

12 INTERACTION OF THE FOREGOING

The preceding Chapters 4 to 11 of this EIS identify the potential environmental impacts that may occur in terms of Human Beings, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Air and Climate, Landscape, Cultural Heritage and Material Assets, as a result of the proposed development. All of the potential impacts of the proposed development and the measures proposed to mitigate them have been outlined in the preceding sections of this report. However, for any development with the potential for significant environmental impact there is also the potential for interaction amongst these impacts. The result of interactive impacts may either exacerbate the magnitude of the impact or ameliorate it.

The following paragraphs detail the instances where there is or was an interaction between the impacts in the various sections and how any resultant adverse impacts have been averted.

Human Beings & Flora & Fauna

In the constraints study at the outset of the design process, the recommendation from the ecological consultants was to minimise in-stream works. The scheme was then designed with the approach of building terrestrial flood defences instead of large scale in-stream works. When modelled, this approach posed a significant health and safety risk in the event that the defences failed. The scheme was therefore redesigned with a combination of both terrestrial and in-stream works.

Surface Water, Human Beings & Flora & Fauna

As part of the fisheries mitigation design a rock ramp, is proposed to enable fish to pass the weir in Bandon Town. A 10 metre wide weir was originally proposed to facilitate fish movement over as much of the weir as possible. In order to allow enough water over the rock ramp for fish passage in dry weather flow, the rest of the weir would have had very little flow. This impacted on the flow of the river in this area and in particular on a hydro-electric power station operating at the weir. The rock ramp was subsequently redesigned to a width of five metres with an obvious route for fish to the base of the ramp.

Human Beings, Landscape & Cultural Heritage

Among the original designs for the flood relief works was the removal and replacement of the Bandon Road Bridge. Following consultation, this design was rejected due to the impact that it would have had on the cultural heritage of the town and the river views in the area.