

# APPENDIX C

## Environmental Reports

# Clonmel Public Realm Improvement Works

## Screening for Appropriate Assessment (Final)

June 2020

**Tipperary County Council**  
Emmet Street  
Clonmel  
Co. Tipperary



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
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## Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Gillian Flynn, on behalf of Tipperary County Council, by a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> November. Hannah Mulcahy of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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## Abbreviations

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| AA    | Appropriate Assessment                                      |
| CEMP  | Construction and Environmental Management Plan              |
| CIEEM | Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management |
| DoCHG | Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht               |
| EC    | European Communities  |
| EcIA  | Ecological Impact Assessment                                |
| EIAR  | Environmental Impact Assessment Report                      |
| EPA   | Environmental Protection Agency                             |
| GIS   | Geographical Information Systems                            |
| IROPI | Imperative Reason of Overriding Public Interest             |
| LAP   | Local Area Plan   |
| NBDC  | National Biodiversity Data Centre                           |
| NIS   | Natura Impact Statement                                     |
| NNIS  | Non-Native Invasive Species                                 |
| NPWS  | National Parks and Wildlife Service                         |
| OPW   | Office of Public Works                                      |
| QI    | Qualifying Interest   |
| SAC   | Special Area of Conservation                                |
| SPA   | Special Protection Area                                     |
| SuDS  | Sustainable Drainage Systems                                |
| WWTP  | Wastewater Treatment Plant                                  |
| ZOI   | Zone of Influence   |

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Ireland Ltd. has been commissioned by Tipperary County Council to undertake a Screening for Appropriate Assessment in relation to proposed public enhancement works in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. This report outlines the findings of the screening exercise.

An EIAR Screening report has also been produced for this proposed project (JBA 2020).

Three options were provided and assessed in the Environmental Options assessment Report (JBA 2020), and Option 1 was chosen as the preferred option by Tipperary County Council. Therefore, this Assessment is based on the design of Option 1.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the 'Habitats Directive' - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79 / 409 / EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

Article 6(4) deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

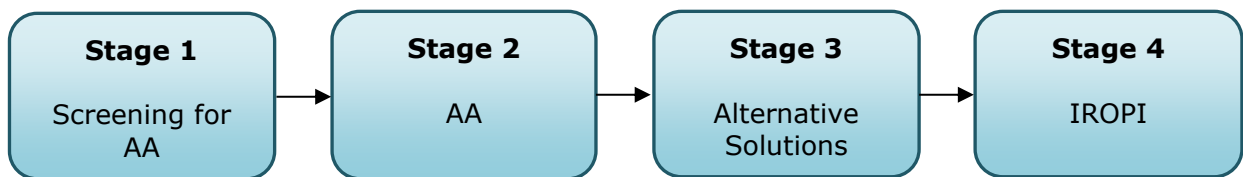
Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the

environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of the Habitats Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 / 2011 (EC 2011)).

### 1.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) (2009). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown Figure 1-1.



**Figure 1-1 The Appropriate Assessment Process (DoEHLG, 2009)**

#### 1.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

For those sites where potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the sites conservation objectives (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 2).

#### 1.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project. An evaluation of the potential direct and indirect impacts of the plan or project on the integrity and features of interest on European designated site(s) is carried out. These potential impacts are assessed alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e. the process proceeds to Stage 3).

#### 1.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the

objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

#### 1.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a Natura 2000 site.

This report is for Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

### 1.4 Methodology

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been carried out with reference to the following documents:

- DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG 2009)
- European Communities (EC) (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission (European Commission 2000).
- EC (2002) Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission (European Commission et al. 2002).
- EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. European Commission (European Commission 2007).
- CIEEM (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland - Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, Second Ed. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 2018)
- Fossitt, J., (2000). A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny (Fossitt 2000).

Data has been collected from a number of websites, including:

- NPWS ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie));
- EPA (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>);
- EPA Catchments ([www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie));
- National Planning Application Data ([www.myplan.ie](http://www.myplan.ie));
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps (<http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/#/Map>)
- Tipperary County Council (<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie>)

- Clonmel and Environs Development Plan (Review) 2013-2019 (Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council 2013)

#### **1.4.1 Limitations and Constraints**

The screening assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. These would not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded in order to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- Information on the works and conditions on site are based on current knowledge at the time of writing.
- Some slight variation in the works methodology may occur, but these will only be minor changes. Where changes to methodology could impact on ecological features, an ecologist will be consulted to determine if the project needs re-screening.
- Adverse weather can cause delays to the schedule and alter the timing of works. This has been accounted for using a worst-case scenario where necessary.
- The survey was conducted outside of the growing season, and therefore some ecological features may have been missed.
- On the day of the survey, the river levels were high, having reached median flood levels above 3m five days before the survey. On the day of the survey the level was approximately 2m high. Therefore, signs of Otter and Crayfish may have been missed.

