

Screening Determination - Form 1

Note: See (OPR, 2021) Practice Note PN02 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening for further information – see notes at end of document below

Establishing if the proposal is a ' <i>sub-threshold development</i> ':	
Author:	Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd. and received 16 th January 2025.
Planning Register Reference:	Part 8 Carlow URDF Town Centre
Development Summary:	<p>See Section 1.2.</p> <p>(1) clearance/removal of the existing public realm including existing roadway surface finishes and associated structures,</p> <p>(2) the provision of streetscape upgrades including new roadway finishes, paving and the creation of new public plazas/spaces,</p> <p>(3) carriageway realignment works,</p> <p>(4) amendments to existing junctions including the provision of signalisation at selected junctions,</p> <p>(5) traffic calming and pedestrian crossing measures,</p> <p>(6) provision of new and upgraded pedestrian areas including the provision of a new pedestrian link crossing Barrack Street connecting Fairgreen Shopping Centre and Carlow Shopping Centre/Potato Market. To create this new pedestrian link across Barrack Street it will be necessary to demolish an existing wall at the rear of the units formerly known as Nos. 23-24 Barrack Street as well as the providing a new boundary wall at the northern boundary of the cleared site, at the boundary of the units formerly known as Nos. 22-23 Barrack Street</p> <p>(7) provision of active travel infrastructure including new cycle paths,</p> <p>(8) amendments to vehicular movements including the provision of one-way directional traffic along sections of Tullow Street and Potato Market,</p> <p>(9) alterations to street parking including taxi ranks, ambulance parking and accessible parking spaces,</p> <p>(10) the provision of street furniture including planters, public seating, public lighting, CCTV and a new glazed canopy structure at Potato Market,</p> <p>(11) provision of public Wi-Fi, and</p> <p>(12) landscaping works, drainage/attenuation works (including SUDS measures) and all associated ancillary site works and site service provision at Shamrock Square, Tullow Street, Potato Market, Kennedy Avenue, sections of Barrack Street and a cleared site (formerly Nos. 23-24) Barrack Street, in the townland of Carlow, Carlow Town, County Carlow.</p>
Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, no further action required.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Proceed to Part A</p>
A. Schedule 5 Part 1 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 1, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes; specify class __ [insert here]	EIA is mandatory. No Screening required.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Proceed to Part B.
B. Schedule 5 Part 2 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and does it meet/exceed the thresholds? (Tick as appropriate)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2	No Screening required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 and meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): [specify class & threshold here]	EIA is mandatory. No Screening required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the project is of a type listed but is sub-threshold: Part 2, Class 10b (iv).	Proceed to Part C.
C. If Yes, has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant.	Screening Determination reqd.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant.	Preliminary Examination reqd.

Screening Determination - Form 3

Screening Determination:		
A. Case Details:		
	Yes / No / N/A:	Comment (if relevant):
Does the application include information specified in Schedule 7A?	Yes	Environmental & EIA Screening Report prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd and received dated 16 th January 2025.
Other relevant information submitted:	Yes	Arboricultural Assessment Report prepared by Tree-space Ltd and dated 9 th January 2025.
Does the application include a NIS and/or other reports to enable AA screening?	Yes	Appropriate Assessment Screening report prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd and dated 14 th January 2025.
An AA	Yes	Appropriate Assessment Screening report prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd and dated 14 th January 2025.
If YES has the EPA been consulted?	No	
Have any other relevant ¹ assessments of the effects on the environment been carried out pursuant to other relevant Directives –for example SEA or AA?	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) including integrated - Outline Resource & Waste Management Plan report prepared by ORS Ltd. and dated 16th January 2025. • Engineering Services Report report prepared by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers and dated 8th January 2025. • Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment report prepared by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers and dated 8th January 2025. • Arboricultural Assessment Report prepared by Tree-space Ltd and dated 9th January 2025. • Archaeological Assessment report by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. and dated 9th January 2025. • Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report prepared by &L Architects and dated January 2025. • Lighting Design and Service Interruptions report prepared by Lawler Consulting Ltd and dated 9th January 2025
B. Examination:		
1. Characteristics of proposed development (<i>including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning</i>):		
		If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the development (i.e., the nature and extent):
(a) The size and design of the whole of the proposed development (including any demolition works):		The project relates to a 1.784ha. area consisting of the public realm along Shamrock Square, Tullow Street, Potato Market, Kennedy Avenue, sections of Barrack Street and a cleared site along Barrack Street, in the townland of Carlow, Carlow Town, County Carlow. The Carlow Town Centre Public Realm and Pedestrian Linkage Regeneration Project was identified as part of

¹ Relevant assessments are those which have a significant bearing on the project.

