



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme

Response to Request for Supplementary Information, by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Pursuant to Section 7(B) Sub-Section 4 of the 2019 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Arterial Drainage) Regulations

November 2020



Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Summary of River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme	1
1.2. Structure of this Report.....	1
2. Index of Responses to Request for Supplementary Information	1
3. Response to Recommendations	4
3.1. Competency Details.....	4
3.2. Environmental considerations in consideration of alternatives.....	4
3.3. Details regarding extent of instream works	4
3.4. Proposed pump station kiosks	4
3.5. Wall Height at Old Commons Road	4
3.6. Status of sediment trap proposal upstream of Commons Inn Hotel	4
3.7. Quantified summary of information on the benefits of the Scheme	5
3.8. Updates to the assessment of impacts on biodiversity to include	5
(i) bat roost surveys in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines and ...	5
(ii) alignment with the findings of the assessments of impacts on hydromorphology	
and water quality	5
3.9. Assessment of impacts on traffic.....	5
3.10. Updates to assessment of impacts in all other specialist sections of the EIAR.....	5
3.11. Mitigation measures and monitoring	5
3.12. Monitoring proposals	5
3.13. Consolidated list of proposed mitigation and monitoring	5
3.14. Updates to assessment of residual impacts.....	5
3.15. Updates to the non-technical summary	5
3.16. Reference List.....	6
3.17. Construction Environmental Management Plan.....	6
3.18. Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan	6
3.19. Invasive Species Management Plan.....	6
3.20. Extent of Instream Works.....	6
3.21. Updates to the assessment to ensure that the NIS takes due account of the	
information requested in item 1.....	6
3.22. Updates to ensure the NIS takes account of all changes arising from the request	
for further information in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report	6

1. Introduction

This report sets out a response to the request for supplementary information by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform pursuant to Section 7(B) sub-section 4 of the 2019 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Arterial Drainage) Regulations.

1.1. Summary of River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme

The design of the proposed River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme has evolved through an initial screening process of a range of potential engineering measures typically considered for flood alleviation schemes, the development of potential options and finally the development of an emerging preferred scheme design which was publicly exhibited in December 2015.

The proposed Scheme will consist of a combination of flood walls, culverting a section of open channel, bridge replacement, embankment construction and other minor works. The Preferred Option will be designed to cater for the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event (also known as the 100-year flood event). The design of the proposed works has considered the future adaptability of the scheme for the potential impacts of future climate change in accordance with Office of Public Works guidance in relation to climate change and also includes an allowance for freeboard.

1.2. Structure of this Report

This report provides an index of the request for supplementary issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on 07th May 2020. A response to each of the recommendations is set out in the subsequent sections of this report.

2. Index of Responses to Request for Supplementary Information

	DPER Request for Supplementary Information	Response
	Environmental Impact Assessment Report	
1	Competency details for all personnel and firms who provided significant inputs to the EIAR.	See Section 3.1 of this report.
2	Further information to clearly show how environmental considerations were taken account of during consideration of alternatives. This should cover the reasonable alternatives considered at different hierarchical stages from catchment level alternatives to alternatives to specific works elements. Where identified constraints influenced the selection of alternatives, this should be clearly explained. Where issues raised during consultation were taken account of during consideration of alternatives, this should also be clearly explained. The information provided should include a comparison of the environmental effects of alternatives at each hierarchical level.	See Section 3.2 of this report.
3	Details of extent of instream works including maximum extents of silt and gravel excavation in river bed and of any channel widening. These details should include the outermost, or 'worst-case', extents of these elements of the proposal. It should be ensured that this information meets the requirements of Annex IV of the EIA Directive as sufficient basis to support the Minister in carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment of the scheme.	See section 3.3 of this report.

