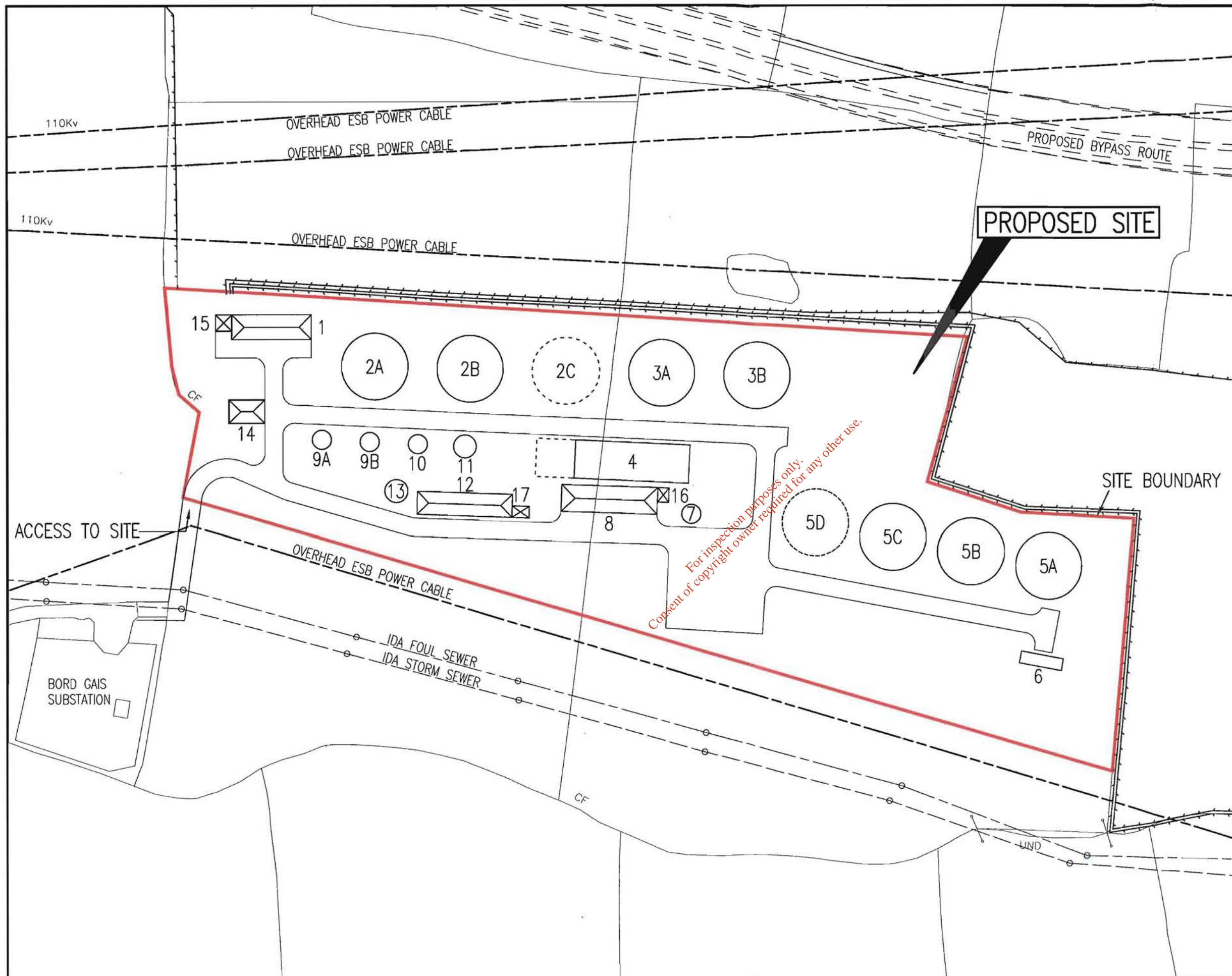


BIOGAS
CHEMICAL
FLOW MONITORING CHAMBER
STORMWATER OVERFLOW CHAMBER



PUMP STATION
AIR DIFFUSER
MIXER
SUBMERSIBLE FLOW BOOSTER





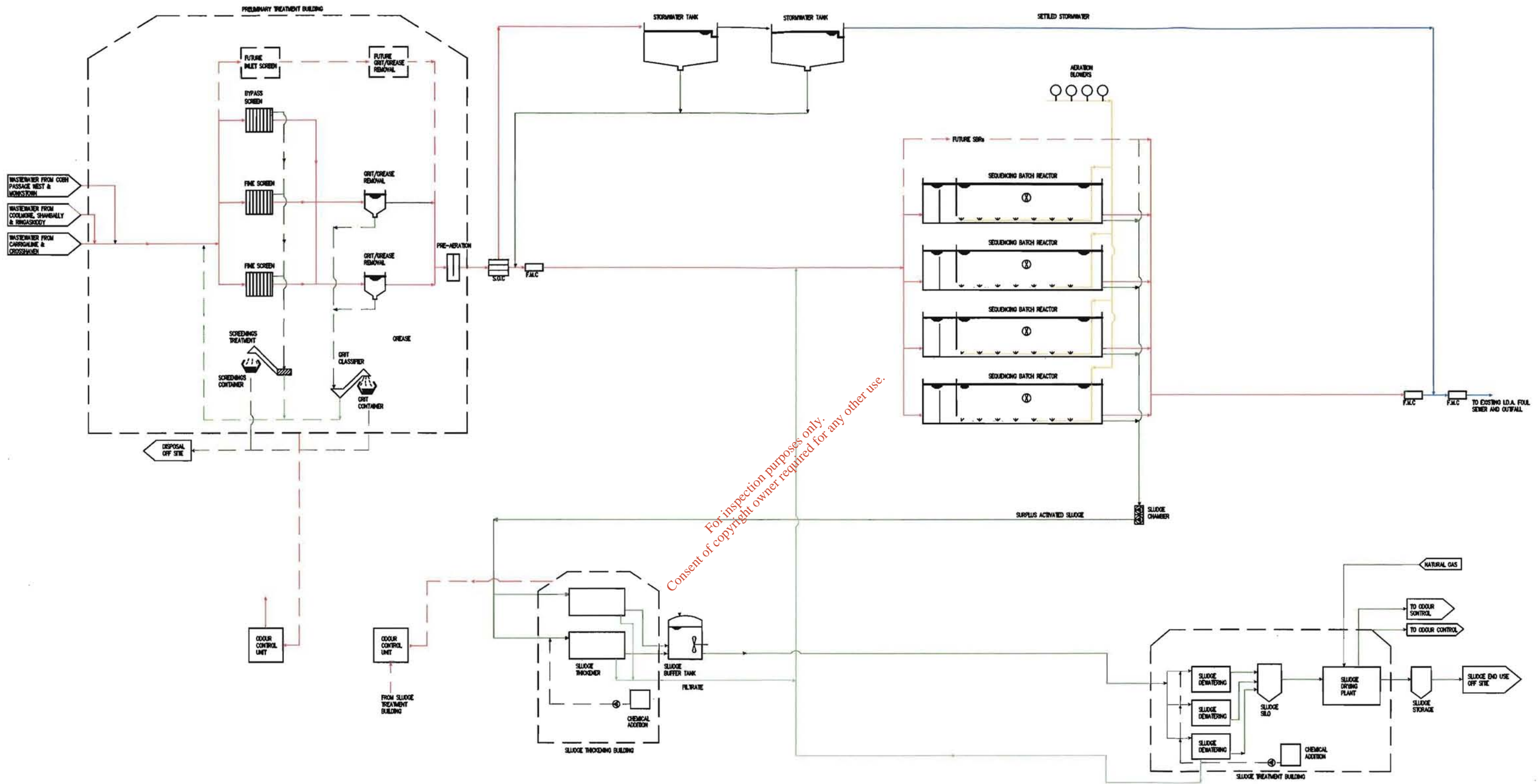
NOTES

1. PRELIMINARY TREATMENT (SCREENING, GRIT REMOVAL & PRE-AERATION)
2. PRIMARY SETTLEMENT TANKS
3. STORMWATER SETTLEMENT TANKS
4. AERATION TANKS
5. SECONDARY SETTLEMENT TANKS
6. TREATED EFFLUENT MONITORING CHAMBER
7. PRIMARY SLUDGE THICKENER TANK
8. ACTIVATED SLUDGE BUILDING (CONTAINING WASTE ACTIVATED SLUDGE BELT THICKENER)
9. ANEROBIC SLUDGE DIGESTERS
10. DIGESTED SLUDGE STORAGE TANK
11. BIOGAS HOLDER
12. SLUDGE TREATMENT BUILDING (HOUSING THE DIGESTED SLUDGE DEWATERING SYSTEM AND THE SLUDGE DRYING PLANT)
13. DRIED SLUDGE STORAGE SILO
14. ADMINISTRATION / CONTROL BUILDING
15. PRELIMINARY TREATMENT ODOUR CONTROL UNIT
16. PRIMARY SLUDGE ODOUR CONTROL TREATMENT UNIT
17. SECONDARY SLUDGE ODOUR TREATMENT UNIT

LEGEND

- PROPOSED SITE
- RISING MAIN
- FOUL SEWER
- STORM SEWER
- PROPOSED BYPASS
- ESB CABLE
- INDICATES SPACE AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