## 2 Project Description

### 2.1 The 'Project'

The proposed development meets the criteria of a 'Project' as defined in the Habitats Directive and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site. Therefore, the Project is subject to the requirements of the Appropriate Assessment process.

### 2.2 Proposed project and location

Tipperary County Council proposes to carry out environmental improvements to the public realm of Clonmel town centre. The main roads included in the proposed works are Irishtown Road, O'Connell Street, Parnell Street, Peter Street, Gladstone Street, Sarsfield Street, Mitchell Street, Market Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge, Wolf tone Street, Abbey Street and Bank Lane. Also included are some of the lanes off O'Connell St such as Hopkins Lane, Elbow lane and Blue Anchor Lane.

The proposed works to improve the public realm of Clonmel town centre will include the widening and upgrading the surface of existing footpaths, planting of street trees and other landscaping measures, new street furniture, resurfacing and repositioning of parking bays and resurfacing road carriageways and changes to traffic management. The works will also include undergrounding and upgrading of certain utilities. The General Arrangements drawings are provided as part of the Planning Application.

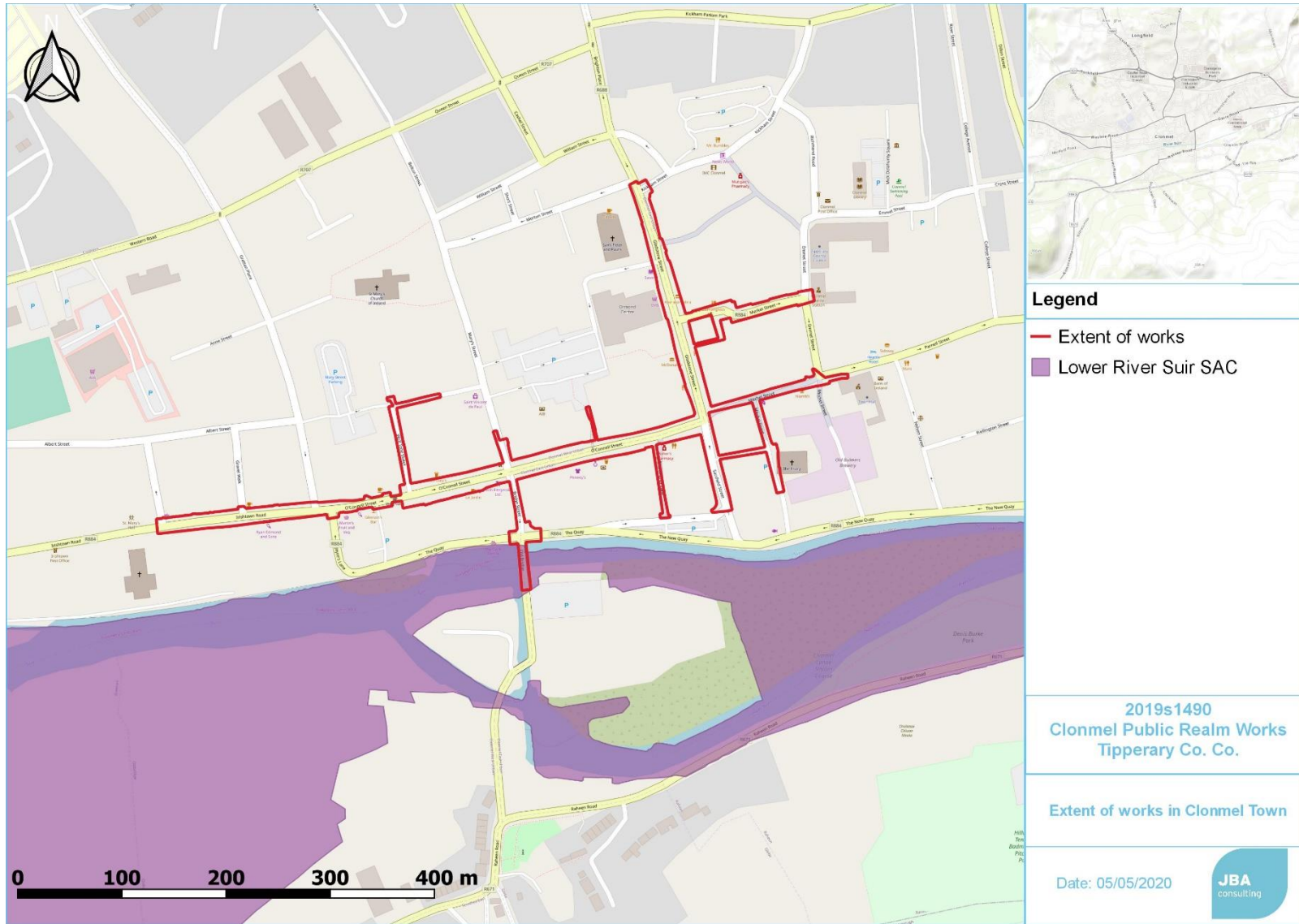
The works will be carried out in a piecemeal basis, starting with Mitchell Street and then widening the footpath on the Old Bridge. The works will include:

- Widening of existing footpaths: the excavation of existing footpaths and pavement and replacing this with stone pavers and macadam to parking bays and carriageways.
- Reduced quantity of parking by change from diagonal parking to parallel parking on O'Connell Street and removal of some spaces to install pedestrian crossings.
- Installation of new public lighting columns
- Tree and shrub planting
- Installation of new CCTV
- Undergrounding the existing overhead ESB network on Gladstone street
- Peter Street: Undergrounding of overhead electric lines to underground ducting approx. 750mm depth. 3 no. draw pit chambers at approx. depth of 1200mm
- Parnell Street: Undergrounding of overhead electric lines to underground ducting approx. 750mm depth. 1 no. draw pit chambers at approx. depth of 1200mm. Diverted fibre optic duct connecting into existing chamber, duct to depth of approx. 750mm. Upgraded watermain to depth of approx. 1200mm and valve chamber to depth of approx.. 1500mm. Diverted gas main to depth of approx. 1200mm and valve chamber to depth of approx. 1500mm
- Excavate trenches for new surface water mains to connect to the existing combined sewers. The depths of these excavations will be: Irish Town: 2.76m, West Gate: 1.97m, O'Connell St. West: 1.97m, Junction of O'Connell St. and Bridge St: 2.81m, O'Connell St. East/Sarsfield St.: 2.78m, Mitchell St.: 2.87m, Market St.: 1.11m, Foul Sewer at O'Connell St.: 1.45m.

### **2.3 Project Zone of Influence**

The project will primarily affect the site only, but a wider Zone of Influence is used for impacts relating to noise disturbance (1km), air pollution (5km), surface water (5km) and any supporting habitat for SAC/SPA species (5km).

Therefore the Zone of Influence for this project can be considered to be 5km.



**Figure 2-1 Site Location of works to be carried out by Tipperary County Council**

### 3 Existing Environment

A survey was carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Clonmel town where the proposed works will be carried out, as well as a survey of the River Suir.

#### 3.1 Protected Habitats

The following habitats were identified from the survey:

**Table 3-1 Habitats recorded in area of public realm works**

| Habitat and Fossitt Code              | Description / location  | Link to Annex 1 habitats  |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3 | The works will be carried out exclusively in the built area of Clonmel  | No Link   |
| Stone walls and other stonework BL1   | There are many historical walls composed of limestone around Clonmel town, and will not be affected by the works                                    | No Link   |
| Flower beds and borders BC4           | Planted flowers around the town   | No Link   |
| Depositing/lowland rivers FW2         | The River Suir is a lowland river   | No Link   |
| Reed and large sedge swamps FS1       | Reeds are found around the edges of Suir Island   | No Link   |
| Riparian woodland WN5                 | A mix of willow, alder, ash and some non-natives are located on the island and the edge of the River Suir, which is frequently inundated with water | Potential link to *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) (91E0) |

#### 3.2 Protected species

The following species that are protected under the EU Habitats Directive (Annex II, IV and V) and EU Birds directive (Annex I and II) have been recorded in the NBDC database within 2km of the proposed works:

**Table 3-2 Protected species recorded within 2km of works**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Common Frog ( <i>Rana temporaria</i> )                                | Common Pheasant ( <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> ) |
| Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) | Common Wood Pigeon ( <i>Columba palumbus</i> ) |
| European Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )                                 | Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )          |
| Brown Long-eared Bat ( <i>Plecotus auritus</i> )                      | Red Grouse ( <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> )          |
| Lesser Noctule ( <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> )                           | Common Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> )             |
| Pipistrelle ( <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i> )           | Common Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> )        |
| Soprano Pipistrelle ( <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> )                  | Eurasian Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )           |
| Pine Marten ( <i>Martes martes</i> )                                  | Eurasian Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> )       |
| Common Frog ( <i>Rana temporaria</i> )                                | Northern Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )         |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Little Egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )              | Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> )          |
| Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )          | Common Snipe ( <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> )     |
| European Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) | Eurasian Woodcock ( <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> ) |
| Common Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> )            | Northern Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )      |
| Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )                 | Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> )                |
| Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )                   | Eurasian Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )     |
| Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> )                 | Northern Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> )   |
| Rock Pigeon ( <i>Columba livia</i> )                  |   |

A full list of recorded species in the NBDC Database within 2km of the proposed works with other levels of protection are listed in Appendix A.

