

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

TERM	DESCRIPTION
AERMOD	An atmospheric dispersion modelling system
Appraisal Well	A well drilled as part of an appraisal drilling programme, which is carried out to determine the physical extent, reserves and likely production rate of a field
Bar	A unit of pressure
Bar g	Bars above atmospheric pressure
Baseline survey	Work done to collect and interpret information on the condition/trends of the existing environment
BC	Background concentration
Benthic	Describes organisms that live on or in the seabed
Benthos	Organisms that live on or in the seabed
BGE	Bord Gáis Éireann
BH	Borehole
Biogenic reefs	A marine structure created by animals themselves i.e. <i>Sabellaria</i>
Bioturbation	The mixing of sediments by living organisms that make burrows in soft sediment, i.e. worms
BRC	Background reference concentration
BSL	Benthic Solutions Limited
CCGT	Combined cycle gas turbine
Cd	Cadmium
CFB	Central Fisheries Board
CH ₄	Methane
Christmas tree	The assembly of fittings or valves on the top of the casing which controls the production rate from the well
Circalittoral	The subzone of the rocky sublittoral below that dominated by algae (the infralittoral), and dominated by animals
CMRC	Coastal & Marine Resource Centre
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide, (a colourless, odourless, incombustible gas present as a minor constituent of the atmosphere, where it comprises 0.35% by volume)
Commissioning	The rendering fully operational of a project or process.
Competent authority	Any agency charged with examining an environmental impact statement with a view to issuing a consent to develop
Completion	The installation of permanent wellhead equipment for the production of oil or gas
Concrete mattresses	Man-made layer for the protection and stabilisation of subsea pipelines and structures
Conduit	A pipe or tube that covers and protects electrical cables
CTD	Conductivity temperature depth
Cuttings	Rock chippings cut out from the formation by the drill bit, and brought to the surface with the mud. Used by geologists, while drilling a well, to obtain formation data
CZMD	Coastal Zone Management Division
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
Db	Decibel; unit for measuring noise
DCENR	Department of Communication Energy & Natural Resources
Decommissioning	The final closing down, and putting into a state of safety of a development, project or process when it has come to the end of its useful life
Demersal	Found at or near the bottom of the sea or lake
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DMNR	Department of Marine and Natural Resources (now the DCENR)

TERM	DESCRIPTION
DNV	Det Norske Veritas
DoEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
Drilling rig	A drilling unit that is not fixed permanently to the seabed, e.g. a drillship, a semi-submersible or a jack-up unit.
EC	European Commission
EcoServe	Ecology Consultation Services Ltd
Ecotoxicology	Harmful effects of chemical compounds on species, population and the natural environment
EIA	Environmental impact assessment. The process of examining the environmental effects of development from consideration of environmental aspects at design stage, through to preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS), evaluation of the EIS by a competent authority and the subsequent decision as to whether the development should be permitted to proceed, also encompassing public response to that decision
EIS	Environmental impact statement. A statement of the effects, if any which the proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment
Elasmobranch	Cartilaginous fish (includes sharks and rays)
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
Environmental Quality Standards	The EQS values reflect the maximum level in the water body that may be present without affecting biological communities in their functional processes or otherwise give rise to unacceptable adverse effects on the ecosystem or accumulation of substances that are harmful to the biota (EPA, 1997). The Environmental Quality Standards referred to throughout this EIS are those for marine waters (EPA, 1997)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has the functions of licensing, regulation and control of activities for the purposes of environmental protection
EPIC	Engineer Procure Install and Commission
Epifauna	The animal life that lives on the surface of the seabed, a river bed, etc., or attached to submerged objects or to aquatic animals or plants
EQS	See Environmental Quality Standard
ES	Environmental Statement
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
EU	European Union
Exploration well	A well drilled in an unproven area. Also known as a 'wildcat well'
Fauna	A collective term for the animals of a region
FEED	Front-end engineering design
Field	A geographical area under which an oil or gas reservoir lies
FLO	Fisheries liaison officer
Flora	A collective term for the plants of a region
Flowline	Steel pipeline between wellheads and the manifold, usually between 6 and 10 inches diameter
Formation water	Salt water underlying gas (and oil if any) in the formation
Gas field	A field containing natural gas but no oil
GDP	Gross domestic product
Geohazard	Processes, i.e. landslide, debris flows, settlement & subsidence. Common triggers include changes in groundwater conditions, erosion & over-steepening of slopes, earthquakes etc.
Geophysical	A section of earth science that employs the principles and methods of physics (e.g. seismic (sound), resistivity (electrical resistance) or other) to search for natural resources within the earth's crust, or to obtain information about subsurface structure for various civil engineering works
GIS	Geographical information system

