



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

**Chief Executive Report
Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended), Part XI
Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended),
Part VIII**

**Proposed Development 'City of Lights' Urban Animation Scheme –
Waterford City & County Council propose to introduce outdoor lighting of
iconic buildings and the City walls in 19 locations.**

Description of Proposed Works – Consultation:

Summary of the Proposed Works

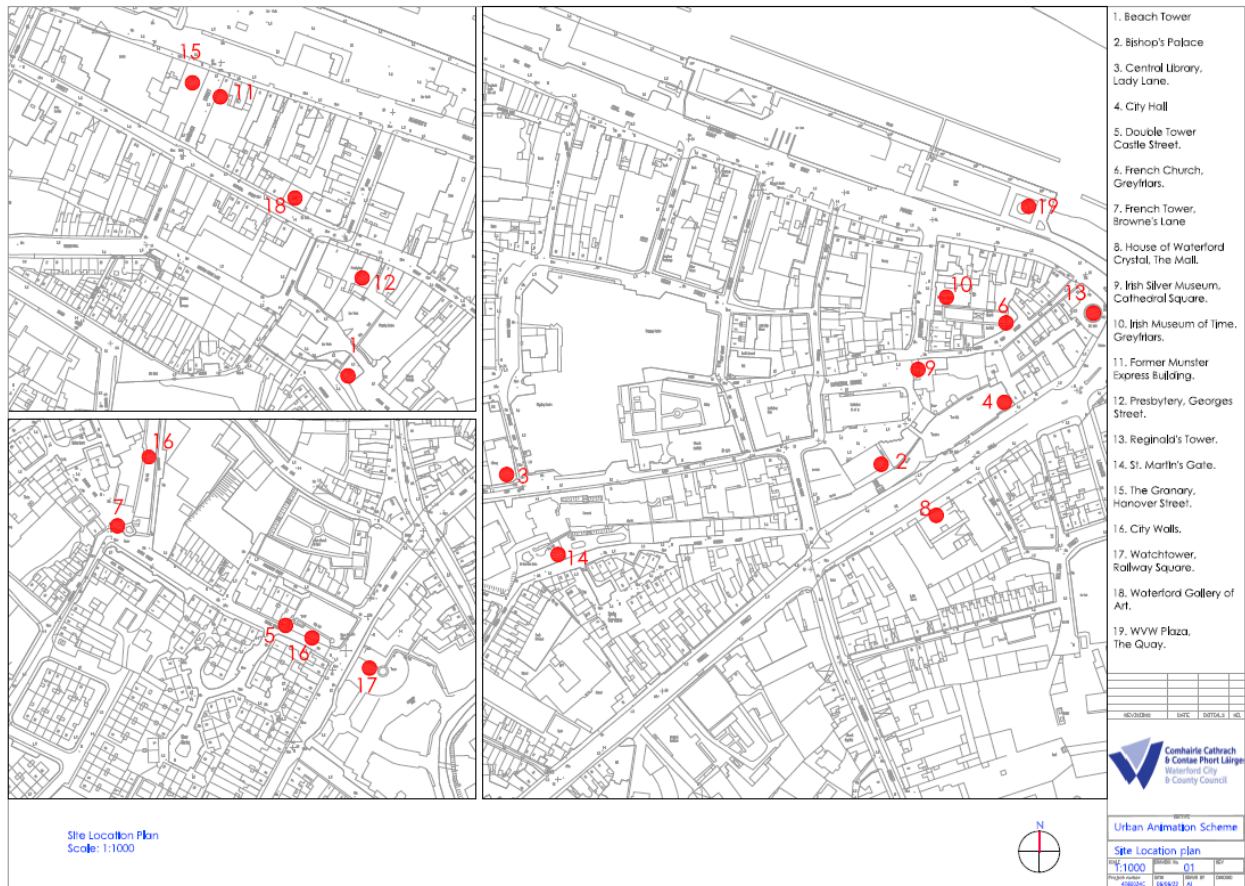
The 'City of Lights' Urban Animation Scheme relates to the introduction of outdoor lighting of iconic buildings and the City Walls in 19 locations across the City. The lighting will be by various means including but not limited to flood lighting, wall mounted Linear LED luminaires, ground mounted LED luminaires and projectors. Lighting will be programmable so that they can be changed throughout the evening and be leveraged by festivals to celebrate events.

Site Context

The following are the 19 sites where it was intended to introduce outdoor lighting,

The two buildings that were identified as having bat roosts; Blackfriars and French Church/Greyfriars will now be omitted from the project.

	Location	Record of Protected Structures reference: WA730/
1	Beach Tower	216
2	Bishops Palace 18th Century	256
3	Central Library, Lady Lane	245
4	City Hall, The Mall.	257
5	Double Tower, Castle Street	061
6	French Church, Greyfriars	026
7	French Tower, Browne's Lane	056
8	House of Waterford Crystal, The Mall	N/A
9	Irish Silver Museum, Cathedral Square	071
10	Irish Museum of Time	182
11	Munster Express Building	836
12	Presbytery, George Street	130
13	Reginald's Tower, The Quay.	268
14	St Martin's Gate, Spring Garden Alley	429, 430
15	The Granary, Hanover Street	203
16	City Walls, Castle St, Brown's Lane & Railway Square.	056, 059 & 060
17	Watchtower, Railway Square	404
18	Waterford Gallery of Art, O'Connell St.	347
19	WVW Plaza, Quays	N/A



Consultation

Details of the proposed Urban Animation Scheme – ‘City of Lights’ were posted on site, advertised in the local press and placed on public display, in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended), and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). The public consultation process ran from the 31st January 2023 to the 2nd March 2023, with written submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development invited up until 16th March 2023.