### 3.3 Non-Native Invasive Species

Several NNIS were noted during the survey on 27 November, which were recorded predominately on Suir Island. This includes Grey Squirrel, Buddleia, Winter Heliotrope and Sycamore. NBDC records for NNIS within 2km of the works are listed below:

**Table 3-3 Invasive species recorded with in 2km of the works**

| Species Name   | Impact   |
|--|--|
| Dace ( <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i> )                  | Medium Impact Invasive Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)       |
| Douglas Fir ( <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> )         | Medium Impact Invasive Species                             |
| Cherry Laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> )         | High Impact Invasive Species                               |
| Canadian Waterweed ( <i>Elodea canadensis</i> )      | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Giant Hogweed ( <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> )    | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Indian Balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> )      | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Japanese Knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> )       | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Rhododendron ponticum                                | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland) |
| Black Currant ( <i>Ribes nigrum</i> )                | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Butterfly-bush ( <i>Buddleja davidii</i> )           | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Field Penny-cress ( <i>Thlaspi arvense</i> )         | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Himalayan Honeysuckle ( <i>Leycesteria formosa</i> ) | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Japanese Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )    | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Japanese Rose ( <i>Rosa rugosa</i> )                 | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Least Duckweed ( <i>Lemna minuta</i> )               | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Pampas-grass ( <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> )          | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )              | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |
| Traveller's-joy ( <i>Clematis vitalba</i> )          | Medium Impact Invasive                                     |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Turkey Oak ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> )                     | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| Wall Cotoneaster ( <i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> )     | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| <i>Aphanomyces astaci</i>                                | High Impact Invasive Species   |
| Common Garden Snail ( <i>Cornu aspersum</i> )            | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| Jenkins' Spire Snail ( <i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i> ) | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| Keeled Slug ( <i>Tandonia sowerbyi</i> )                 | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| Wrinkled Snail ( <i>Candidula intersecta</i> )           | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| Eastern Grey Squirrel ( <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> )    | High Impact Invasive Species<br>EU Regulation No. 1143/2014<br>Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)   |
| Siberian Chipmunk ( <i>Tamias sibiricus</i> )            | High Impact Invasive Species<br>EU Regulation No. 1143/2014<br>Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)   |
| American Mink ( <i>Mustela vison</i> )                   | High Impact Invasive Species<br>Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)                                  |
| Fallow Deer ( <i>Dama dama</i> )                         | High Impact Invasive Species Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)<br>Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |
| Bank Vole ( <i>Myodes glareolus</i> )                    | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| European Rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )         | Medium Impact Invasive   |
| Greater White-toothed Shrew ( <i>Crocidura russula</i> ) | Medium Impact Invasive   |

## 4 Natura 2000 Sites

The DoEHLG (2009) guidance identifies that Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project should consider the following Natura 2000 sites:

- Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area.
- Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. This is dependent on the nature and scale of the plan, with 15km generally recommended for plans, but potentially much less for projects.
- Any Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area, but may potentially be impacted upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

As the proposed works are considered of 'Project' status, only Natura 2000 sites within a 5km (Zone of Influence) of the proposed development were examined. The only Natura 2000 site within 5km is the **Lower River Suir SAC [002137]**. This SAC is adjacent to Clonmel where the works will be carried out.

### 4.1 Lower River Suir SAC

This SAC consists of the freshwater stretches of the River Suir, which becomes tidal at the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford. There are many tributaries including the Clodiagh in Co. Waterford, the Lingaun, Anner, Nier, Tar, Aherlow, Multeen and Clodiagh in Co. Tipperary. The Suir and its tributaries flow through the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford (NPWS 2013).

The River Suir flows through the town of Clonmel and therefore the SAC is directly adjacent to the town.