	DPER Request for Supplementary Information	Response
4	Details of proposed pumping station kiosks including plans, sections and elevations and including information on finishes.	See section 3.4 of this report.
5	Confirmation of wall height of proposed wall at rear of properties which front onto Old Commons Road.	See section 3.5 of this report.
6	Confirmation of status of sediment trap proposal upstream of Commons Inn Hotel as referred to in s5.4.5.1 of the EIAR.	See Section 3.6 of this report.
7	A quantified summary of information on the benefits of the scheme, including an overview of the numbers and types of properties which will benefit.	See Section 3.7 of this report.
8	Updates to the assessment of impacts on biodiversity to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · bat roost surveys in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines · alignment with the findings of the assessments of impacts on hydromorphology and water quality 	See Section 3.8.1 of this report See section 3.8.2 of this report
9	Review of assessment of impacts on traffic in s11 to include further detail of impacts of road closures and partial road closures on pedestrian and vehicular traffic insofar as required to ensure clear and robust assessment of the likely significant impacts of these closures.	See Section 3.9 of this report.
10	Provision of updates to assessment of impacts in all other specialist sections of the EIAR, insofar as required to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the EIAR takes due account of all information requested in this request for further information; · assessments of likely significant impacts on each environmental factor take account of relevant findings of assessments of impacts on other factors (impact interactions); · impact predictions address all likely significant impacts during both the construction and the future maintenance stages; and · impacts are predicted in accordance with the EPA Guidelines. 	See Section 3.10 of this report.
11	Mitigation measures and monitoring proposals are to be revised and augmented, as required to ensure that they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · adequate to mitigate and monitor the specific effects of the scheme; · practicable; and · enforceable (for example by means of audit) and that their details are clear to all stakeholders. 	See Section 3.11 of this report.
12	Monitoring proposals should be accompanied by appropriate and clear remedial or other actions which will be implemented in event of exceedances of trigger levels, to ensure that acceptable limits are not exceeded.	See Section 3.12 of this report.
13	A consolidated list of all proposed mitigation and monitoring measures.	See Section 3.13 of this report.
14	Updates to assessments of residual impacts in the specialist sections insofar as required to clearly show the predicted levels of effectiveness of mitigation measures (as updated on foot of this request for further information) and the predicted residual impacts of both the construction and of the ongoing maintenance of the proposed scheme.	See Section 3.14 of this report.
15	Updates to the Non-Technical Summary as required to align with changes to the EIAR on foot of this request for further information.	See Section 3.15 of this report.
16	A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the EIAR.	See Section 3.16 of this report.

	DPER Request for Supplementary Information	Response
17	<p>A Construction Environmental Management Plan clearly showing the specific procedures and measures that contractors will be required to adhere to ensure that environmental effects will be appropriately controlled so that they conform with the proposals assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. This shall clearly cover the construction stage and maintenance stages. It shall include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Details of the proposed works, including works referred to in item 3 of this request for further information. · Timing of works to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Seasonal works restrictions and which types of works and works locations these apply to. ii. Working hours, any exceptions to these hours, and criteria for allowance of any exceptions. · Detailed monitoring measures including triggers and actions - to include environmental auditing of compliance with all relevant commitments, mitigation measures and other controls contained in the EIAR and associated documents. Environmental auditing should be ongoing throughout the construction period at appropriate frequency to demonstrate full compliance. · Reporting arrangements to ensure full accessibility and transparency. · Arrangements for liaison with all significant stakeholders including local residents, Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Monuments Service and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). 	See Section 3.17 of this report.
18	A Construction & Demolition Waste Management Plan	See Section 3.18 of this report.
19	An Invasive Species Management Plan.	See Section 3.19 of this report.
-	A report on submissions received during the consultation period required by S.I. 472 of 2019 is provided. The Commissioners are requested to consider the issues raised and take account of them in the further information, as appropriate.	The report on submissions received during the consultation period has been considered and taken into account in the preparation of the response to the request for further information.
	Natura Impact Statement	
1	Details of extent of instream works including maximum extents of silt and gravel excavation in river bed and of any channel widening. These details should include the outermost, or 'worst-case', extents of these elements of the proposal. It should be ensured that this information is sufficient to support the Minister in carrying out the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the scheme.	See section 3.20 of this report
2	Updates to the assessment to ensure that the NIS takes due account of the information requested in item 1.	See section 3.21 of this report
3	<p>Updates as required to ensure that the NIS takes due account of all relevant changes arising from the request for further information in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, particularly regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Construction Environmental Management Plan · Invasive Species Management Plan 	See section 3.22 of this report

	DPER Request for Supplementary Information	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assessment of impacts, including impacts on water quality and impacts during construction and maintenance · Mitigation and monitoring 	

3. Response to Recommendations

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

3.1. Competency Details

Competency details for all personnel that have provided significant inputs to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) have been provided in Chapter 1, Section 1.6 of the EIAR Addendum.