	<p>Project Carlow 2040 – A Vision for Regeneration which was published in November 2020. This Regeneration Strategy outlines transformational ideas for the economic, social and environmental benefit of Carlow. The document plans for the future of Carlow Town and includes objectives setting out how this will be achieved. This includes some ambitious improvements proposed for the Town Centre, including interventions such as the subject project. These interventions will form a central role in delivering the objectives outlined in the Strategy up to 2040. The primary aim of this project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility, wayfinding and traffic management • Improve the look of Carlow Town Centre and reducing street clutter • Increase pedestrian-friendly activity • Improve pedestrian safety • Promote physical activity • Create usable public spaces • Create new pedestrian routes to key locations in the town center. <p>Most of the work involves the restructuring and resurfacing of the existing streets and hardstanding areas to create new and improved public spaces. The works will include new footpaths and boundary treatments, as well as new public lighting, reconfigured vehicular circulation, and improved pedestrian/cycling permeability. The project also includes design features such as a new glazed canopy over a new public space at Potato Market that will provide a focal point to the area.</p> <p>Minor works relating to the removal of existing pavement and surfaces are the only works that relate to removal and no works are identified as significant in terms of demolition works.</p>
<p>(b) Other existing or permitted projects (including under other legislation that is subject to EIA) that could give rise to cumulative effects:</p>	<p>See Section 5.1.3, Table 5-1 Part 8 Planning Applications, Table 5-2 Part 10 Planning Applications and Table 5-3 Planning Applications Approved In The Past Three Years In Project Area.</p> <p>The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment. No significant environmental effects are identified from interaction or in combination with other existing or approved projects.</p>
<p>(c) Use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity:</p> <p><i>Will construction or the operation of the proposal use natural resources such as land, soil, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?</i></p>	<p>During construction phase, natural resources such as soil and water will be used in minor volume as they relate to the construction phase works. Materials such as paving stones, aggregate, concrete, and soil for planting schemes will be utilised also and imported during the construction of the scheme. As the project relates to existing urban land use and is within the existing public realm area of the project, no additional land take or conversion of greenfield landform part of the project.</p>
<p>(d) Production of waste:</p> <p><i>Will the proposal produce solid wastes during construction, operation, or decommissioning?</i></p>	<p>Not significant, relate primarily to the dismantling and removal of existing pavement and road surfaces. No production of wastes will arise during the operation of the project.</p> <p>See Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) including integrated Outline Resource & Waste Management Plan report prepared by ORS Ltd. For details.</p>
<p>(e) Pollution and nuisances:</p> <p><i>Will the proposal release pollutants to ground or surface water, or air (including noise and vibrations) or water, or lead to</i></p>	<p>No</p> <p>The project is not identified as generating significant pollution or nuisance during construction or operation phase. A preliminary risk assessment was carried out for the proposed site location in accordance with the Air Quality Monitoring and Noise Control Unit's Good Practice Guide for Construction and Demolition,</p>