#### 4.1.1 Qualifying interests

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- [1330] Atlantic Salt Meadows
- [1410] Mediterranean Salt Meadows
- [3260] Floating River Vegetation
- [6430] Hydrophilous Tall Herb Communities
- [91A0] Old Oak Woodlands
- [91E0] Alluvial Forests\*
- [91J0] Yew Woodlands\*
- [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)
- [1092] White clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)
- [1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- [1096] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
- [1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- [1103] Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax*)
- [1106] Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Not all the qualifying features of the SAC occur in the Zone of Influence of the proposed works in Clonmel along the River Suir. The extent of habitats such as Alluvial Woodland, floating river vegetation and hydrophilous tall herb communities may be present in the ZoI in Clonmel. Yew woodland and old oak woodlands are not within the ZOI.

In the River Suir the freshwater pearl mussel is present in the Clodiagh catchment tributary, near Portlaw. The Clodiagh river confluences with the Suir 32km downstream from Clonmel. This population has been recorded with an estimated population of 2400, but numbers rapidly are declining.

White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) occurs extensively on the River Suir and on many of its tributaries. On the River Suir main channel, the species has been recorded on almost the entire length of non-tidal parts of the river. A major threat to the entire population is the recent outbreak of Crayfish Plague which has been reported in the River Suir.

The weirs in Clonmel in Lower River Suir SAC have created a barrier to migration, leading to limited success of brook, river and sea lamprey adults in spawning upstream of the river Suir from Clonmel. These weirs are also a barrier to migration of Twaite Shad and Salmon. These weirs compromise the reproductive success of all five of these qualifying interests to the stretch of river Suir downstream of Clonmel. However, Brook and river lamprey are present throughout the entire catchment of the River Suir (O'Connor 2007).

The extent of Otters has not been mapped along the River Suir but it can be concluded that their range covers almost all of the River Suir SAC. They are susceptible to disturbance around holts and lying-up areas such as couches.

Additionally, the aquatic plant opposite-leaved pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*) was recorded in the SAC from floodplain ditches of the Suir near Carrickon-Suir and Clonmel, as well as the Clodiagh. This is not a qualifying interest of the Suir SAC but it is protected under the Flora Protection Order and is listed as Vulnerable (NPWS 2017)

The qualifying features that could be potentially significantly impacted through water quality and disturbance are;

- [3260] Floating River vegetation
- [91E0] Alluvial Forests\*
- [6430] Hydrophilous Tall Herb Communities
- [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel
- [1092] White clawed Crayfish
- [1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- [1096] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
- [1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- [1103] Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax*)
- [1106] Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- [1355] Otter

#### 4.1.2 Site vulnerability

The main threats and pressures to the Lower River Suir SAC is discharges from urban area, pollution, fertilisation, urbanisation pressure, and flood defences. As mentioned above, the threats to the qualifying interests of the SAC are crayfish plague and barriers to migration.

## 5 Other relevant Plans and Projects

### 5.1 Cumulative impacts

#### River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2021 (DoHPLG 2018). Changes from previous River Basin Management Plans is that all River Basin Districts are merged as one national River Basin District. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters — to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.

#### Clonmel and Environs development plan 2013

The Clonmel and Environs Development Plan 2013 is the main public statement of planning policies for Clonmel. It sets out the framework for future planning and development for Clonmel Borough and the town environs. The SFRA as part of the development plan, influences policy and zoning decisions in the area by providing a broad assessment of flood risk.

#### Clonmel Flood Relief Scheme

Completed in 2012, the Clonmel Flood Relief Scheme saw the installation of flood defences on the banks of the river Suir. The OPW worked with South Tipperary County Council, Clonmel Borough Council, Waterford County Council and consulting engineers Mott MacDonald Ireland, to develop a flood defence scheme for Clonmel that offers the standard level of protection against 1% AEP flood events. An adaptive approach has been taken so that the defences can be altered in the future to account for 20% increase in design flow.

#### Other projects

The following plans, which are not retention applications, home extensions and/or internal alterations, have been granted planning permission by Tipperary County Council within the last 2 years in the town of Clonmel.

**Table 5-1 Granted planning applications within Clonmel in the last 2 years**

| Planning no.                                      | Decision                                    | Development  |
|---|---|--|
| 18600912<br>Hospital extension                    | 10/09/2018                                  | A new two storey extension to the rear of the existing South Tipperary General hospital, to provide a new 40 bed inpatient unit and associated plant room at ground and roof levels. The development can be accessed off the first floor of the existing Hospital through a single storey link corridor, which is part of a separate planning application. The plant room is accessed at ground floor off the existing Services Lane. Site development and ancillary works all on the grounds of existing site at South Tipperary General Hospital, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. The proposed development is within the curtilage of a protected structure |
| 19600886<br>Nursing and residential care facility | Further information requested<br>20/11/2019 | a two storey community nursing unit/residential care unit (c.4,422 sqm total gross floor area (GFA) comprising 50 en-suite bedrooms with associated resident accommodation; internal courtyards and first floor terrace spaces; associated back of house areas (including kitchen and laundry areas); staff accommodation and ancillary office space; a new access to the site from a 4 arm roundabout on Glenconnor Road,   |