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Glacial erratics	A glacial erratic is a piece of rock that deviates from the size and type of rock native to the area in which it rests. "Erratic" is based on the errant location of these boulders. These rocks were carried to their current locations by glacial ice, often over hundreds of kilometres.
GPS	Global positioning system
Granulometric	Particle size
GWP	Global warming potential
Halocline	A vertical gradient in the salinity of the ocean
HCVs	Heavy Commercial Goods Vehicles
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene pipeline
Hg	Mercury
HGV	Heavy goods vehicle
High Water Mark	The line of high water of ordinary or medium tides
HP	High pressure
HS&E	Health, safety and environment
Hydrocarbon	A compound containing only the elements hydrogen and carbon. May exist as a solid, a liquid or a gas
Hydrography	Physical conditions, boundaries, flow, and related characteristics of the earth's surface waters
Hydrostatically	Relating to the study of the mechanical properties and behaviour of fluids not in motion
Hydrotest (Hydrostatic test)	Non-destructive test used to prove the integrity of a pipeline. The hydrostatic test involves filling the pipeline with water and compressing this to a specified test pressure for a specified duration
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IFA	Irish Farmers Association
Impact	The degree of change in an environment resulting from a development
Infauna	The animal life found within the sediments of the ocean floor, river beds, etc.
Infralittoral	The region of shallow water closest to the shore; in marine environments, excluding the intertidal zone
Integrated Pollution Prevention Control – IPPC/IPC	A system of licensing that covers all emissions to air, water and land, including noise and is intended to minimise the impact on the environment by taking account of pollution that may be transferred from one environmental medium to another
Intelligent PIG	A device (pipeline integrity gauge) used for the measurement of several parameters, which operates inside a pipe
IOOA	Irish Offshore Operators Association
KMM	Kirk Mclure Morton
KPs	Kilometre points
Landfall	The point on the coastline where the pipeline transporting natural gas from the Corrib field to the terminal comes ashore
LAT	Lowest astronomical tide
Lay barge	A vessel that is specially equipped to lay submarine pipelines
LNG	Liquid natural gas
LPG	Liquid petroleum gas
LVI	Landfall valve installation
Macrofauna	Animals larger than 0.5mm size living within sediments (visible to the human eye)
Manifold	An item of subsea equipment that gathers gas from each of the wells in the field
Megafauna	Large or relatively large animals of a particular place or time period
mg/l	Milligrams per litre
mg/m ³	Milligrams per cubic metre
MMO	Marine Mammal Observer

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Monitoring	The repetitive and continued observation, measurement and evaluation of environmental data to follow changes over a period of time, also used to assess the effectiveness of control measures
MWL	Mean Water Level
Natural gas	Gas, occurring naturally, sometimes occurring in association with crude oil
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
NHA	Natural Heritage Area protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act of 2000. Some sites have been fully designated while others are still awaiting designation and are referred to as proposed NHAs (pNHAs)
NMVOG	Non-methane volatile organic compound
NO	Nitrogen monoxide, also known as nitric oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Services of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Oil	A mixture of liquid hydrocarbons of different molecular weights
Operator	The company that has legal authority to drill wells and undertake production of hydrocarbons found. The operator is often part of a consortium and acts on behalf of this consortium
OS(I)	Ordnance Survey (Ireland)
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Commission
PAH	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PE	Polyethylene
PEL	Permissible exposure limit/level
Pelagic	Refers to fish and animals that live in the open sea, away from the sea bottom
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
Petroleum	A generic name for hydrocarbons, including crude oil, natural gas liquids, natural gas and their products
Phyla	A major taxonomic group into which animals are divided, made up of several classes
Physico-chemical	Involving the principles of both physics and chemistry
PIG	Pipeline integrity gauge: remotely operated tool that is sent through the pipeline to gather information
PIG launcher	Equipment for sending PIGs through a pipeline
PIG trap or PIG receiver	Equipment for retrieving PIGs from a pipeline
Plankton	A diverse group of minute animals (zooplankton) and plants (phytoplankton) that freely drift in the water
PLEM	Pipeline end manifold- allows the gas flow from the manifold to be shut off from the pipeline to shore
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter (fine airborne particles) with a diameter of less than 10µm
POCP	Photochemical ozone creation potential
ppm	Parts per million
ppt	Parts per thousand
The project	The elements of the Corrib development that are the subject of this Supplementary Update Report, i.e. intra-field pipelines, manifold, export pipeline and umbilical from Corrib field to landfall valve installation, discharge pipeline from landfall to approx 12.7km from landfall
PSG	Porcupine Studies Group
PSV	Pressure safety valve (relief valve)
Pyrolytic	A compound that can be transformed or decomposed as a result of heat