<i>exceeding environmental standards set out in other Directives?</i>	produced by the London Authorities Noise Action Forum, July 2016.
(f) Major accidents and disasters: <i>In accordance with scientific knowledge, is there a risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project, including those caused by climate change?</i>	No In view of the construction type, the project, given its footprint within an established urban area, and works that are small scale in nature; these are not identified as giving rise to significant impacts on the surrounding environment and in context of major accidents and disasters, significant environmental effects are not identified for this project.
(g) Risks to human health, for example due to water contamination or air pollution:	The construction and operation phase of the project is not identified as generating impacts on water resources or giving rise to water contamination; this is due to the scale, nature and location of the project and application of standard preventative measures in the accompanying CEMP. Positive effects are identified in relation to Population and Human Health and Material Assets due to the augmentation of street infrastructure for public use.
2. Location of proposed development:	
The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development:	If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the location (with particular regard to the (a) existing and approved land use, (b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources, and (c) the absorption capacity of the environment):
(a) Generally describe the location of the site and its surroundings:	The project is located in the centre of Carlow Town and the area is surrounded by lands zoned “A – Town Centre” as part of the recently adopted Carlow Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030 (LAP) and the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP). The objective for this zoning is “To protect, provide for and/or improve town centre facilities and uses.” The habitats are BL3 Built Land and artificial surfaces. The existing landcover is classified as Artificial Surfaces (Corine 2018). Teagasc subsoil mapping indicates that the subsoil is Manmade, as the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) defines it as Urban soil concreted over. The project is consistent with existed and approved land use in the statutory land use strategies of Carlow CDP 2022 -2028 and the Carlow Graiguecullen Joint LAP 2024 -2030.
(b) Is the project located within, close to or has it the potential to impact on any site specified in Article 103(3)(a)(v) of the Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European site - NHA/pNHA - Designated Nature Reserve - Designated refuge for flora or fauna - Place, site or feature of ecological interest, the preservation, conservation, protection of which is an objective of a development plan/ local area plan/ draft plan or variation of a plan. 	No See the Appropriate Assessment Screening report prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd and dated 14 th January 2025.
(c) Are there any other areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g., wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies (including riparian areas and river mouths), the coastal zone and the marine environment, mountains,	Groundwater vulnerability within the plan area is ‘high’. The project area is located within the Athy Bagenalstown Gravels groundwater body (IE_SE_G_160) and is ‘at risk’ of not meeting WFD objectives for 2027 and overall status based on most recent information is of poor quality.

forests or woodlands, that could be affected by the project?	The Burren River (IE_SE_14B050500) is classified as being of 'moderate' quality under the WFD and is identified as being 'at risk' of not meeting WFD objectives.
(d) Is the proposal likely to be highly visible to many people? Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location, or are there any routes or facilities that are used by the public for recreation or other facilities which could be affected by the proposal?	The proposed works include a comprehensive landscape proposal, including new tree and shrub planting, new green areas, new pavement surfacing, and new public seating areas. The additional native trees and the All-Ireland Pollinator planting schemes should provide compensatory foraging habitat for wildlife and over time, the establishment of trees should provide additional nesting and roosting habitats for wildlife. At local scale, climate change mitigation is provided via landscape planting that will see an increase in tree cover.
(e) Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location that could be affected by the project?	The Archaeological Assessment report by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. and dated 9th January 2025, concludes that deep excavations may have an adverse impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits and should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. No upstanding features of archaeological significance were identified during the field inspection. See the Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report prepared by &L Architects and dated January 2025.
(f) Are there areas within or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, or occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities that could be affected by the proposal?	The project is located within the town center of Carlow and is a densely populated area. The preliminary results of Census 2022 within the CSO settlement boundary of Carlow Graiguecullen recorded a population of 27,351 persons. The Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 provides a projected population increase for Carlow Town (including Carlow Environs) of 3,107 people by 2028, while the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 identifies a projected population for Graiguecullen of 700 people by 2027. The project is not identified as generating negative impacts on local population and is consistent with land use zonings and policy objectives of the statutory land use plans.
(g) Are there any areas within or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, that could be affected by the proposal?	Two Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), two Recorded Monuments and a large SMR Zone of Notification are also located within or directly adjacent to the public realm works areas.
(h) Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, and where there has already been a failure in environmental standards that could be affected by the proposal e.g., the status of water bodies under the Water Framework Directive?	Groundwater vulnerability within the plan area is 'high'. The project area is located within the Athy Bagenalstown Gravels groundwater body (IE_SE_G_160) and is 'at risk' of not meeting WFD objectives for 2027 and overall status based on most recent information is of poor quality. The Burren River (IE_SE_14B050500) is classified as being of 'moderate' quality under the WFD and is identified as being 'at risk' of not meeting WFD objectives. Design approach and standard construction measures in the accompanying CEMP, as well as the nature, scale and location of the project do not contribute further to the deterioration of groundwater or surface water in or adjacent to the project area
(i) Is the site located in an area susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, or flooding which could cause the proposal to present environmental problems?	No. See Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment report prepared by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers and dated 8th January 2025.

