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202000 – URDF – Part 8

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) for Carlow Town Centre Public Realm and Pedestrian Linkage Regeneration Project.

Carlow County Council is proposing to enhance the attractiveness, liveability, connectivity, and economic vibrancy of the town centre via the Carlow Town Centre Public Realm and Pedestrian Linkage Regeneration Project.
The site of proposed works is located in a 1.784ha. area located along Shamrock Square including works on Green Lane (R448) and Staplestown Road (R725), Tullow Street, Potato Market, Kennedy Avenue including works on Hanover Street (R448), sections of Barrack Street and a cleared site (formerly Nos. 23-24) Barrack Street, in the townland of Carlow, Carlow Town, County Carlow.

The principal objectives of the scheme are:

(1) clearance/removal of the existing public realm including existing roadway surface finishes and associated structures,
(2) the provision of streetscape upgrades including new roadway finishes, paving and the creation of new public plazas/spaces,
(3) carriageway realignment works,
(4) amendments to existing junctions including the provision of signalisation at selected junctions,
(5) traffic calming and pedestrian crossing measures,
(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 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,
(7) provision of active travel infrastructure including new cycle paths,
(8) amendments to vehicular movements including the provision of one-way directional traffic along sections of Tullow Street and Potato Market,
(9) alterations to street parking including taxi ranks, ambulance parking and accessible parking spaces,
(10) the provision of street furniture including planters, public seating, public lighting, CCTV and a new glazed canopy structure at Potato Market,
(11) provision of public Wi-Fi, and
(12) landscaping works, drainage/attenuation works (including SUDS measures) and all associated ancillary site works and site service provision.

Having regard to the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147 /EC), the Council determines that the proposal does not need to be subject to a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement).

It is considered that the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report prepared by ***Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd.***, gives full consideration to the Directives.

Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed works to Carlow Town, the proposed development will not lead to significant in-combination effects with any other plans or projects.

This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. It is concluded that the proposed development will not give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[1], in the absence of mitigation. Consequently, a Stage Two AA / Natura Impact Statement is not required for the project.

Signatures:

Conor Moriarty
Senior Executive Architect

Date: 21/01/2025

Pàdraig O'Gormain
Director of Services
Signatory (Approved Officer)

Date: 21/01/2025

1) Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) No alternative solution available,
b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.