



Carrick Road Urban Improvement Scheme, Portlaw, Co. Waterford.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

1.Introduction

The EIA Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended aims to determine the likely significant effects of a project on the environment. EIA Screening determines whether an EIA is required for a specified project. Projects requiring mandatory EIA are listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. In the case of development which is under these thresholds, planning authorities are required under Article 103 of the 2001 Regulations, (as amended) to request an EIAR where it considers that the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the proposed development is sub-threshold for EIA. The proposed development is being screened as per Schedule 7 of the regulations to determine if there is likely to be significant effects on the environment. Screening involves appraisal of impacts from the proposed development according to three main criteria:-

1. Characteristics of the proposed development
2. Location of proposed development
3. Characteristics of potential impacts.

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), outlines the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a proposed development. These are: human beings, flora and fauna, soil and geology, water, air& climate, landscape, material assets, cultural heritage and the inter-relationships between the range of environmental criteria. EIA screening involves assessment of these criteria to determine if the proposed development is likely to significantly affect the environment.

2. Screening Assessment

Table 1. Characteristics of proposed development

Is the size and design of the proposed works significant ?	Traffic calming scheme at Carrick Road, Portlaw involving construction of new road edge kerb lines, footpath, speed ramps and pedestrian crossing, removal of derelict structure, removal of hedgerow and tree line and drainage works.
Use of natural resources in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity ?	Proposed works involve upgrades to a section of the existing local roadwork will result in loss of approximately 440 semi-natural boundary comprising hedgerow and treeline.
Will the works produce waste ?	Road construction waste during scheme works.
Will the works create a significant amount of pollution or nuisance ?	Traffic management will cause a small scale and temporary inconvenience for road users during scheme works.
Risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the project including those caused by Climate Change in accordance with scientific knowledge ?	Works will be governed by a health and safety statement. Providing best practice is followed the risk of accidents which are significant in scale is considered low.
Risks to human health (water contamination , air pollution)	Works will be governed by a health and safety statement. Providing best practice is followed the risk to human health is considered low.
Potential for cumulative impacts with other existing and/or approved projects?	Low risk of significant effects arising from cumulative impacts with other projects.
Potential for combination of above factors to have significant effects	Low risk of significant effects.

Table 2. Location of Proposed Development

Environmental sensitivity of project in relation to existing and approved land use.	The Clodiagh River, a Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchment is located 700m to the south. A stream runs parallel to the Carrick Road joining the River Clodiagh to the west of Portlaw Bridge.
Relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground.	Proposed works involve upgrades to a section of the existing local roadwork.
Absorption capacity of the natural environment including wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths, coastal zones and the	The works will involve the removal of approximately 440m of hedgerow including 140m of treeline comprising Ash and Oak.

marine environment, mountain and forest area.	
Potential of works to impact directly or indirectly on sites designated for nature conservation (NHA/SAC/SPA)	Due to buffer between site works and River Clodiagh SAC it is considered there is no potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives of the River Suir SAC. AA screening has been carried out and has concluded no potential for significant effects.
Potential for impacts directly or indirectly on Habitats or Species listed on Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive	AA screening has been carried out and has concluded no potential for significant effects. The works will not cause loss of habitat from the ecological footprint of the River Clodiagh/River Suir SAC. There is an adjacent stream to the Carrick Road that joins the River Clodiagh to the south but this is west of Portlaw Bridge and downstream from where known Pearl Mussel populations occur.
Potential for impacts directly or indirectly on Species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive	No
Potential for impacts on breeding places of any species protected under the Wildlife Act ?	Hedgerows may provide feeding and nesting sites for birds but their removal is subject to protection of the prohibition on disturbance to vegetation from March 1 st - August 31 st under the Wildlife Act.
Potential to impact directly or indirectly on any listed ACA in the County Development Plan ?	N/A
Potential to impact directly or indirectly on any protected structure or recorded monuments and places of Archaeological Interest	No protected structures or recorded monuments occur along the route. A limekiln is proposed to be removed as part of the works. Whilst not a protected structure or a recorded monument limekilns are an important aspect of Waterford's Industrial Heritage.
Potential to impact directly or indirectly on Listed or scenic views or protected landscape in the County Development Plan ?	The site is not within a scenic view or protected landscape in the County Development Plan.
Potential to impact on areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure.	None arising.
Potential to impact on densely populated areas.	The site is located in a peri-urban/rural area with low population density.