|   |            |   |
|---|------------|---|
|   |            | realigning the existing entrance and boundary walls to South Tipperary General Hospital, within the curtilage of a Protected Structure (A roundabout was previously permitted as this location under Reg. Ref. 15600365); the existing access road adjacent to Western Road will become a pedestrian only. Permission is also sought for associated landscaping, site services, waste storage areas, ESB sub-station (26 sqm) and generators; and all associated site and development works. The proposed roundabout will require the demolition of existing buildings comprising Hillview, a derelict house, (126 sqm GFA – demolition previously approved under Reg. Ref. 15600365) and 2 no. outbuildings (total GFA 23 sqm) |
| 19600102<br>demolition of<br>factory            | 03/04/2019 | development at a site known as the former Clonmel Meat Factory to consist of the demolition and clearance of all existing buildings and structures on site and levelling of the site together with all associated site development works. A perimeter wall will be maintained on all sides of the site, including along Abbey Road (R884) and Convent Road (R665). The purpose of the proposed works is to clear and secure the site following on from a fire   |
| 18601464<br>10 no. unit<br>residential site     | 17/07/2019 | demolish existing bungalow and construct 10 no. semi-detached single storey dwelling houses with all associated site development works to include, new site entrance, modification to existing site boundaries and entrances and connection to all underground services   |
| 18601266<br>Solar panels                        | 16/12/2018 | development comprising of the erection of a new array of photovoltaic panels, to be mounted on the roof of the proposed new extension of existing primary school, for which Planning Permission has been granted (Reference No. 16/600935). The existing school building is a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. Number 146, Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2013)   |
| 18601355<br>Construction<br>of 114 bed<br>hotel | 26/07/2019 | The demolition of the more recent extensions to the Clonmel Arms Hotel, onto Quay Street, Sarsfield Street & Blue Anchor Lane and a proposed new hotel development as part of Clonmel Arms Hotel. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this report.  |
| 19600477<br>New building                        | 29/8/2019  | demolish the existing structure and to construct a new two-storey community building including all associated site development works, access and egress and parking   |
| 18601378<br>housing<br>development              | 11/8/2019  | construction of 74 no. residential units and all associated ancillary development works including connection to all public services, vehicular and pedestrian access, parking, footpaths, drainage, landscaping and amenity areas   |
| 9600097<br>housing<br>development               | 20/10/2019 | completion of infrastructural work commenced under previous Permissions Nos. 05/43 and 07/107 and to construct 22 no. two-storey houses complete with external works and site development works, on their site. The development will include 10 no. detached 4-bedroom houses; 8 no. semi-detached 4-bedroom houses and 4 no. semi-detached 3-bedroom houses and will represent completion of the final phase of Gort na Manach   |
| 18600418<br>Nursing home                        | 30/8/2018  | to construct a Nursing Home, vehicular entrance, roadway, car-parking, street lights and all associated site development works  |
| 19601108<br>Housing                             | 2/12/2019  | construction of 77. no residential units comprising of 28 no. semi-detached houses, 2 no. detached houses, 33 no.   |

|                              |           |   |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| development                  |           | terraced houses, 14 no. apartments and all associated site development works including local equipped area of play, entrance, roads, footpaths, boundary, treatments and connection to all underground services   |
| 18600858 housing development | 26/5/2019 | to construct 44 no. new houses which comprise of 22 no. detached and 22 no. semidetached houses together with all roads, footpaths, underground services, connection to an existing foul sewer, additions to the existing surface water drainage network and all boundary treatments with all associated site development works |

## 5.2 Summary

The County Development Plan and projects near the proposed project are considered in combination with the currently proposed project in the Screening Assessment section below.

Of the other plans, projects and developments listed, the impact of surface water drainage from the proposed project could have a cumulative impact on the Lower River Suir SAC.

## 6 Screening Assessment

This screening exercise will focus on assessing the likely adverse effects of the project on the Lower River Suir SAC as discussed in Section 3.

This section identifies the potential impacts which may arise as a result of the proposed project. It then goes on to identify how these impacts could potentially impact on the Natura 2000 sites. The significance of potential impacts is also assessed, with any potential in-combination effects also identified.