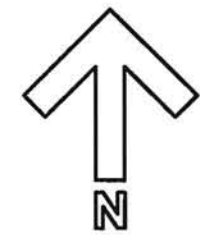
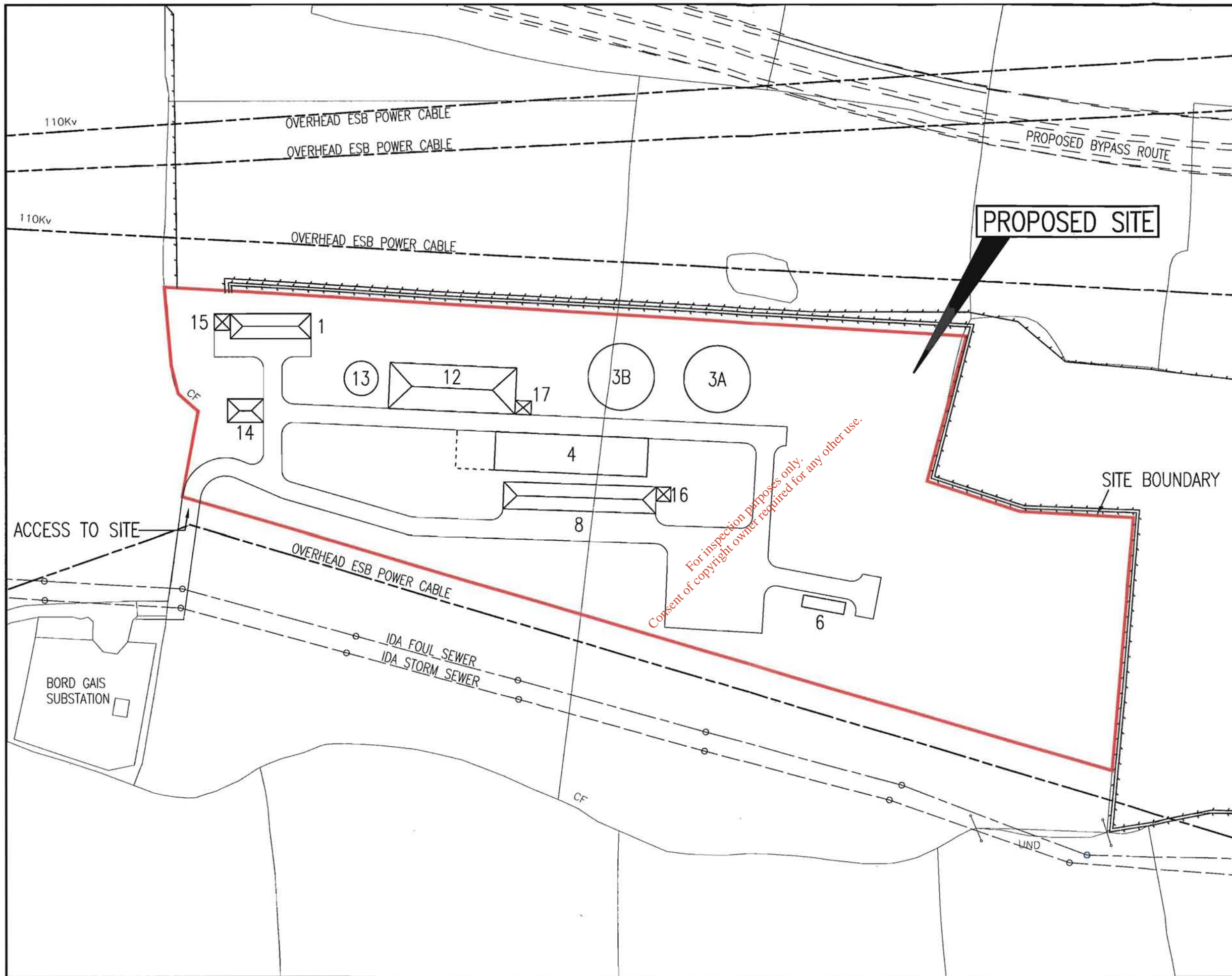
FIGURE 2.6 INDICATIVE SITE LAYOUT NR. 1 SCALE 1:2,000



For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

WASTEWATER		SCREENINGS/GRIT/GREASE		CHEMICAL		PUMP STATION	
TREATED EFFLUENT/ SETTLED STORMWATER		FILTRATE/SUPERNATANT LIQUOR		FLOW MONITORING CHAMBER F.M.C		AIR DIFFUSER	
SLUDGE		AIR		STORMWATER OVERFLOW CHAMBER S.O.C		MIXER	
		NATURAL GAS				SUBMERSIBLE FLOW BOOSTER	

FIGURE 2.7 PROPOSED WWT PLANT SCHEMATIC FLOW PROFILE FOR SBR SYSTEM (INDICATIVE DESIGN Nr.2)



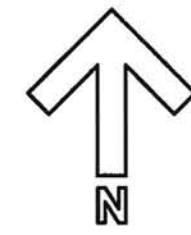
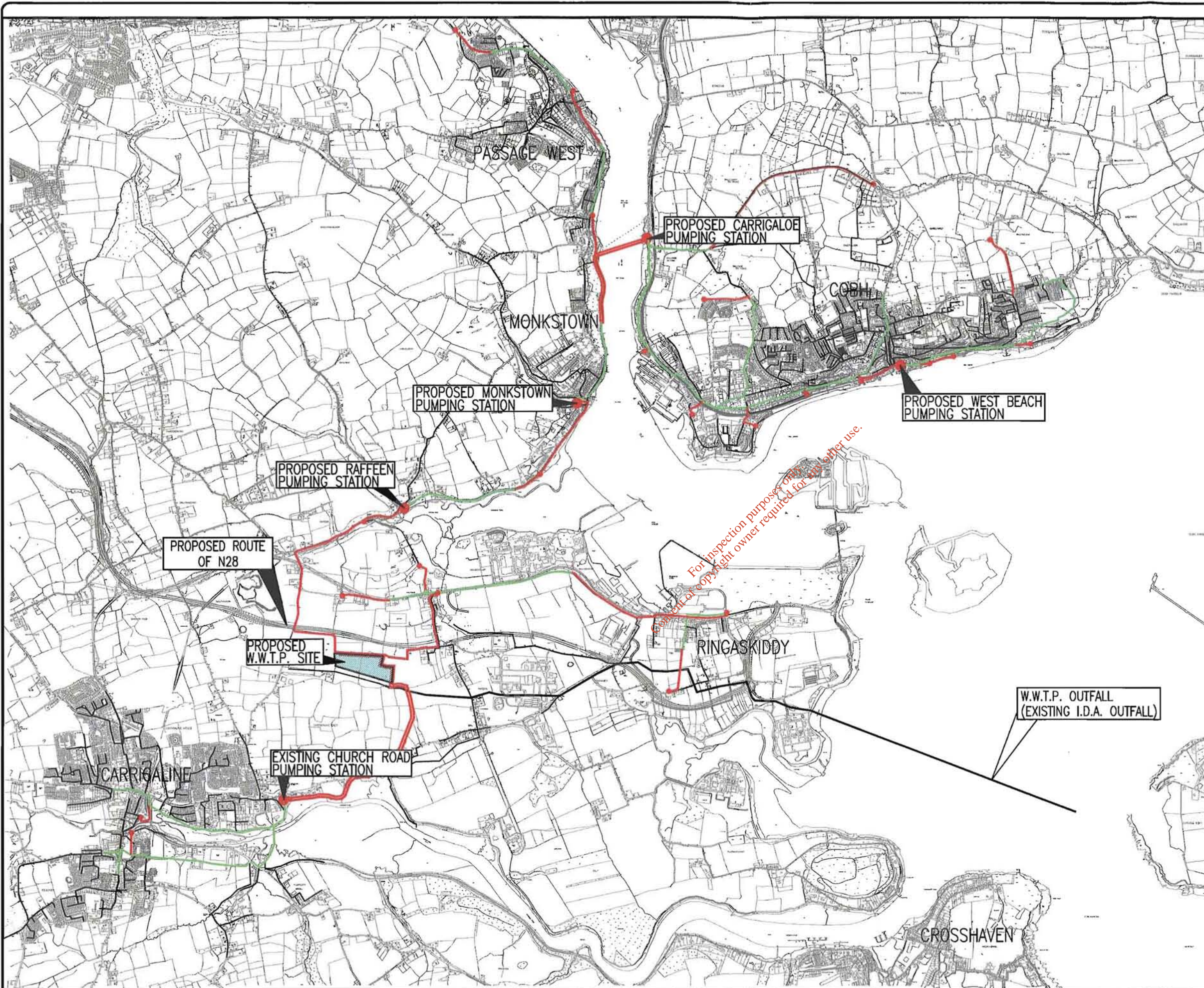
NOTES

1. PRELIMINARY TREATMENT (SCREENING, GRIT REMOVAL & PRE-AERATION)
2. PRIMARY SETTLEMENT TANKS - N/A
3. STORMWATER SETTLEMENT TANKS
4. AERATION TANKS - SBR
5. SECONDARY SETTLEMENT TANKS - N/A
6. TREATED EFFLUENT MONITORING CHAMBER
7. PRIMARY SLUDGE THICKENER TANK - N/A
8. ACTIVATED SLUDGE BUILDING (CONTAINING WASTE ACTIVATED SLUDGE BELT THICKENER)
9. ANEROBIC SLUDGE DIGESTERS - N/A
10. DIGESTED SLUDGE STORAGE TANK - N/A
11. BIOGAS HOLDER - N/A
12. SLUDGE TREATMENT BUILDING (HOUSING THE DIGESTED SLUDGE DEWATERING SYSTEM AND THE SLUDGE DRYING PLANT)
13. DRIED SLUDGE STORAGE SILO
14. ADMINISTRATION / CONTROL BUILDING
15. PRELIMINARY TREATMENT ODOUR CONTROL UNIT
16. PRIMARY SLUDGE ODOUR CONTROL TREATMENT UNIT
17. SECONDARY SLUDGE ODOUR TREATMENT UNIT

LEGEND

- PROPOSED SITE
- RISING MAIN
- FOUL SEWER
- STORM SEWER
- PROPOSED BYPASS
- ESB CABLE
- INDICATES SPACE AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