TERM	DESCRIPTION
QA	Quality assurance
QSR	Quality system regulations/requirements
Reprofiling	Altering the side view of an object or structure
Reservoir	The underground formation where oil and/or gas have accumulated. It consists of a porous rock that holds the hydrocarbons, and a cap rock that prevents its escape
Risk assessment	An analytical study of the probabilities and magnitude of harm to human health or the environment associated with a physical or chemical agent, activity or occurrence
Rock Armouring/ Armour rock	Rocks installed to reduce erosion and protect marine structures
Rock Fracturing	The splitting/breaking of rocks
ROVs	Remotely Operated Vehicles
RPS	RPS Group Plc
RSG	Rockall Studies Group
RSK	RSK Group Plc
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) are protected under the European Union (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), as implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.
Sacrificial Anodes	Aluminium-Zinc-Indium based alloy used to prevent corrosion, i.e. on steel
Schist	Metamorphic rock defined by well-developed parallel orientation of more than 50% of the minerals present
Scoping	Process of identifying the significant issues that should be addressed by a particular EIA/EIS
SD	Sustainable development defined by the Brundtland Commission (1987) as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"
SDU	Subsea Distribution Unit- distributes the hydraulic fluid and chemicals from the umbilical to the wells
Semi-submersible drilling rig	Floating drilling platform, which is towed to site in an unballasted condition, and ballasted (lowered) for stability upon mooring on location
Semi-natural habitat	Habitat modified by human activity from its original state but with a vegetation composed of native species similar in structure to natural types and with native animal communities
SEPIL	Shell Exploration & Petroleum Ireland Ltd
SEVESO	EU Directive on control of major accident hazards
SFPA	Sea Fisheries Protection Agency
Sheet piling	Vertical supports for trench excavations, i.e. wall support
SIP	Social investment programme
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record (Archaeology)
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
Sonar	Sound navigation and ranging: a system for underwater detection of objects
SO _x	Oxides of sulphur
SPA	Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are protected under the EU Habitats Directive, which complements EU Directive 79/409/EEC, The Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('The Birds Directive'), under which the SPAs were initially established
SPI	Sediment profile imagery
Spoil Heaps	Mound of refuse material that has been removed from an excavation
Spoolpiece	Section of pipeline allowing for thermal expansions
sq.m	Square metres
Strings (pipe strings)	Assembled lengths of pipe

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Subsoil	The layer of soil between the topsoil and bedrock
Subtidal	Continuously submerged in the marine environment
Suspended well	A well that has been capped off temporarily
SWD	Shellfish Waters Directive
Syncline	A basin shaped fold or fold system
Synthetic-based mud (SBM)	Drilling mud used to drill through rock that can react with water-based materials
Taxa	Category of organisms
Teleost	Bony fish
Terminal	The plant where the Corrib gas will be separated from any associated liquids to meet BGE export specifications
Thermocline	A layer of water where there is an abrupt change in temperature that separates the warmer surface water from the colder deep water
Till/boulder clay	A poorly sorted mixture of sands, clays and boulders produced by the erosion of rocks by moving ice
TOC	Total organic carbon
Topsoil	The uppermost layer of unconsolidated material on the earth's surface
TP	Trial pit
Trench stability	Ease of producing trenches (without collapse)
TWC	Tide Way Consortium
Udden-Wentworth	A geometric scale of grain sizes that classifies particles of siliciclastic sediment
µg/l	Micro grams per litre
UKOOA	United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association
Umbilical	A 'bundle' of electrical and hydraulic control lines and chemical transportation lines used to a) control and monitor the subsea facilities from the terminal and b) supply methanol and other chemicals to the manifold and wellheads. The bundle is encased in a protective cable
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Univariate	Containing only one independent variable
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Van-Veen Grab	A sampling device based on two hinged bucket sections connected to extended lever arms. On contact with the seabed, the weight of the grab is taken off and closes as this is retrieved collecting the sediment
VOC	Volatile organic compound (a compound that evaporate readily and contribute to air pollution mainly through the production of secondary pollutants such as ozone)
Water of condensation	The hydrocarbon gas in the reservoir contains a certain amount of water in vapour phase. This water in vapour phase condenses out as liquid during the production process as the temperature and pressure of the hydrocarbon gas decreases. This water is known as water of condensation. It is produced throughout field life in rough proportion to the gas production rate
Well	A borehole, lined with steel, that is drilled from the sea bed into the reservoir and through which gas is brought to the seabed surface
WHO	World Health Organisation
Workover	Remedial work to a well.

IMPERIAL/METRIC CONVERSIONS

IMPERIAL TO METRIC	METRIC TO IMPERIAL
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Imperial Unit	Metric Unit	Metric Unit	Imperial Unit
<i>Lengths</i>		<i>Lengths</i>	
1 inch	25.4mm	1mm	0.0397 in
1 foot	0.3048m	1m	3.281 feet
1 mile	1.609km	1km	0.6214 miles
1 nautical mile (nm)	1.853km	1km	0.5396 nautical miles