Third Party Submissions Received

Two number public submissions were received in relation to the proposed development, the details of same have been considered in the assessment of the proposed works.

The development was referred to the Conservation Officer, Heritage Officer, Chief Fire Officer and Roads Department no objections were raised.

A submission was received from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage, the comments of same have been considered, with the following response to issues raised; Waterford City and County Council engaged the services of Ecofact, Environmental services to carry out a bat survey of the following unoccupied properties: Beach Tower, Blackfriars, Double Tower, French Church, French Tower and Watch Tower. The remaining properties were not surveyed as they are predominantly fully functioning, well-sealed, occupied buildings, however in response to the comments made by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Housing Ecofact have been engaged to assess the remaining sites and subject to the findings of this survey Waterford City and County Council will ensure that the proposed project at the other sites will not impact on species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and in particular bat species. If, in the event species listed in Annex IV are found, these sites will be omitted from the project.

Furthermore, the two buildings that were identified as having bat roosts; Blackfriars and French Church/Greyfriars will be omitted from the project.

Assessment & Evaluation

A number of the buildings are protected structures, as identified in the a foregoing table, are situated within Architectural Conservation Areas and zones of archaeological potential. The majority of the locations included are attractions in their own right. Through the addition of creative and architectural lighting, it is intended to increase awareness of these attractions and potentially increase the number of visitors at each location. The spread of locations across the city centre ensures that potentially all visitor attractions in the city centre will benefit from increased awareness and increased visitor numbers.

The proposed development will not contravene the policies and objectives of the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Environmental Assessment

The proposed development is not a type of development included for under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Based on the information submitted with the application, Waterford City and County Council has considered the nature, size and location of the proposed development in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 7 to the 2001 Regulations and is satisfied that EIA is not required.

Habitats Directive

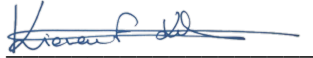
A Habitats Directive Screening Assessment Report is attached, which concluded that significant impacts can be ruled out for Natura 2000 sites.

Recommendation

The purpose of the proposed development 'City of Lights' Urban Animation Scheme –is to introduce outdoor lighting of iconic buildings and the City walls in 19 locations. Development such as that currently proposed would be in accordance with the policy objectives of the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The proposed development will support the policies and objectives of the current City & County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 and complies with Ministerial Guidelines, Government policies and with the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy. It is considered therefore that the development is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Thus having regard to the report and details submitted, and referral responses received I would have no objection to the proposal and would recommend that it proceed as outlined.



Kieran Kehoe,
Director of Services
Corporate Services, Culture & Planning

April 2023

Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment

Table 1: Project Details

Development Consent Type	Part 8
Development Location	Various locations across the City Centre
Description of the project	Proposed Development ‘City of Lights’ Urban Animation Scheme – Waterford City & County Council propose to introduce outdoor lighting of iconic buildings and the City walls in 19 locations.

Table 2: Identification of Natura 2000 Sites (SACs and SPAs) which may be impacted by the proposed development

Please answer the following five questions in order to determine whether there are any Natura 2000 sites which could potentially be impacted by the proposed development.

Number	Question	Response
1	Impacts On Freshwater Habitats Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats, or in the catchment of same? Sites to consider: Blackwater River, Lower River Suir Habitats to consider: Rivers, Lakes and Lagoons.	N/A
2	Impacts On Wetland Habitats Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats, or within 1 km of same? Sites to consider: Comeragh Mountains Habitats to consider: Bogs, Fens, Marshes and Wet Heaths.	N/A
3	Impacts on Intertidal and Marine Habitats Is the development located within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include intertidal and/or marine habitats and species, or within the catchment of same. Sites to consider: Tramore Dunes and Backstrand, River Suir (Tidal Section as far as Carrick on Suir), River Blackwater (Tidal Section as far as Cappoquin), Waterford Estuary Habitats to consider: Mudflats, Sandflats, Saltmarsh, Estuary; Shingle, Reefs, Sea Cliffs.	N/A
4	Impacts On Woodlands , Grasslands and Dry Heaths Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying habitats include woodlands or grasslands habitats, or within 200m of same. Sites to consider: Glendine Wood Nire Valley Woods, Ardmore Head, Helvick Head Habitats to consider: Woodlands, Grasslands or Dunes.	N/A
5	Impacts On Birds Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 1 km of same. Sites to consider: Tramore Backstrand, Dungarvan Bay, Blackwater Callows, Blackwater Estuary, Helvick Head –Ballyquin Coast, Mid Waterford Coast	N/A

Conclusion

Table

2:

If the answer to all of these questions is No, significant impacts can be ruled out for Natura 2000 sites. No further assessment is required, proceed to the Habitats Directive Conclusion Statement.

[Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement](#)

Development Type	Part 8
Development Location	Various locations across the City Centre
Natura 2000 sites within impact zone	
Description of the project	Proposed Development 'City of Lights' Urban Animation Scheme – Waterford City & County Council propose to introduce outdoor lighting of iconic buildings and the City walls in 19 locations.
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 site(s).	
If there are potential negative impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant, and if not, why not.	
Conclusion of assessment	Having regard to the location of the subject site and to the nature of the proposed development, and the intervening distance with the identified Natura 2000 Sites, I consider that no appropriate assessment issues arise in this case. In my opinion the proposed development either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 Site.
Documentation reviewed for making of this statement.	
Completed By	Hazel O'Shea, Senior Executive Planner
Date	April 2023