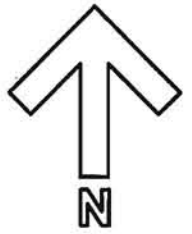
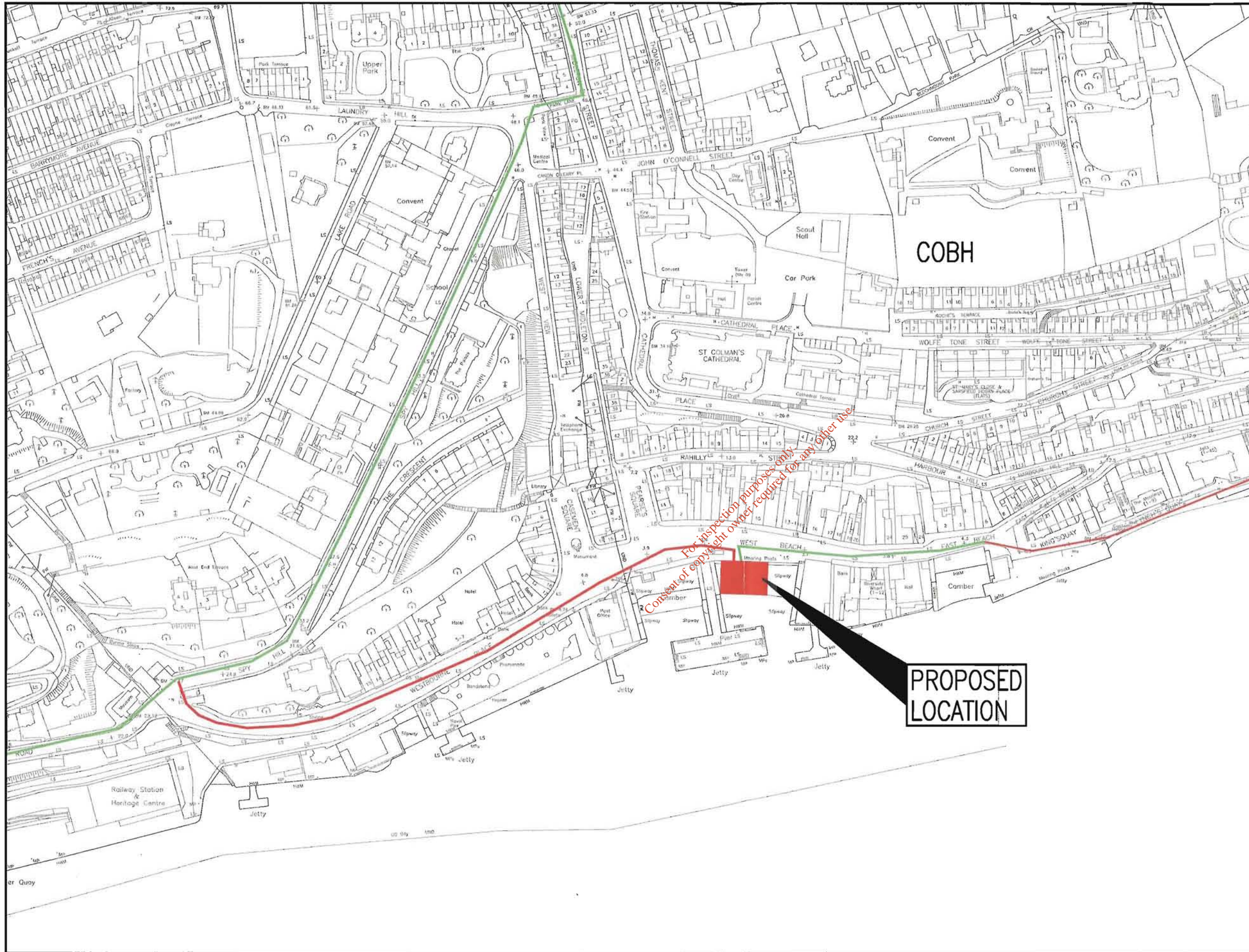


LEGEND

- EXISTING SEWERS
- PROPOSED RISING MAIN
- PROPOSED GRAVITY SEWER
- PUMPING STATION
- MAJOR PUMPING STATION

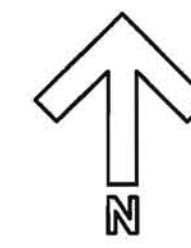
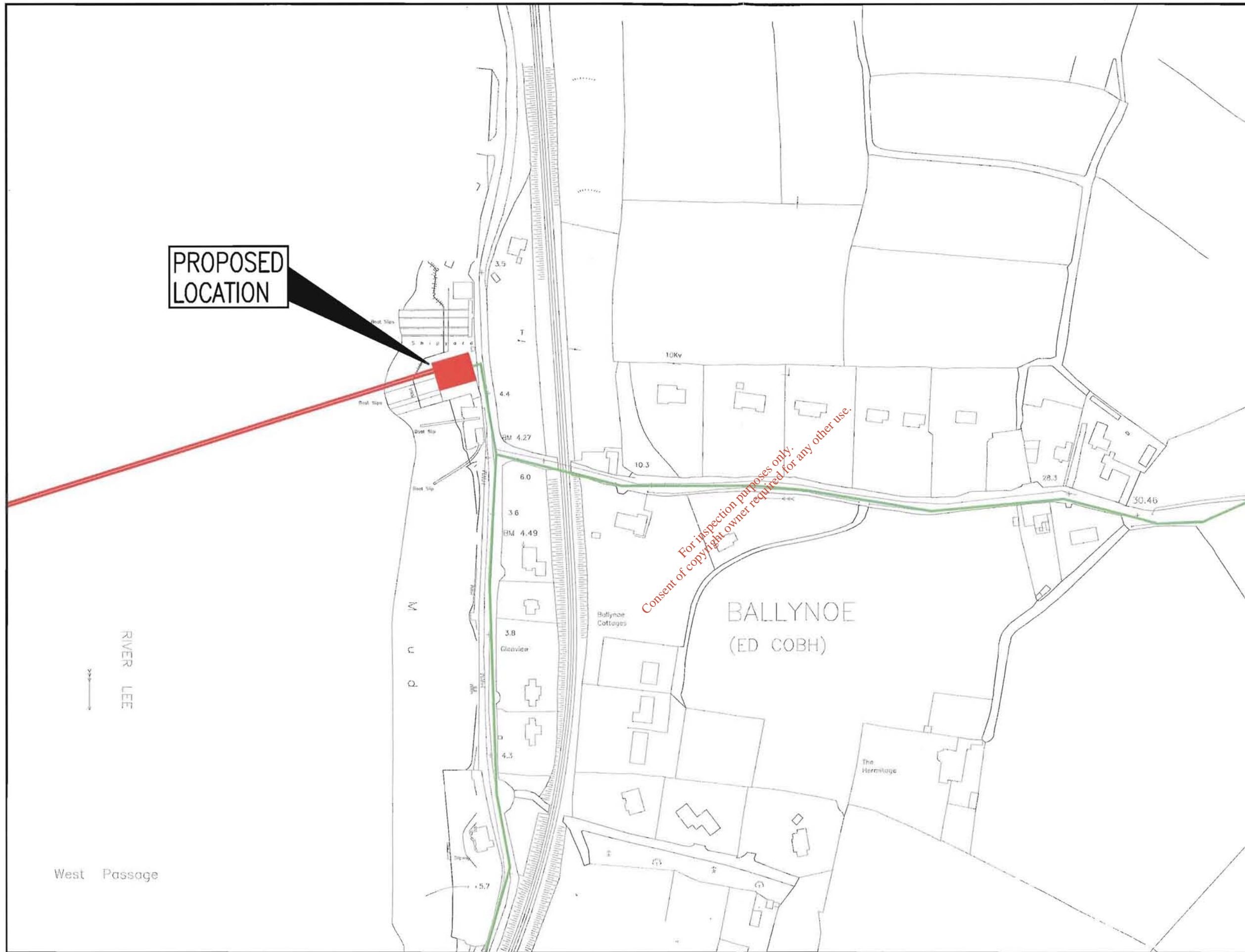


FIGURE 2.9 ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT WORKS



LEGEND

- PROPOSED RISING MAIN
- PROPOSED GRAVITY SEWER
- PROPOSED LOCATION



- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED RISING MAIN
 - PROPOSED GRAVITY SEWER
 - PROPOSED LOCATION

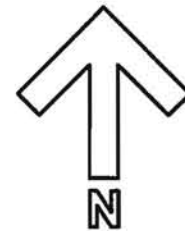
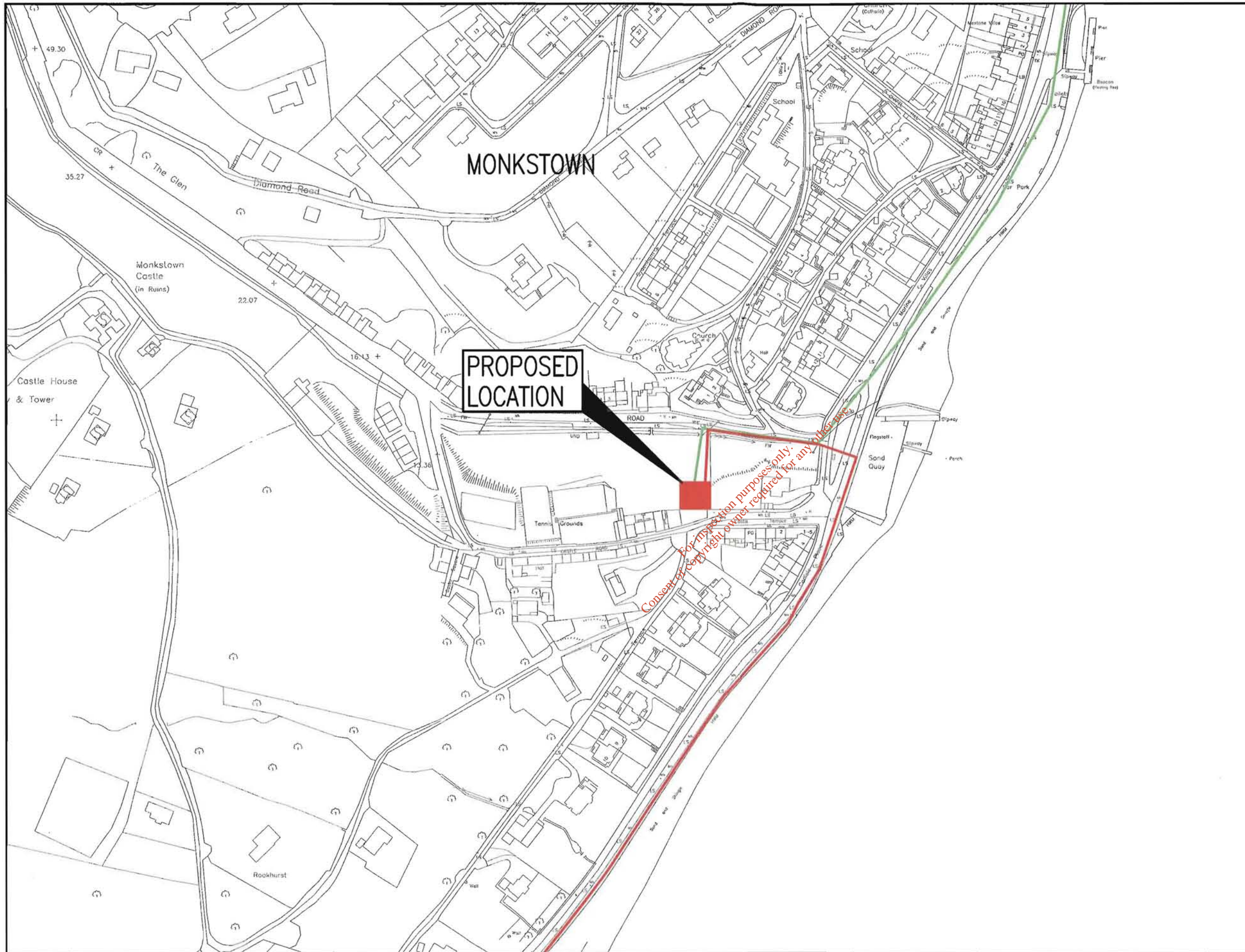
**PROPOSED
LOCATION**