### 6.1 Assessment Criteria

#### **Description of the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites**

##### *Surface water*

The works will take place in the town of Clonmel, which is adjacent to the Lower River Suir SAC. There are no waterbodies connecting the site to the River Suir. Surface water is directed to the combined sewer system in Clonmel, that is treated in Clonmel WWTP. During high rainfall, some of this water outfalls into the River Suir. However it is expected that due to the small scale and temporary nature of the works, there will be no significant impact through surface water pathways.

##### *Groundwater*

The proposed public realm works lies within the ground waterbody Clonmel (IE\_SE\_G\_040) of which the bedrock is composed of limestone (EPA, 2020). This ground waterbody is classified as a Locally Important Aquifer (GSI, 2020). The groundwater vulnerability is classified as high and the subsoil permeability is medium. The approximate topography of the site is connected to the Lower River Suir SAC via a downhill flow path.

There will be excavations to install the upgraded sewer system as well as undergrounding works of ESB cables, of depths of 2-3m. This depth may interrupt the groundwater flow to the river. There are groundwater dependant features of interest in the River Suir, that rely on baseflow including [1092] White clawed Crayfish, [1095] Sea Lamprey, [1096] Brook Lamprey, [1099] River Lamprey, [1103] Twaite Shad, [1106] Atlantic salmon. However it is expected that the temporary nature, small scale, and piecemeal basis in which the works will be carried out will not disrupt the baseflow of the River Suir, which is large river and relies on a large groundwater catchment, and therefore will not have an effect on these qualifying interests that rely on baseflow.

There are also qualifying interests that rely on more local groundwater systems, including [91E0] Alluvial Forests\* and [6430] Hydrophilous Tall Herb Communities. However these habitats do not occur between the location of the works and the river, and therefore there will be no impacts to these QIs.

Therefore, there will be no significant impact through groundwater pathways at this site.

##### *Land*

The works will take place in a built-up, urban area, and therefore there will be no impacts on any protected habitats.

##### *Air and Noise*

Dust and emissions will be produced during the excavation and construction of this development. However these works will be small scale, and carried out in a piecemeal fashion, and it is unlikely the level of dust and vehicle emissions will impact any qualifying interest of the SAC due to the dilution factor of the large body of water.

The qualifying interests of the SAC, notably Otter, can be impacted by noise and vibration. Any otters that are living close to this site are likely to be highly tolerant of any noise disturbances due to living near an urban environment.

Therefore, impacts via land and air pathways are not anticipated, either alone or in combination with other projects.

**6.1.1 Description of likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites**

| Project Elements   | Comment  |
|--|--|
| Size and scale   | The proposed project will cover approximately 1.9ha in the built environment of Clonmel town, including Irishtown Road, O’Connell Street, Gladstone Street, Sarsfield Street, Mitchell Street, Market Street, Bridge Street , Old Bridge, Wolf tone Street, Abbey Street and Bank Lane, Hopkins Lane, Elbow lane and Blue Anchor Lane. The works to be carried out will chiefly involve excavations for laying of sewers, undergrounding of ESB lines, and the widening of existing footpaths, as well as other improvements to the public realm of Clonmel.   |
| Land-take  | There will be no land take from Lower River Suir SAC   |
| Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site | The Lower River Suir SAC is partly adjacent to the works where footpaths will be widened on Old Bridge Street, but most of the works will be 100m or more away from the River Suir.  |
| Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)             | There will be no water abstraction requirements.   |
| Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)                 | <p>Temporary Impacts</p> <p><i>Surface Water:</i> Several potential pollutants will be utilised during the works, including diesel and engine/hydraulic oils. However it is expected the impact will be minor, and any run-off from the site during heavy rainfall events will enter the stormwater drainage system. However, these sewers direct stormwater through combined sewers to the Clonmel WWTP, therefore there will be no significant impact to the River Suir SAC through water pathways.</p> <p><i>Groundwater:</i> Due to the small scale, temporary nature and piecemeal timing of works, there will be no impacts to the River Suir baseflow or the qualifying interests of the SAC.</p> <p><i>Land and Air:</i></p> <p>Dust will also arise from the works as the ground is broken and excavations made for ESB networks, as well as from taking up paths and road, and re-laying concrete/asphalt. Dust particles could fall into the River Suir SAC, which may impact the water quality of the river. However, this will be temporary and small-scale in nature, and therefore not anticipated to impact the SAC significantly.</p> <p>There will also be an increase in noise during construction from the tools and machines that will be required to carry out the works. This may impact on Otters in the area. However, otters that may be living near this built-up environment will be</p> |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
|                                     | accustomed to higher levels of noise and human disturbance, and this level of noise will not affect them significantly.<br><br>Permanent Impacts:<br>No change   |
| Excavation requirements             | Excavations of up to 3m deep will be required for undergrounding ESB network and upgrading the water mains and the sewer system.   |
| Transportation requirements         | Temporary Impacts:<br>As the works are carried out on each street, road closures and diversions will be implemented which will likely create more traffic jams on roads. This may increase the pollution and potential for petrol spillages from cars in a concentrated area, however this will be temporary.<br>Permanent Impacts:<br>No change |
| Duration of construction, operation | Duration of construction will be 24 months<br><br>Duration of operation: Permanent   |
| Other                               | None   |