Table 3. Characteristics of Potential Impacts

Human Beings	Traffic disruption will cause a small scale temporary impact for local residents.
Flora and Fauna	The most significant effect from the proposed works will be the loss of 440m of hedgerow including a 140m section of semi-mature treeline. An area of Japanese Knotweed occurs north of the limekiln and will be treated in advance of works to ensure no further spread of the invasive species. The site is 700m from the River Clodiagh SAC. AA screening has been carried out and has concluded no significant effects.
Soils and Geology	Historic maps indicate the presence of quarries along the route which likely supplied the limekiln. No protected geological heritage sites occur along the route.
Water	The nearest watercourse to the site is the Clodiagh River a tributary of the River Suir. In 2013-2018 the River Clodiagh demonstrated good water quality with no pressures. It is an objective to restore the river's water quality to favourable condition for FPM habitat.
Air & Climate	The nearest air quality monitoring stations are in Waterford and Clonmel. EPA monitoring demonstrate compliance with the Air Quality Standards limit values for all pollutants with air quality classed as "good". The loss of 440m of hedgerow including a 140m section of semi-mature treeline is a loss of a natural climate buffer carbon sink.
Noise & Vibration	Works will cause a temporary impact for local residents with traffic delays but will be temporary and short term in nature.
Landscape	The proposed development is located in a peri-urban/rural area and will negatively impact on the existing landscape by removal of 440m of hedgerow and treeline,
Material Assets	Works will be subject to and regulated by a waste management plan.
Cultural Heritage	A limekiln is proposed to be removed as part of the works. Whilst not a protected structure or a recorded monument limekilns are an important aspect of Waterford's Industrial Heritage. A historic underpass located along the route will be retained.
Interaction of Foregoing	The main effects identified are loss of a limekiln feature of industrial heritage

	interest, loss of 440m of hedgerow of which 140m is semi-mature treeline and risk of spread of the invasive Japanese Knotweed.
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Table 4. Discussion of Potential Impacts

Will a large geographical area be impacted as a result of the proposed works ?	No 2 km contained site of proposed traffic calming.
Will a large population be impacted as a result of the proposed works ?	No, site is in a low population area. Works will cause a temporary impact for road users but will be temporary in nature.
Are any trans-frontier impacts likely to arise from proposed works?	No
Is the magnitude of impacts associated with the proposed works considered significant ?	No , impacts may be mitigated by control of the invasive Japanese Knotweed and compensatory planting of hedgerow and trees. The limekiln is not a protected structure but is an interesting element of industrial heritage requiring recording and assessment prior to proposed demolition.
Is the intensity and complexity of impacts associated with the proposed works considered significant ?	No
Is there a high probability that the effects will occur ?	Yes loss of a limekiln feature of industrial heritage interest, loss of 140m treeline and 300m of hedgerow.
Will the effects continue for a long time ?	Yes permanent
Will the effects be permanent rather than temporary ?	Yes permanent
Will the impacts be irreversible?	No but impacts may be mitigated by control of the invasive Japanese Knotweed and compensatory planting of hedgerow and trees
Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effects ?	Impacts may be mitigated by control of the invasive Japanese Knotweed and compensatory planting of hedgerow and trees within the environs of the site/town of Portlaw. An assessment and photographic record of the limekiln should be carried out in order to assess if its condition merits retention as a heritage feature along the footpath or if it is beyond restoration.

3..Conclusion

The DoEHLG Guidance Document “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development” notes that *“The greater the number of different aspects of the environment which are likely to be affected and the greater the links between the effects, the more likely it is that an EIS should be carried out. Where*

complexity of impacts is deemed to apply in the case of a specific sub-threshold development proposal, there should be a predisposition towards the preparation of an EIS”.

In consideration of the above involving appraisal of characteristics and location of proposed development and characteristics of potential impacts it is noted that the key environmental receptors to be affected are industrial heritage and ecology and it is recommended these be addressed by submission of an Industrial Heritage Impact Assessment recording the Lime Kiln structure and its relationship to the historic underpass and a Biodiversity Mitigation Plan to detail control of Japanese Knotweed and compensatory planting within the environs of the site/town of Portlaw to mitigate for loss of mature trees and hedgerow. It is concluded that an EIAR is not required for the proposed development.



Map 1. Location of Limekiln(s) indicated on historic 1:252 OSi maps. An assessment and photographic record of the limekiln is required in order to assess if its condition merits retention as a heritage feature along the footpath or if it is beyond restoration.



Map 2. National Tree Data indicating presence of mature and semi-mature trees along a 140m section of treeline. Compensatory planting is required to mitigate for their loss.