For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

BALLYNOE
(ED COBH)

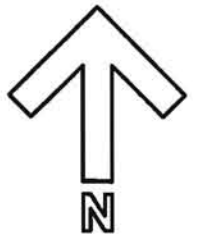
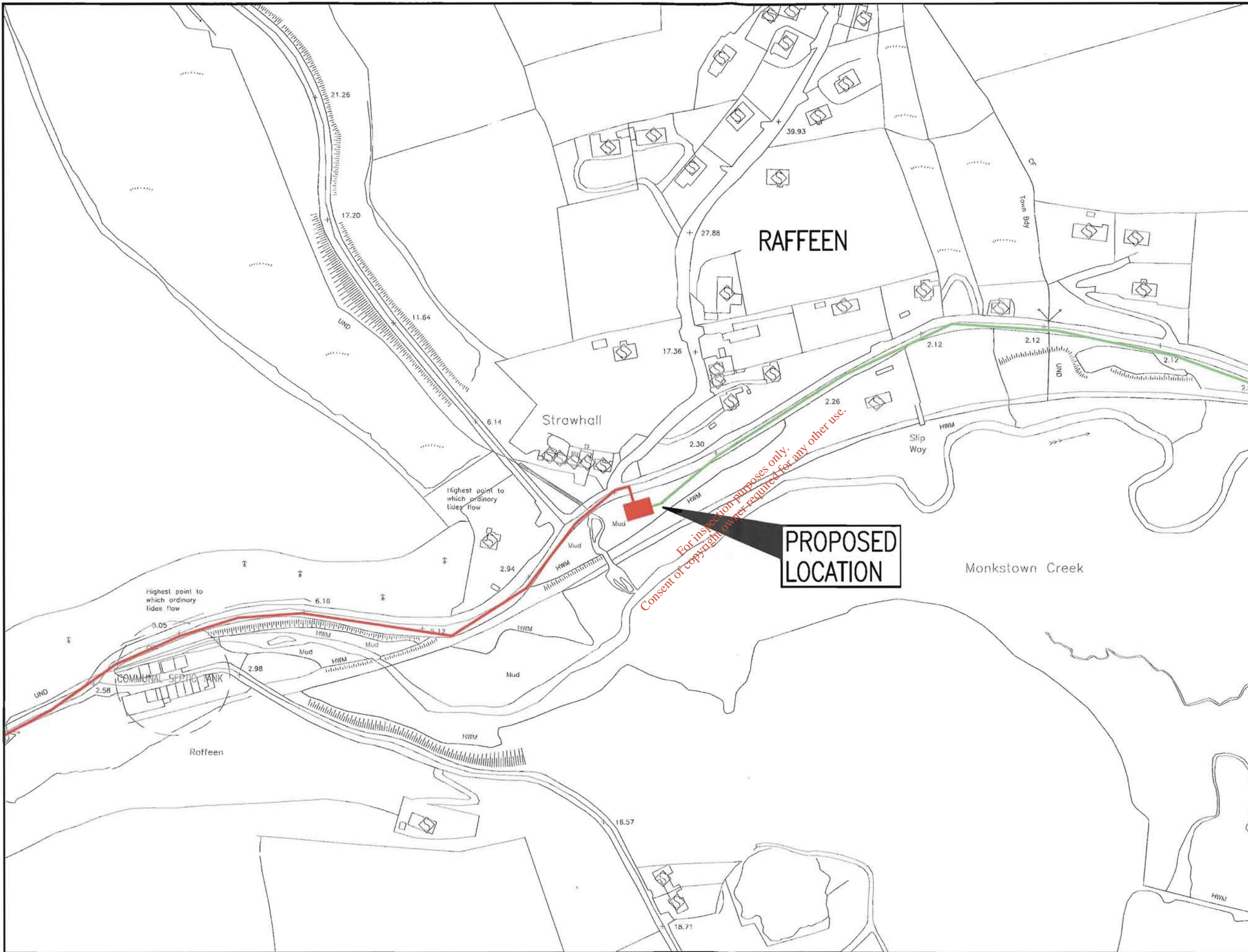
RIVER LEE

West Passage



LEGEND

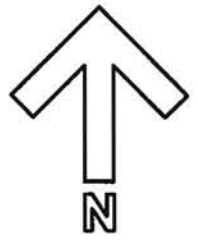
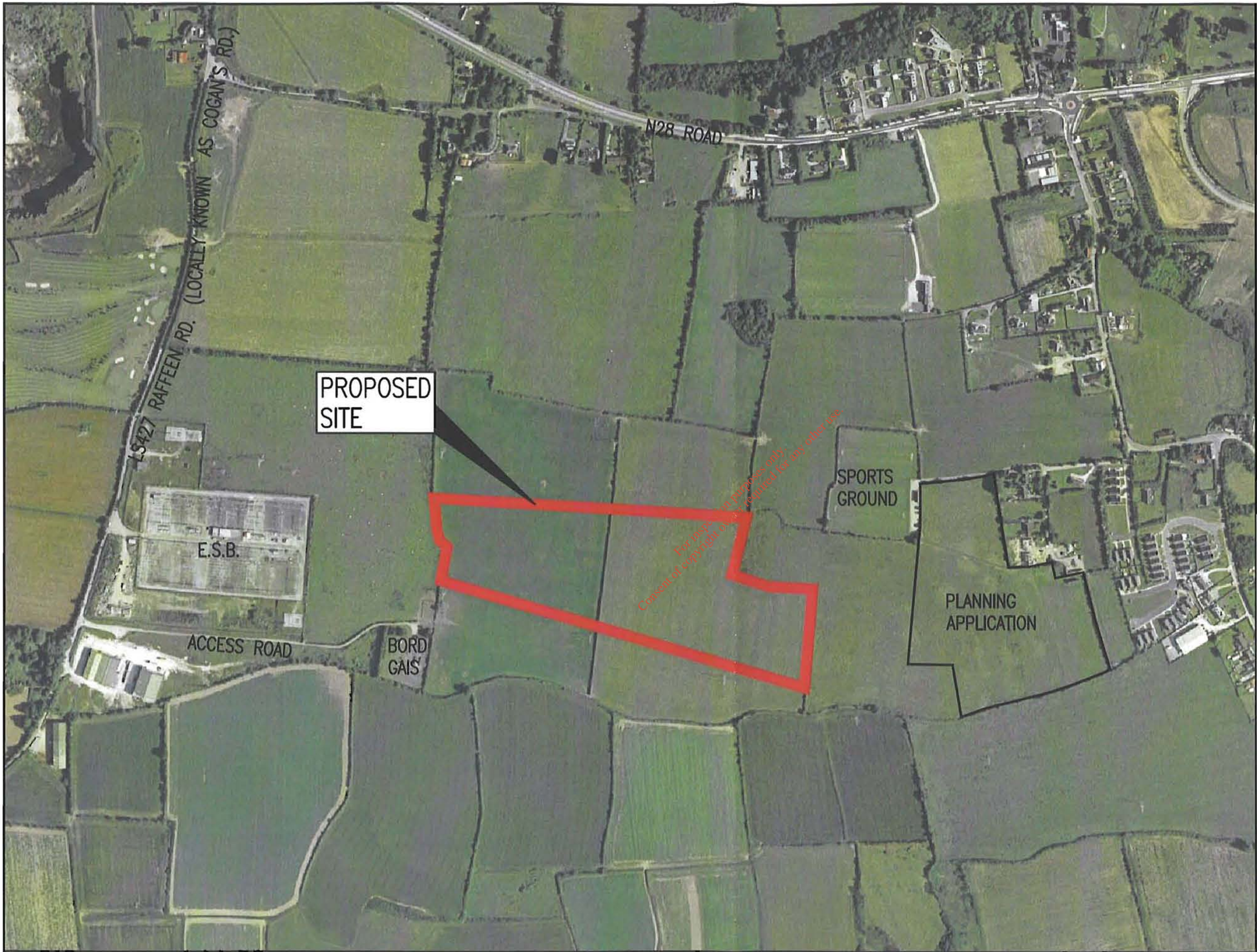
- PROPOSED RISING MAIN
- PROPOSED GRAVITY SEWER
- PROPOSED LOCATION




LEGEND

- PROPOSED RISING MAIN
- PROPOSED GRAVITY SEWER
- PROPOSED LOCATION





LEGEND

 PROPOSED SITE

3 Receiving Environment

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

3.1 Human Beings

3.1.1 Introduction

In order to provide the background for the assessment of the impact of the proposed development on human beings, the socio-economic context was reviewed. A desktop assessment of human beings in the Cork Lower Harbour area and the environs of the proposed development was conducted. Information relating to population and economic trends, transport, tourism, amenities, land use and public utilities was reviewed in order to gauge the positive and negative impacts of the proposed development on human beings.

3.1.2 Methodology

(i) Assessment of Existing Environment

The assessment consisted of a desk study and a visit to the Lower Cork Harbour area and its surrounding towns. As part of the assessment process, consultation was undertaken with appropriate statutory and non statutory organisations. Information on population statistics and employment structures were obtained from the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Specific details on economic development and employment activities in Cork Harbour and its surrounding towns were obtained by consulting government and other relevant websites and electronically available publications. The National Roads Authority (NRA) was consulted as part of the desk based assessment for traffic information in the study area. Details were provided on the most recently available traffic volumes. In addition the *Cork County Development Plan* (2003) and the *Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan* (2005) and *Amendments* (2006, 2007) were also referenced in this section. Tourism and recreation information was obtained from publications pertaining to Cork County, produced by Fáilte Ireland – The National Tourism Development Authority.