3.2. Environmental considerations in consideration of alternatives

Details relating the environmental considerations taken into account during the assessment of alternatives are provided in Chapter 2, Section 2.6 of the EIAR Addendum.

3.3. Details regarding extent of instream works

Details relating to the extent of instream works are provided in Appendix 3C of the EIAR Addendum.

3.4. Proposed pump station kiosks

The location of the pump station kiosks along with plan and section details are provided in Appendix 3B of the EIAR Addendum. The kiosks will be GRP weatherproof kiosks and representative photos have been provided in Appendix 3B of the EIAR Addendum.

This detail is also provided in Chapter 3, Section 3.1.10 of the EIAR addendum.

3.5. Wall Height at Old Commons Road

The boundary wall at Orchard Court will be 2.2 m in height. This was 2.0 m at Exhibition stage however local residents requested further measures to improve security of the boundary. As such, the wall height was increased to 2.2m as shown on Confirmation Drawing RB 304.

3.6. Status of sediment trap proposal upstream of Commons Inn Hotel

The proposed sediment trap upstream of Commons Inn Hotel was originally intended to be informal in nature. The proposal included improving the connectivity of the river with its floodplain in order to reduce in channel energy and create hydraulic conditions which would promote fine sediment deposition. However, the sediment trap was not deemed essential to the functioning of the proposed scheme (given that coarser sediment is the primary problem) and the main scheme sediment trap has been designed to act without a secondary trap. This secondary sediment trap was included in the EIAR as a precautionary measure however, it is recognised that it unnecessary and is thus removed from the proposed scheme.

3.7. Quantified summary of information on the benefits of the Scheme

206 residential and 87 non-residential properties will benefit from the Scheme. Commercial premises include Dulux, Blackpool Retail Park, Blackpool Shopping centre and Heineken Brewery.

Additional details are provided in Chapter 4, Section 4.3 of the EIA Addendum.

3.8. Updates to the assessment of impacts on biodiversity to include

- (i) **bat roost surveys in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines and**
- (ii) **alignment with the findings of the assessments of impacts on hydromorphology and water quality**

Updates to the assessment of impacts on biodiversity are provided in Chapter 5 of the EIA Addendum.

3.9. Assessment of impacts on traffic

The assessment of impacts on traffic is provided in Appendix 11B of the EIA Addendum.

3.10. Updates to assessment of impacts in all other specialist sections of the EIA

Updates to the assessment of impacts in the specialist sections of the EIA are provided in the EIA addendum.

3.11. Mitigation measures and monitoring

Revised mitigation measures and monitoring proposals are detailed in the addendum to the EIA for the River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme.

3.12. Monitoring proposals

Monitoring proposals accompanied by appropriate remedial and or other actions that will be implemented in the event of exceedances of trigger levels are provided in the EIA Addendum.

3.13. Consolidated list of proposed mitigation and monitoring

A schedule of mitigation measures and monitoring is provided in Chapter 13 of the EIA Addendum.

3.14. Updates to assessment of residual impacts

The updates to the assessment of residual impacts in the specialist sections of the EIA are provided in the individual chapters of the EIA Addendum.

3.15. Updates to the non-technical summary

Updates to the non-technical summary are provided with the EIA Addendum.

3.16. Reference List

The reference list is provided with the EIA Addendum.

3.17. Construction Environmental Management Plan

An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) is provided in Appendix 3F of the EIA Addendum.

3.18. Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan

A Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan is provided in the OCEMP (Appendix 3F of the EIA Addendum).

3.19. Invasive Species Management Plan

The invasive species management plan is provided in Appendix 5F of the EIA Addendum.

Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

3.20. Extent of Instream Works

Details relating to the extent of instream works are provided in Section 4.2 and Appendix A of the NIS Addendum.

3.21. Updates to the assessment to ensure that the NIS takes due account of the information requested in item 1.

Updates to the NIS are provided in the NIS Addendum.

3.22. Updates to ensure the NIS takes account of all changes arising from the request for further information in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Updates to the NIS are provided in the NIS Addendum.