

What we can offer

Atkins is one of the leading providers of professional, technologically-based consultancy and support services in the world.

We are well positioned to undertake a diversity of projects, with a multi-disciplinary team spread across a network of offices throughout the UK and overseas in the Americas, Asia and South East Asia, Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) experience extends over 30 years and we have been influential in establishing effective EIA in a number of countries (e.g. Poland). Atkins' Marine EIA team can offer specialist technical and support services with regard to the following areas of expertise:

- Acoustics and Air;
- Consultation and facilitating community/ stakeholder participation;
- Environmental Consents, Planning and Policy;
- Environmental Surveys;
- Expert knowledge in all aspects of marine policy, planning and management;
- Heritage;
- Hydrogeology, Bathymetry and Coastal Process Modelling;
- Marine Ecology;
- Marine Engineering;
- Port Planning & Navigation;
- Production of Scoping Reports and Environmental Statements;
- Sediment Chemistry; and
- Water Quality Assessment.

Key contacts

To access our environmental specialists, please contact key Atkins staff from of our offices listed below:

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Office locations

Ireland

Atkins employs over 18,000 staff located in our offices around the world. Our Irish offices are:

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ATKINS

Marine Environmental Assessment



Plan Design Enable

Project experience

The Environmental Impact of Aquaculture in Sensitive Areas

Aquaculture is an economic development within small and medium sized enterprises that has grown substantially in most European Countries over recent years. This has been particularly evident in Scotland, Ireland, Greece, Spain and France due to the decline in fish stocks and the continuing demand for fin and shellfish.

Many of the aquaculture areas are located within areas that are of high nature conservation values. Conflicts can arise between the need to protect and enhance natural biodiversity and the economic needs of the local community.

Atkins is investigating some of the environmental impacts of aquaculture on such sites. Specific aims are to better understand the interactions between different farming systems and the species/habitats complexes in their vicinity; assessing the conflicting goals of aquaculture development and nature conservation for identifying common aims and policy objectives; and, to provide practical recommendations which can feed into both site specific management plans and a forthcoming Code of Practice for Aquaculture operators.

Marine Survey for Environmental Impact Assessment of Newbiggin Bay Coastal Defence Strategy Study, UK

Newbiggin Bay is an environmentally sensitive area with a number of nature conservation designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area. The Bay was eroding so Atkins was commissioned to undertake a coastal defence strategy and subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment.

A sub tidal survey was undertaken using in house technical divers to assess the potential impact of the proposed breakwater on a rocky substrate, a potentially important site for juvenile lobsters. An assessment was made on the potential impact of the breakwater on the marine substrate and mitigation proposed.

Recommendations were made to ensure the breakwater would enhance the lobster habitat through use of armour units with grooves and holts, providing space and protection for lobsters. Advice was given over mitigation for loss of a small fishery area. An Appropriate Assessment was provided and all licences and consents applied for on behalf of the client. Sediment samples were also collected by divers and grain size analysed. The collation of a sedimentary baseline prior to construction will enable effective environmental monitoring to assess future sedimentary transport mechanisms in the bay if required.

Project experience

Blue City Development, Sultanate of Oman

The Blue City Development is an entire city based on a comprehensive economic and urban development strategy. The total investment upon full completion (of 10 Phases) is likely to exceed US \$15 Billion, with an expected total population of close to 250,000 people. The completed development would provide a significant economic and recreational resource to Oman. Atkins was involved in delivering the EIA for Phase 1 of the Blue City Development. This comprises 5.5km² of land that will provide three five-star hotels, private beaches, marinas, golf resort, tourist village, a significant number of residential units and a comprehensive range of sports and leisure facilities.

The EIA report provided a holistic assessment of the impacts associated with the Phase 1 development. In addition, the report sets out a new hierarchical process for the delivery of large developments of this type in Oman. The proposal developed by Atkins is to place the EIA into an "Environmental Policy Guidance" (EPG) framework with associated Mitigation Action Plans.

Master Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Dredging and Reclamation for the Durrat Island Resort, Bahrain

Following environmental inputs to a Master Plan for the creation of the Durrat Al Bahrain island resort on the south eastern coast of Bahrain, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the dredging and reclamation works was undertaken. The EIA was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment and Planning Directorate (EAPD) of the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife.

As part of the EIA Report, investigations of the existing environmental conditions of the study area were carried out using biological/ecological/ chemical surveys of the marine near-shore environment, hydrodynamic and sediment plume dispersion models, data collection, literature review and consultation.

A range of environmental measures were proposed in an Environmental Enhancement and Compensation Plan to enhance some of the natural attractions of the site for residents and visitors and to reduce some of the impacts of the development, especially the dredging and reclamation. An important aspect of the environmental proposals was the protection of one of the offshore shoals, and the creation of a Marine Park. Specific measures proposed included the protection measures for the offshore shoal and sea grass habitats, creation of reef areas, creation of bird islands, the sinking of a vessel as an artificial reef and mangrove planting..

Project experience

Direct Reduction Iron (DRI)/Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) plant in the Mesaieed Industrial City, Qatar

Atkins was commissioned by Midrex Technologies Inc. (Midrex) to undertake a Detailed EIA for a proposed combined DRI/HBI plant to be installed at QASCO's existing steelworks in the Mesaieed Industrial City (MIC), Qatar. As part of the detailed EIA, a marine survey was undertaken to assess the impact of seawater cooling discharge at an elevated temperature. Marine ecological and hydrodynamic surveys were undertaken for this study to support subsequent assessment and thermal plume modelling. Quantitative modelling of the project's atmospheric emissions of nitrogen and soil and groundwater sampling studies were also carried out.

Environmental Impact Assessment - Port Mesaieed, Qatar

Atkins was commissioned by Dragomar S.P.A to conduct a baseline marine environmental survey of the dredging and disposal areas of the outer approach and inner channels of Port Mesaieed in eastern Qatar. The scope of works included sediment and water quality sampling and dive surveys to survey marine flora and fauna using underwater photography and video. The impact assessment was carried out in conjunction with identifying relevant legislation; describing the proposed dredging operations; describing the physical, chemical, biological and socio-economic environment of the region; assessing and evaluating the potential environmental impacts and recommending mitigation and monitoring during and after dredging operations.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the GASCO Train 3 facilities within Ruwais, Abu Dhabi

Atkins was commissioned by International Bechtel Company Ltd to carry out an EIA for a new natural gas liquid (NGL) fractionation plant, Train 3, for Abu Dhabi Gas Industries Ltd (GASCO). The Train 3 will be constructed adjacent to GASCO's existing NGL fractionation plants (Trains 1 and 2) at the Ruwais, Abu Dhabi. The Train 3 development will involve the construction of the fractionation plant, utilities, product storage and flare systems, a new seawater cooling system and outfall, a new jetty and two new berths and a new accommodation camp, which has been designed for a peak population of 4,000. The scope of works included a baseline marine ecology study for the new jetty and berths construction, thermal plume modelling of the new cooling water outfall, noise survey and air quality survey and modelling. A grid system survey was implemented over 3 depth contours, 500m either side of the proposed jetty.