(ii) Impact Assessment

The impact assessment for this section of the report is based on the *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* and the *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* published by the EPA in March 2002 and September 2003 respectively. The criteria used include the quality, magnitude and duration of impacts.

Criteria for assessing impact quality, magnitude and duration are described in Tables 3.1.1 *Criteria for assessing the quality of impacts*, 3.1.2 *Criteria for assessing impact magnitude* and 3.1.3 *Criteria for assessing impact duration*.

Table 3.1.1: Criteria for assessing the quality of impacts

Impact type	Criteria
Positive impact	A change is likely to improve the quality of the environment.
Neutral	No effect.
Negative impact	The change is likely to adversely affect the quality of the environment.

Table 3.1.2: Criteria for assessing impact magnitude

Impact Magnitude	Definition
No change	No discernible effect on human beings.
Imperceptible Impact	An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
Slight Impact	An impact which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Moderate Impact	An impact that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.
Significant Impact	An impact which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Profound Impact	An impact which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

Table 3.1.3: Criteria for assessing impact duration

Temporary Impact	≤ 1 year
Short-term Impact	1 - 7 years
Medium-term Impact	7 - 15 years
Long-term Impact	15 - 60 years
Permanent Impact	≥ 60 years

3.1.3 Existing Environment

(i) Population & Housing

Cork Harbour houses a large number of islands including: Great Island, Fota Island (also known as Foaty Island), Little Island, Haulbowline Island, Spike Island and Rocky Island and small surrounding towns namely Carrigaline, Cobh, Passage West-Monkstown and Ringaskiddy. The proposed site is a greenfield site located approximately 11km south of Cork City, 1.06km north east of Carrigaline and 2.24km west of Ringaskiddy in the townland of Shanbally. It comprises an area of approximately 7.36ha of agricultural land. The village of Shanbally is located approximately 625m to the northeast. Table 3.1.4 *Population of Selected Settlements in the Cork Lower Harbour Area (2002 & 2006)* details the population of selected settlements in the Cork Lower Harbour area.

Table 3.1.4: Population of Selected Settlements in the Cork Lower Harbour Area (2002 & 2006)

SETTLEMENT	POPULATION		
	2002	2006	% CHANGE
Carrigaline Town	11,191	12,835	+ 14.7
Ringaskiddy (or Loughbeg)	407	514	+ 26.3
Crosshaven	1,373	1,669	+ 21.6
Fountainstown	852	887	+ 4.1
Cobh Town	6,767	6,541	- 3.3
Cobh Environs	3,044	4,762	+ 56.4
Monkstown (Urban)/ Passage West	4,184	4,818	+ 15.2
Monkstown (Rural) including Environs of Passage West	411	385	-6.3

(Source: Census 2007 - Local Population Report, County Cork (CSO 2007))

Population statistics given in the following sections relate to the District Electoral Division (DED) of Carrigaline (Cork Rural District) County Cork, where the proposed development will be located. This DED encompasses an area of 2,484ha and includes the following townlands (Refer to Figure 3.1.1 *District Electoral Division of Carrigaline (Cork Rural District)*):

Ardnacloghy	Ballinrea South	Ballinreeshig
Ballintaggart	Ballybricken	Ballynametagh
Barnahely	Carrigaline East	Carrigaline Middle
Carrigaline West	Coolmore	Curraghbinny
Hilltown	Killanully	Kilnahone
Knockmore	Lough Beg	Raheenering
Raheens	Raheens East	Ringaskiddy
Shanbally	Shannon Park	

Based on the census 2006 figures, in 2002 the population of Carrigaline town was 11,191. The 2006 population showed an exponential increase of 14.7%. In 2002, the population of Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown was almost 4,600. Planned population growth rates have been greatly exceeded. The population of the three towns is now closer to 5,700 and is expected to increase by a further 1,000 by the end of 2008.

Increased traffic volumes, rising employment, affluence and continued urban sprawl are associated with the growth in population. The proposed WWTP will facilitate further growth in the residential population of the adjoining areas.

Residential dwellings located within 1km of the development site, are shown in Figure 3.1.2 *Proximity of Residential Dwellings*. The nearest existing residential development is located 261m to the east of the WWTP site, along the minor road L6470, however planning permission has been granted for a site approximately 134m to the east of the proposed WWTP site. Residential development to the south of the WWTP site is located 568m to the south, along the R613. Residential dwellings to the north of the site are located along the N28, 433m from the WWTP site. Directly to the west of the site is an ESB substation, approximately 160m from the site boundary and a Bord Gáis substation is present ca. 65m from the WWTP.

(ii) Employment and Economic Activity

Cork Harbour is one of the most important industrial areas in Ireland, providing employment both locally and further afield, and generating significant revenue to the national economy.

Cork Harbour offers employment to people from all areas of the City in over 100 pharmaceutical and chemical firms operating in the Harbour area. These industries are concentrated principally in Ringaskiddy and Little Island. The Harbour also contains Ireland's only oil refinery, situated at Whitegate.

The site for the proposed WWTP is located in the townland of Shanbally in Carrigaline (Cork Rural District). The majority of land immediately adjoining the site is in agricultural use. However, a small Bord Gáis substation is located adjacent to the southwest corner of the site and a large ESB substation is located approximately 160m from the western boundary of the proposed site (refer to Figure 3.1.2 *Proximity of Residential Dwellings* which also illustrates locations of industry, commercial units and service structures). The site is located ca. 1.06km north east of Carrigaline town and ca. 2.24km west of Ringaskiddy.

Carrigaline is one of three satellite towns built around Cork City. The town is situated approximately 11km from Cork City and 5km from Ringaskiddy Ferryport and Cork International Airport. It is located on the Owenboy River which flows into Cork Harbour. Carrigaline offers a very comprehensive range of services and facilities. The retail and services sector have expanded in Carrigaline to provide facilities locally which previously were not available in the town. There are a variety of small to medium sized enterprises and industries around the town.

Shopping facilities include a new large shopping centre (Dunnes Stores), Supervalu supermarket and a Lidl store. Tourist accommodation includes the 4-star luxury Carrigaline Court Hotel and numerous B&Bs and guesthouses. A variety of financial institutions have premises along the main street, including AIB, Bank of Ireland, Permanent TSB and Carrigaline Credit Union (Crosshaven Carrigaline Credit Union Limited) is located on Old Waterpark. Schools in the area include An Charraig Christian School, Carrigaline Boys National School, Carrigaline Girls National School, Carrigaline Community School, Gaelscoil Charraig Ui Leighinn and St. Mary's National School. Sports facilities include Carrigaline GAA Club, Carrigaline United FC, Carrigaline Rugby Club, Carrigaline Tennis Club, Carrigaline Basketball Club and Fernhill Golf and Country Club.

Ringaskiddy is a small village located south-east of Cork City. Ringaskiddy is primarily zoned for industry and the location is of strategic importance for industry due to good access to port facilities, seawater supplies and the national road network. Business is focused on the numerous pharmaceutical production facilities which surround the village. The industrial and tourism sectors provide relatively stable employment, because of their long product life cycle. The National Maritime College of Ireland was officially opened in 2006 and is the only College in Ireland which provides training to Merchant Navy personnel. Ringaskiddy Ferry Terminal, which is located in Cork Lower Harbour, provides an important passenger and freight ferry service with regular connections to the UK and France. It is the largest public port facility in the country dealing with shipments of goods such as car imports, animal feedstuffs and molasses in addition to providing berthing facilities for cruise liners. The Port of Cork has recently advertised its intention to lodge a planning application to An Bord Pleanála under the *Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act (2006)* for the proposed development of a new container terminal at Oyster Bank, Ringaskiddy.

Cobh town, the effective southern terminus of the railway line from Dublin to Cork, is located on the south shore of Great Island in Cork Harbour, on slopes overlooking the Harbour. Cobh is gradually becoming a satellite town to the nearby Cork City. Industrial and enterprise activity in the town had diminished with the closure of both the steel and fertiliser plants, however, a variety of smaller industrial undertakings have grown up in redundant buildings formerly associated with Rushbrook docks. Leisure and commercial activities have improved in recent years, with new supermarkets and shopping centres being built.

Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown have developed as residential centres in recent years with associated services and small-scale enterprises. A number of boat-related enterprises are based in the area and Cross River Ferries Ltd. has been running a car ferry service from Glenbrook to Carrigaloe since 1993.

Available statistics in relation to employment in the Carrigaline town DED indicate that the largest employment sector is the clerical, managing and government occupational group, followed by the professional, technical and health worker group.

Employment statistics for the Monkstown District Electoral Division indicate that the professional, technical and health worker group is the largest employment sector in the area, followed by the clerical, managing and government sector.

In the Cobh District Electoral Division manufacturing is the largest employment sector followed by the clerical, managing and government sector.

Tables 3.1.5 *Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Carrigaline Town for 2002*, 3.1.6 *Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Monkstown (Passage West, Glenbrook, Monkstown) Urban for 2002* and 3.1.7 *Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Cobh Town* below set out the employment structure of Carrigaline Town, Monkstown (Passage West, Monkstown, Glenbrook) Urban and Cobh Urban District respectively as recorded in the 2002 Census.

Table 3.1.5: Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Carrigaline Town for 2002

Sector	Number Employed 2002	Percentage (%)
Farming, fishing and forestry workers	21	0.40
Manufacturing	728	13.75
Building and Construction	338	6.38
Clerical, managing & government	1,169	22.07
Communication and transport	303	5.72
Commerce & Sales	857	16.18
Professional technical & health	1,032	19.49
Services workers	473	8.93
Other	375	7.08
Total	5,296	100

Source: Census of Population, Small Area Population Statistics, 2002

Table 3.1.6: Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Monkstown (Passage West, Glenbrook, Monkstown) Urban for 2002

Sector	Number Employed 2002	Percentage (%)
Farming, fishing and forestry workers	16	0.78
Manufacturing	275	13.38
Building and Construction	148	7.20
Clerical, managing & government	377	18.33
Communication and transport	88	4.28
Commerce & Sales	337	16.39
Professional technical & health	406	19.75
Services workers	207	10.07
Other	202	9.82
Total	2,056	100

Source: Census of Population, Small Area Population Statistics, 2002.