(j) Are there any additional considerations that are specific to this location?	The western portion of the scheme lies within the zone of notification for the historic settlement at Carlow (CW007-018). See the Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report prepared by &L Architects and dated January 2025.	
3. Types and characteristics of potential impacts:		
<p>If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the potential impacts under the headings below.</p> <p>(including where relevant the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (e.g. geographical areas and size of population likely to be affected), nature of impact, intensity and complexity of impact, probability of impact, and duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact):</p>	<p>If relevant, briefly describe any mitigation measures proposed to avoid or prevent a significant effect.</p>	<p>Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment?</p>
<i>Population and human health:</i>		
The project does not result in likely significant negative effects on the environment in relation to Human beings due to the scale, location, type of project and approach to construction.	The application of standard construction methods will ameliorate any effects.	No. Post-const. positive effects are identified to population and human health, air quality, landscape, and material assets.
<i>Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.</i>		
Low ecological value of the existing project footprint comprising built land and artificial surfaces,	The Screening Report for concluded that, the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Site on the basis of best scientific evidence.	No significant direct or residual effects.
<i>Land, soil, water, air, and climate:</i>		
The project does not result in likely significant effects on soil and geology due to the scale, size, type and location of the project and the approach to construction. No instream works and the SUDs measures contribute positively to surface and groundwater quality. Potential for construction dust, emissions from mobile plant, and traffic are ameliorated.	Positive effects at local scale are identified for air and land from additional landscape measures and enhanced measures for walking and cyclists, encouraging modal shifts and improved permeability. Construction approach will reduce the risk of any construction related activities on the water resources.	No significant residual effects following good practice implementation.
<i>Material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape:</i>		
<p>Cultural heritage: Given the scale, type, and duration of the project no significant negative effects on this parameter are identified.</p> <p>Landscape: The area will retain its urban design and character, with measures relating to the public realm contributing positive to overall landscape setting and character.</p>	<p>See Archaeological Assessment report by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. and dated 9th January 2025.</p> <p>See Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report prepared by &L Architects and dated January 2025.</p> <p>Cultural heritage: Excavation to be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Positive effects are identified.</p> <p>Landscape: No significant negative effects identified.</p>	No significant effects are considered.

<i>Cumulative effects:</i>		
Construction phase: The project will not have the potential to combine with other land use activities to result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats or species of the European sites or other environmental parameters.	See Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) including integrated -Outline Resource & Waste Management Plan report prepared by ORS Ltd. and dated 16 th January 2025	No
Operational phase: The proposed works have been assessed cumulatively within this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report and concludes that potential cumulative effects are not identified.		
<i>Transboundary effects:</i>		
The proposed development is contained wholly in the county of Carlow. It does not have potential for transboundary impacts given its location and the nature of the proposed development.	The project is minor in scale and is within an established urban center. No transboundary effects are therefore identified.	No
4. Additional Considerations:		
Further relevant information, if any, relating to how the results of any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment have been taken into account (e.g. SEA, AA screening, AA):		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) including integrated - Outline Resource & Waste Management Plan report prepared by ORS Ltd. and dated 16th January 2025. • Engineering Services Report prepared by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers and dated 8th January 2025. • Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment report prepared by Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers and dated 8th January 2025. • Arboricultural Assessment Report prepared by Tree-space Ltd and dated 9th January 2025. • Archaeological Assessment report by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. and dated 9th January 2025. • Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report prepared by &L Architects and dated January 2025. • Lighting Design and Service Interruptions report prepared by Lawler Consulting Ltd and dated 9th January 2025 • 	
Other relevant information/ considerations of note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlow County Development Plan 2022 -2028, Strategic Environmental assessment and Natura impact report. • Carlow Graiguecullen Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030, Strategic Environmental Assessment Natura Impact Report 	
C. Determination:		
No real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EIAR is not required
Real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	EIAR is required