Table 3.1.7: Employment Structure of the District Electoral Division of Cobh Town

Sector	Number Employed 2002	Percentage (%)
Farming, fishing and forestry workers	29	0.66
Manufacturing	785	17.99
Building and Construction	279	6.39
Clerical, managing & government	732	16.78
Communication and transport	329	7.54
Commerce & Sales	546	12.52
Professional technical & health	594	13.61
Services workers	670	15.36
Other	399	9.15
Total	4,363	100

Source: Census of Population, Small Area Population Statistics, 2002.

(iii) Land-Use

Land use in the vicinity of the proposed development includes agricultural, residential, recreational and industrial. The land immediately adjoining the development site to the north, east and south consists of open agricultural fields separated by hedgerows. A small Bord Gáis substation borders the southwest corner of the site, with a large ESB substation situated approximately 160m to the west. A sports field is located circa 80m to the northeast of the site. Figure 3.1.3 *Adjacent Land Uses* shows the existing land-uses in the area adjoining the WWTP site. Based on the current configuration of the N28, the sports ground (or part of) to the northeast of the proposed site is likely to be acquired as part of that development.

It is noted that there are proposals to construct a new branch of the N28 National Primary Route to bypass the villages of Shanbally and Ringaskiddy. One of the proposed routes will traverse the lands to the north of the WWTP site. Also there is an area zoned for residential use 134m east of the proposed WWTP site boundary. A Planning application for residential development has been granted in this area (Refer to Figure 3.1.2 *Proximity of Residential Dwellings*). Residential land-use occurs along the minor roads to the north, south, east and west of the development.

Land-uses in the wider area include residential areas in Carrigaline, Shanbally, Raffeen and Ringaskiddy. Other land-uses in the region include the transport activities associated with the Ringaskiddy Ferry and Deepwater Terminal. A number of tourism and recreational related land-uses occur in the vicinity of the proposed development site. These include Bed and Breakfasts and the 18-hole Fernhill Golf and Country Club (in the townland of Ballyhemiken northwest of the site). There are a number of industrial facilities located within a 3km radius of the site. These facilities are primarily concentrated east or northeast of the proposed site.

(iv) Tourism and Recreation

The County Cork region is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland. Cork Harbour is the second largest natural Harbour in the world and Ireland's second largest port. Cork Harbour is a large, sheltered bay system, with several river estuaries - principally those of the Rivers Lee, Owenboy, Douglas and Owenacurra. Cork Harbour is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by a narrow inlet between Roche's Point and Crosshaven, at the south of the Harbour. The Harbour is a major asset to the Cork region and has significant potential with respect to marine leisure activities (*Cork County Development Plan, 2003*). The area hosts a variety of bars, cafés and restaurants offering snacks, lunches and dinners.

The Ringaskiddy Car Ferry Terminal is located approximately 2.24km east of the development site. Two ferries operate out of the deep-water berth at Ringaskiddy. Swansea Cork Ferries operates sailing every second day from Cork to Swansea (Wales) and Brittany Ferries sail from Ringaskiddy to Roscoff, which is the fastest sailing from Ireland to France. The ferry port is linked to Cork City by the N28 national primary route, which is the main route for tourist traffic.

Cork International Airport's new terminal building opened its doors on August 1, 2006 and is located approximately 6km south of Cork City and approximately 8km from the proposed development. Cork International Airport had over 3 million passengers pass through its doors in 2006, making it Ireland's third busiest airport. A number of new airlines are now operating from Cork International Airport and several new European destinations have been recently launched.

The Cork Lower Harbour area has a number of beaches utilised by locals and/or tourists visiting the area. These include Fountainstown, Myrtleville, Church Bay, Robert's Cove and Ringabella Bay on the western shores and White Bay on the eastern shore.

Recreational facilities in Carrigaline include Fernhill Golf and Country Club, Carrigaline GAA club, Carrigaline Badminton Club, Carrigaline Tennis Club and the Royal Cork Yacht Club, based in Crosshaven, is the oldest yacht club in the world. Every second year it hosts Cork Week, a major sailing regatta of international significance. Two additional marinas are available in Crosshaven and a third at East Ferry. Launching and mooring facilities at Ringaskiddy, Monkstown, Cobh, Aghada and Ballinacurra are used for smaller boats and jet-skis. Hibernian AFC and Shamrocks GAA sports grounds are located in Shanbally.

Passage West, Glenbrook and Monkstown are three sister towns on the western shores of Cork Harbour and are popular residential areas with excellent recreational facilities due to their location in the Harbour area. Facilities include Monkstown Bay Sailing Club, Monkstown Rowing Club, Passage West Yawl Rowing Club and Monkstown Golf Club. Glenbrook and Monkstown are fast becoming two of the most popular fishing and recreational locations on the west side of Cork Harbour. A public footpath originates at Monkstown and continues alongside the water as it broadens out into Monkstown Bay. The 2km walk from Monkstown to Monkstown Creek is a popular option for all age groups, whether strolling, walking or jogging. The area also has a local GAA Club and Tennis Club.

Cobh is home to many festivals every year: Cobh Maritime Song Festival, Cobh People's Regatta, and The Cobh International Deep Sea Angling Festival held each September has been well established for many years, and attracts overseas deep sea anglers. Other recreational facilities include Cobh GAA Club, Cobh Pirates Rugby Football Club, Rushbrook Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and several soccer clubs including Cobh Ramblers F.C.

(v) Health and Safety

At present, the Lower Harbour area has no WWTP and waste water from the area is discharged directly and without treatment into the Lower Harbour. The existing drainage infrastructure within the Lower Harbour area is comprised of sewers, culverts, manholes, pumping stations, overflows and outfalls. Some of these facilities have been in existence for more than 50 years and in some cases are no longer adequate for their intended purpose due to structural damage, excessive infiltration and lack of capacity. Currently public health does not seem to be affected by the discharge of untreated waste water into Cork Lower Harbour; however, the discharge into the marine environment is not a desirable situation due to the high levels of bacteria and micro-organisms in untreated effluent, many of which are pathogenic.

(vi) Traffic

Traffic is the movement of motorised vehicles, un-motorised vehicles and pedestrians on roads. Transport plays a pivotal role in supporting economic growth, regional development and social inclusion.

Road Network

Existing roads in the area surrounding the development site include the N28 National Primary Route, 490m to the north; the Regional R613 circa 610m to the south; the R611 circa 1.7km to the west and a number of minor roads to the east and west of the proposed site. Access to the WWTP site will be via the LS472 (Raffeen/Cogan's Rd.) minor road 405m west of the site. The LS472 is a local road with a speed limit of 80km/hr. The LS472 is a two-lane narrow country road with a narrow grass verge. The road has a tarred surface and there are no bridges or lay-bys on the road. The access road to the site is un-surfaced gravel and is in poor condition and currently provides access to the Bord Gáis substation at the south west boundary of the WWTP site.

The National N28 route connects the port at Ringaskiddy southeast of Cork City to the City itself. The road leaves Cork from an interchange on the N25 Southern Ring road near Douglas. It runs southwards towards Carrigaline and is initially dual carriage-way and then joins the Carrigaline Road (single carriage-way). North of Carrigaline the N28 route branches to the east at a roundabout and proceeds to Ringaskiddy. There is a general speed limit of 100km/hr on the N28 and this limit is reduced to 50km/hr in the Ringaskiddy area. Cork County Council is promoting the development of the Cork-Ringaskiddy Road Scheme. It is proposed to improve the existing N28 from the Bloomfield Interchange at Rochestown to Ringaskiddy village. The improved road will have a greater capacity to cater for high traffic volumes (NRA, 2004). The preferred route will traverse lands approximately 100m north of the WWTP site.

Passage West and Monkstown are 13km south of Cork City and are located on the R610 route running from the south of Cork City along the western shores of Cork Harbour. The R610 continues in a south westerly direction from Monkstown and connects with the N28 route to Ringaskiddy. The R610 is a single-carriage regional road with a general speed limit of 80km/hr.

Glenbrook is located mid-way between Passage West and Monkstown and the cross-river ferry connects Glenbrook to Carrigaloe on the eastern side of Cork Harbour. The cross-river ferry provides easy access from towns in the west of the Harbour (Carrigaline, Ringaskiddy, Monkstown, and Passage West) to Great Island and East Cork.

Exit and Access Routes

The exit and access route from the WWTP site to Cork City, is north along the LS472 to the junction with the N28, turning west at the junction and joining the N28 to Cork City. Exit and access from the site to Ringaskiddy follows the LS472 north to the junction with the N28, turning east and joining the N28 to Ringaskiddy. Exit and access from the site to Carrigaline follows the LS472 south to the junction with the L2490 (Fernhill Rd.), turning south at the junction and following the L2490 to the east of Carrigaline town.

Annual Average Daily Traffic in Area

The estimated traffic flows contained in Table 3.1.8 *Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for the N28 (Cork-Ringaskiddy)* refer to 24 hour two-way flows on an average day; this is known as the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT). In tourist areas there is considerable variation from this figure through the year, while in the large urban areas there is little variation from AADT in any season. The AADT for the N28 (Cork-Ringaskiddy) was calculated for the years 2003 and 2004 and the estimated percentage of Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCV) using the road. The route begins at the ferry port and ends at the junction of the N28 and N25. Every year there is an estimated increase of 5% AADT (NRA, 2007).

Traffic turning data for the minor roads L2490 and LS472 to the west of the WWTP were obtained for June and July of 2001 (Cork County Council, 2002) and for June 1st 2006 (Cork County Council, 2006) and are presented in Table 3.1.9 *Traffic turning data for minor roads L2490 and LS472*.

Table 3.1.8: Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for the N28 (Cork-Ringaskiddy)

Year	Length of Road Section (Km)	Starting Point	Aadt
2003	5.6km	Ferry Junction to Junction with R611	7,055 with 12.0% HCV
2003	4.03km	Junction with R611 to R609 Interchange	17,171 with 7.5% HCV
2003	1.91km	R610 Interchange to Passage West Interchange	14,507 with 9.2% HCV
2003	0.73km	R610 Interchange to N25 Junction	50,523 with 6.8% HCV
2004	5.6km	Ferry Junction to Junction with R611	7,409 with 12% HCV
2004	4.03km	Junction with R611 to R609 Interchange	18,086 with 7.5% HCV
2004	1.91km	R610 Interchange to Passage West Interchange	15,264 with 12% HCV
2004	0.73km	R610 Interchange to N25 Junction	53,180 with 6.8% HCV

(Source: National Roads Authority, 2007)

Table 3.1.9: Traffic turning data for minor roads L2490 and LS472

Turning Point	Total No. of Turning Points: 7.30-9.30 And 16.30-18.30 Periods In 2001	Total No. Of Turning Points: 07.00-10.00 In 2006	Total No. Of Turning Points: 16.00-19.00 In 2006
L2490 → West N28	233	204	75
L2490 → East N28	50	26	36
N28 West → L2490	292	22	85
N28 East → L2490	66	82	235
N28 West → N28 East (at L2490 junction)		2445	1125
N28 East → N28 West (at L2490 junction)		923	2021
LS472 → West N28	87	79	90
LS472 → East N28	27	17	35
N28 West → LS472	137	77	157
N28 East → LS472	46	16	68
N28 West → N28 East (at LS472 junction)		2462	693
N28 East → N28 West (at LS472 junction)		744	2307

(Source: Cork County Council, 2002 and 2006)

Public Transport

Bus Éireann runs a scheduled bus service from Cork City-Monkstown-Ringaskiddy-Haulbowline, with 20 return trips per day from Cork-Monkstown and 14 of these proceed to Ringaskiddy (Bus Éireann, 2007). There has been a call from members of the Cork County Council Carrigaline Area Committee for a bus route between Passage West and Carrigaline. A water bus route and light rail service between Cork City and the Lower Harbour towns is being considered by Cork City Council and Cork County Council (*Passage West/Monkstown News*, 2007).

3.1.4 Impact Assessment

(i) Need for the Development and National Policy

National Spatial Strategy and Sustainable Development

The aim of the National Spatial Strategy is to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning. To drive development, the Strategy proposes that areas of sufficient scale and critical mass will be built up through a network of gateways and hubs.

The Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP) 2001-2020

'...seeks to reflect spatial planning guidance that is emerging from initiatives such as the National Spatial Strategy and the National Development Plan which encourages Gateway centres such as Cork to develop as the focus of successful and innovative regions.

The CASP is an initiative jointly sponsored by Cork City Council and Cork County Council in order to provide a vision and strategy for the development of the Cork City-Region up to 2020. It is in response to a Government supported European wide initiative to create a sustainable approach to social and economic development. This is encouraging planning authorities to take a more critical view of settlement patterns, development needs and infrastructure requirements through the preparation of strategic plans.

CASP seeks to ensure that infrastructure, including transport and utility services, are provided in advance or in tandem with housing and other development.

Investment in transport, water and waste water infrastructure is forecast to total €2billion by 2020.'

National sustainable development policy also sets obligations for environmental compliance particularly relating to ever increasing urban development. These obligations include the provision of water and waste water treatment utilities for these areas.

The Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) is the driving force behind water infrastructure. The Cork County 2007-2009 WSIP identifies Cork Lower Harbour Sewerage Scheme as one of the projects identified for investment during this period.

(ii) Construction Phase Impacts

Population and Housing

WWTP: The construction works associated with this development will involve the construction of a WWTP and associated works. Ancillary works will include the widening of sections of the minor road LS472 to the west of the site and the widening and upgrading of the site access road (which currently only runs as far as the Bord Gáis substation). These works will involve normal construction activities such as excavation, filling, lifting, pumping, pipe laying, concrete works, mechanical installation, etc. Noise, dust and vibration associated with the construction phase of the WWTP may have a slight, short-term negative impact on the population. These impacts will be restricted to daylight hours (on average 08.00-18.00 hrs) and will cease on completion of the construction phase. Impacts related to Air Quality, Noise and Vibration are discussed in Sections 3.6 *Air Quality, Odour and Climate* and 3.7 *Noise and Vibration*. It is expected that the construction phase for the WWTP will extend over a two-year period.

Collection System: Construction works associated with the development of a new waste water collection system will involve a marine crossing, new waste water pumping stations and the laying of rising mains, surface water sewers and gravity waste water sewers to direct the waste water to the new treatment plant. Construction activities associated with these works will involve normal construction activities such as excavation, filling, lifting, pumping, pipelaying, concrete works, mechanical installation, etc. Other more specialised techniques may include piling and marine works. Blasting is not envisaged for this development.

Noise and vibration impacts associated with the construction of the collection system will generally be slight, however, temporary significant noise impacts may be experienced during excavation works by nearby residents. Following the implementation of dust abatement measures, impacts on air quality will not be significant. Impacts related to air quality, noise and vibration are discussed in Sections 3.6 *Air Quality, Odour and Climate* and 3.7 *Noise and Vibration*.

Economic Activity and Employment

Cork Harbour supports a diverse array of industries (e.g. pharmaceutical, tourism, and shipping), which provide high economic productivity. The proposed WWTP is an essential element of the Cork Harbour Main Drainage Scheme and represents a large capital investment in the area.

WWTP: A short-term positive impact of the development will be employment opportunities during the construction phase. An additional positive impact may include an increase in revenue for the local communities due to purchasing of raw materials and plant hire during the construction phase of the project, thus having a positive effect on the economy of the area.

Collection System: A positive temporary short-term impact of the construction of the pipelines, marine crossing and substations will be employment opportunities. The construction phase should also have a positive impact on the economy of the area due to increased purchasing of raw materials and plant hire. The marine crossing may have temporary moderate-significant negative impacts on the cross-river ferry service and the transportation of goods by boat through the Harbour. The impacts will be temporary; however, the magnitude of the impacts will depend on the method of construction. An application will be made to the DAFF for approval of this work and a schedule and method of works will be drawn up in consultation with the DAFF and other relevant stakeholders, including the Port Authority and Cross River Ferries Ltd.

Land-Use

WWTP: Existing land-use at the WWTP site is agricultural pasture; however, the land is zoned for Utility and Infrastructure development by the *Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan (2005)* and adopted amendments (January 2007). The proposed WWTP site consists of approximately 7.36ha of agricultural land and is located between two overhead high voltage power lines to the north and south of the site, which excludes any possibility for residential development. Existing industrial activities are present within 200m west of the site and it is proposed to re-route the N28 across the northern boundary of the WWTP site. The construction phase of the development will result in an initial moderate negative impact on the landscape character of the area, however, this should be reduced to a slight negative impact as the proposed woodland landscaping around the perimeter of the site matures. The loss of agricultural land is not considered significant, from an ecological perspective, due to its low conservation importance (refer to Section 3.2 *Terrestrial and Marine Ecology*). Also, due to the prevalence of agricultural land in the area, the loss of 7.36ha of agricultural land for community purposes is not considered to be a significant impact. Noise, dust and vibration associated with the construction phase may have slight, short-term negative impacts on livestock grazing on lands immediately adjacent to the site.

Collection System: The routes of the pipelines are primarily concentrated along existing road infrastructure. The laying of pipes in these areas will result generally in slight temporary negative impacts, due to traffic disruption, noise, dust and vibrations associated with road works. During excavation for the pipelines, temporary significant noise and vibration impacts may be experienced by nearby residences. The construction of the pumping stations at Raffeen and West Beach, Cobh will result in the permanent loss of reclaimed land. However, the impact is deemed neutral with respect to land-use, due to the extremely low ecological and economic value of this land.

Tourism and Recreation

WWTP: If the proposed development did not proceed, untreated discharge would continue to negatively impact on the Lower Harbour. Construction of the new WWTP may result in slight short-term negative impacts on recreation in the area, due to the proximity of a sports field to the north-east of the site. Noise and vibration impacts will be negligible and significant impacts on air quality are not anticipated following the implementation of mitigation measures. Construction of the WWTP should not have any impact on tourism in the area.

Collection System: Cork Harbour is a major asset to the Cork region and has significant potential with respect to marine leisure activities (*Cork County Development Plan, 2003*). At present there are many waste water outfalls to the receiving waters at locations used for recreational activities (refer to Figure 2.1 *Location of Existing Outfalls and Proposed Outfall*). The construction of the pipelines, associated pumping stations and rising mains will eliminate these outfalls. During the construction phase, the laying of pipelines along the shoreline and the marine crossing may have temporary moderate-significant negative impacts on tourism and recreation. The impacts will be temporary; however, the magnitude of the impacts will depend on the method of construction. An application will be made to the DAFF for approval of this work and a schedule and method of works agreed with the DAFF and other relevant bodies and stakeholders, including the Port Authority and Cross River Ferries Ltd.

Health and Safety

WWTP: *The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006* will be implemented during construction. Contractors employed on site will be required to prepare their own health and safety plan for their specific work. The Contractor will be required to provide sanitary facilities adequate for construction personnel. Sanitary facilities will include proper wash down WCs with sewer connections, or if this is impracticable, chemical closets. All temporary buildings associated with construction of the development will comply with the *Health, Safety and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006*. On completion of the works, contractors will remove them entirely with all slab, drains and water mains and restore the surface of the land to its original or otherwise reasonable condition.

Collection System: *The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006* will be implemented during construction. Contractors employed on site will be required to prepare their own health and safety plan for their specific work.

Traffic

WWTP: There will be an increase in traffic volumes associated with the construction phase of the development, which will have a short-term slight negative impact on human beings. Access to the site will be via the LS472 (Carrigaline Middle/Cogan's Road). Increased traffic volumes will be due to deliveries to site or disposal of surplus excavated material off-site by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs). Increased movements will also be generated by construction employees travelling to and from work. Impacts will include increased levels of noise and vibration, visual impact, and dust from HGVs. At this stage of the process, the precise details are not available on the construction traffic volumes and therefore a nominal assumption of 10 HGV traffic movements per hour is assumed (travelling to/from the site). There are also likely to be construction workers arriving and leaving the site during peak hours.

Collection System: The routes of the pipelines are primarily concentrated along existing road infrastructure. At this stage of the process, the precise details are not available on the construction traffic volumes and therefore a nominal assumption of 10 traffic movements per hour is assumed (travelling to/from the pipeline route sites). The laying of pipes in these areas will result in slight temporary negative impacts due to traffic disruption. During the construction phase, the laying of pipelines along the shoreline and the marine crossing may have temporary moderate-significant negative impacts on river/Harbour traffic. The impacts will be temporary; however, the magnitude of the impacts will depend on the method of construction. An application will be made to the DAFF for approval of this work and a schedule and method of works agreed with the DAFF and other relevant bodies and stakeholders, including the Port Authority and Cross River Ferries Ltd.

(iii) Operational Phase Impacts

Population and Housing

WWTP: The proposed WWTP will facilitate further growth in the residential population of the adjoining area. The proposed capacity of the WWTP is for a population equivalent of circa 80,000 PE. The census figures from the 2006 survey estimate the population of the catchment as 32,411. Positive and significant impacts of the development of a WWTP include enhancing and facilitating the potential for increased residential and commercial development in the environs of the Lower Harbour. Currently waste water is untreated and discharged into the Harbour and therefore a significant positive impact of the development will be improved waste water quality into Cork Lower Harbour. Upon implementation of mitigation measures, it is anticipated that the operation phase of the WWTP should have no negative impacts on the population. Sections 3.6 *Air Quality, Odour and Climate*, 3.7 *Noise and Vibration* and 3.9 *Landscape and Visual Assessment* address the mitigation measures for dealing with Air Quality and Odour, Noise and Vibration and Landscape and Visual impacts respectively.

Collection System: It is considered that the operational phase of the development will have a moderate positive impact due to good quality water being discharged. The emergency operation of these stations is essential to minimise the risk of untreated effluent being discharged into Cork Harbour. It is essential that the pumping stations include for Standby power arrangements to prevent the overflow discharge of raw effluent to the Harbour. Note that the potential impact on the receiving waters from emergency overflows from the Carrigaloe, Monkstown and Raffeen pumping stations is likely to be more negative than the current situation. Overflow discharges from the pumping stations at Monkstown and Raffeen will include waste water from Cobh and Passage West. Therefore at a minimum an automated control operating system should be put in place to ensure that if a downstream pumping station fails to operate, the upstream pumping station will cease pumping. Noise, vibration and visual impacts are not anticipated on implementation of appropriate mitigation as specified in Sections 3.6 *Air Quality, Odour and Climate*, 3.7 *Noise and Vibration* and 3.9 *Landscape and Visual Assessment*.

Employment and Economic Activity

WWTP: The development is likely to have a significant positive long-term impact in terms of enhancing and facilitating the potential for residential, commercial and recreational development in Cork Lower Harbour and its surrounding towns. It is considered that the development of a WWTP will promote economic activity in the Cork Lower Harbour area. Permanent employment opportunities will be created when the plant is in operation (3-5 positions) and this will have a slight positive long-term impact.

Collection System: It is considered that the operational phase of the development will indirectly have a positive impact on employment and economic activity in the area due to the potential for increased housing and development in the area, as a result of the WWTP and collection system.

Land-use

WWTP: The WWTP will result in the permanent loss of approximately 7.36ha of agricultural land, which has been zoned for Utility and Infrastructure development by the *Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan* (2005) and adopted amendments (January 2007).

Collection System: The pipelines are predominantly running along existing road infrastructure and will not result in a significant change in land-use. The pumping stations at Raffeen and White Beach, Cobh will be located on reclaimed land and therefore will result in a change of land-use. All other pumping stations will be constructed in areas of existing artificial surfaces.

Tourism and Recreation

WWTP: The proposed WWTP will facilitate the improvement of water quality in Cork Harbour. The improved water quality will have also a long-term positive impact on beaches utilised by locals and tourists. It is concluded that the proposed development will have a positive long-term impact on tourism and recreation.

Collection System: At present there are many waste water outfalls to the receiving waters at locations used for recreational activities (refer to Figure 2.1 *Location of Existing Outfalls and Proposed Outfall*). The construction of the proposed WWTP and associated pumping stations and rising mains will eliminate these outfalls. Where outfalls are to be retained, these shall operate only during storm conditions.

Health and Safety

WWTP: At present, the untreated waste water contains high levels of bacteria and micro-organisms, which are very dangerous and pathogenic, and may be deleterious to human health. The proposed WWTP is a new secondary modern type of treatment plant and can remove up to 90% of bacteria from waste water. It is considered that the WWTP will have a very beneficial impact for public health and safety and for water quality in Cork Harbour. The proposed WWTP is away from major centres of population and it is considered that the proposed development will have a neutral impact with regard to public safety. Access to the site will be restricted and appropriate security fencing will be erected. A comprehensive Health and Safety Statement will be prepared for the operational phase of the development and will comply with all Health and Safety Regulations.

Collection System: The existing pumping station at Carrigaline will be upgraded to accommodate future demand and to meet current Health and Safety Regulations. The construction of new pumping stations and collection system will eliminate the existing scenario of regular discharges of untreated waste water to Cork Lower Harbour. A comprehensive Health and Safety Statement will be prepared for the operational phase of the development and will comply with all Health and Safety Regulations.

Traffic

WWTP: The WWTP will be operational 24hr/day, 365 day/year. During the operational phase truck movements will arise from the removal of sludge from the site and occasional delivery vehicles. The number of sludge trucks will depend upon the nature of the final sludge product. If the sludge is dewatered, this is likely to require two truckloads leaving the site each day. If the sludge is dried, the truck movements should reduce to two to three per week. Where possible the sludge will be recycled to agricultural lands (nutrient recovery). Car parking is required for a maximum of five permanent employees and potential visitors to the WWTP. The estimated increase in traffic movements during the operational phase of the development will be in the range of six to ten additional car/light good vehicles (LGVs) movements per day and a maximum of four HGV movements per day.

The preferred new route for the upgraded N28 from Cork to Ringaskiddy (which will run directly north of the site) will provide a buffer between the site and industrial lands to the north and improve transport infrastructure in the area. Communications with the relevant road authorities (NRA) indicate that it is not envisaged to provide direct access from the WWTP to the N28. This will result in the decommissioning of the northern Section of the LS472 (Cogan's Rd.) and access to the site from the N28 will be from the south via the L2490 (Fernhill Rd.) to the junction with the LS472. This will cause a permanent increase in traffic movements along the L2490, at the junction of the L2490 and LS472 and also along the southern section of the LS472. However, the impact is considered to be slight due to the low number of employees accessing the site (approx. five persons) and a maximum of four HGV movements per day. During consultation with the NRA, it was agreed that a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) was not necessary due to the minor increase in daily traffic movements during the operational phase of the development.

Collection System: Maintenance of the pumping stations will result in occasional additional traffic movements of light goods vehicles and this will have a neutral impact on traffic in the areas affected.

(iv) 'Do Nothing' Impact

The 'do nothing' scenario would result in the continued discharge of untreated waste water into Cork Lower Harbour which is not a desirable situation due to the high levels of bacteria and micro-organisms present in untreated waste water. The 'do nothing' scenario could also potentially have a significant negative impact on population, economic activity, tourism and recreation. The population of the Cork Lower Harbour area has exhibited a significant increase in the last few years and is projected to increase further. Without development of a WWTP, the area could suffer development restrictions due to inadequate waste water treatment facilities, and thus impact negatively on economic growth. As the population increases, the quantity of untreated waste water discharging into Cork Lower Harbour will increase and negative impacts on flora, fauna and water quality could affect tourism and recreation in the area and further affect economic growth.

(v) 'Worst Case Scenario' Impact

The 'worst case scenario' impact would arise from ineffective traffic and construction management and not implementing mitigation measures. This could lead to the WWTP posing a safety risk, generating significant odours, uncontrolled effluent discharges or noise impact. However, these situations are unlikely to occur on effective construction and operational management of the development and the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed hereunder.

3.1.5 Mitigation Measures

(i) Construction Phase

Population and Housing

WWTP: The construction phase for the WWTP is expected to extend over a two-year period. Any impacts will be restricted to daylight hours (on average 08.00-18.00 hrs) and will cease on completion of the construction phase. A detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be drawn up for all construction activities to be carried out on site. This CEMP will address activities likely to affect aspects of the environment e.g. noise, dust, odour, traffic, run-off, spillages, effluents etc. and will include environmental protection measures such as monitoring, protection barriers, operational procedures and contingency measures.

Collection System: The construction phase for the collection system will involve the laying of pipelines, sewers, marine crossing and pumping stations. A detailed CEMP will be drawn up for all construction activities to be carried out on these sites.

Employment and Economic Activity

WWTP: It is considered that no negative impacts will be associated with the WWTP, with regard to employment and economic activity and therefore mitigation is not required.

Collection System: Temporary negative impacts on economic activity may be associated with the marine crossing. However, the magnitude of the impacts will depend on the method of construction. In order to mitigate for this a schedule and method of works will be drawn up in consultation with the DAFF and other relevant stakeholders, including the Port Authority and Cross River Ferries Ltd.

Land-use

Prior to construction landowners whose lands are directly adjacent to the site will be consulted and any appropriate measures will be taken to minimise disturbance to livestock.

Tourism and Recreation

WWTP: A detailed CEMP will be drawn up for all construction activities to be carried out on site. This CEMP will address activities likely to affect aspects of the environment e.g. noise, dust, odour, traffic, run-off, spillages, effluents etc. and will include environmental protection measures such as monitoring, protection barriers, operational procedures and contingency measures.

Collection System: In order to mitigate for any negative impacts during construction of the marine crossing, a schedule and method of works will be drawn up in consultation with the DAFF and other relevant bodies and stakeholders, including the Port Authority and Cross River Ferries Ltd.

Health and Safety

WWTP and Collection System: Access to all sites by unauthorised persons will be prevented. The *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations (2006)* will be implemented during construction. Contractors employed on site will be required to prepare their own health and safety plan for their specific work.

Traffic

WWTP: A Traffic Management Plan will be implemented to ensure the control of movements of materials, plant and labour to and from the site in order to minimise disruption to other road users and local residents.

Collection System: A Traffic Management Plan will be implemented to ensure the control of movements of materials, plant and labour to and from the site during the construction phase in order to minimise disruption to other road users and local residents. To minimise disruption to river traffic, a schedule and method of works will be drawn up in consultation with the DAFF and other relevant bodies and stakeholders, including the Port Authority and Cross River Ferries Ltd.