### 6.1.2 Description of likely changes to the Natura 2000 Sites

| Potential Impact   | Comment  |
|--|--|
| Reduction of habitat area  | There will be no reduction in habitat area of the SAC, nor any supporting habitats to the Qualifying Interests of the SAC  |
| Disturbance to key species   | Temporary Impacts:<br>The construction works will temporarily increase the noise level and disturbance locally which may impact on Otters in the area. However, otters living near a built-up environment will be accustomed to higher levels of noise and human disturbance, and this level of noise will not affect them.<br>Permanent Impacts: None anticipated           |
| Habitat or species fragmentation                                     | Habitat or species fragmentation is not likely as the project poses no restrictions to habitats or species of Lower River Suir SAC and will take place on existing infrastructure.   |
| Reduction in species density   | It is not likely there will be potential for reduction in density of surface water dependant species during the works  |
| Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.) | Temporary Impacts on Water Quality:<br>Given the proximity to the Natura 2000 site and the connection through surface water, the construction works could impact on water quality, but only during high rainfall.<br><br>Permanent Impacts on Water Quality:<br>Drainage of surface water to the watercourses of the Lower River Suir SAC will continue during high rainfall |
| Climate change   | N/A  |

### 6.1.3 Description of likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole

| Impact  | Comments   |
|---|--|
| Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site | The proposed project is not likely to impact key relationships that define the ecological structure of Lower River Shannon SAC that enables the sites to sustain habitats, complex of habitats and/or levels of populations of species |
| Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site      | The proposed project is not likely to impact key relationships, between water quality, habitats and supported species, that define the function of the Lower River Suir SAC  |

Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:

| Impact  | Indicators   |
|---|--|
| Loss (Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat)     | There will be no loss to of habitat area to Lower River Suir SAC |
| Fragmentation   | None anticipated.  |
| Disruption & disturbance                                | None anticipated.  |
| Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality) | None anticipated   |

### 6.1.4 Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is unknown

Following initial screening, and based upon best scientific judgement it is concluded that there will be no likely significant effects on the following Natura sites:

- Lower River Suir SAC

If any changes occur in the design of these works, a new Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required.

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## Appendix A NBDC records of protected and threatened species within 2km of proposed works

| Species name  | Date of last record | Protection / Designation   |
|---|---------------------|--|
| <b>Amphibian</b>  |                     |  |
| Common Frog ( <i>Rana temporaria</i> )                      | 10/03/2006          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts  |
| <b>Mammal</b>   |                     |  |
| European Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )                       | 31/07/2018          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts |
| Brown Long-eared Bat ( <i>Plecotus auritus</i> )            | 21/09/2007          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Lesser Noctule ( <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> )                 | 23/08/2014          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Pipistrelle ( <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i> ) | 23/08/2014          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Soprano Pipistrelle ( <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> )        | 22/08/2014          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Pine Marten ( <i>Martes martes</i> )                        | 24/07/2016          | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V    Protected Species: Wildlife Acts  |
| Eurasian Badger ( <i>Meles meles</i> )                      | 31/12/2016          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Eurasian Pygmy Shrew ( <i>Sorex minutus</i> )               | 02/04/2017          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Eurasian Red Squirrel ( <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> )           | 12/09/2018          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| Red Deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )                          | 22/02/2017          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| West European Hedgehog ( <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> )       | 10/07/2017          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts   |
| <b>Birds</b>  |                     |  |
| Little Egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )                    | 19/08/2017          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species   |
| Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )                | 31/12/2011          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species   |
| European Golden Plover                                      | 31/12/2011          | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU  |

|                                       |            |  |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--|
| (Pluvialis apricaria)                 |            | Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section II Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section III Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List |
| Common Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis)     | 03/10/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus)          | 27/09/2015 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Merlin (Falco columbarius)            | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus)          | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Rock Pigeon (Columba livia)           | 21/05/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species   |
| Common Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus) | 14/05/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species   |
| Common Wood Pigeon (Columba palumbus) | 19/08/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species   |
| Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)          | 19/08/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species   |
| Grey Partridge (Perdix perdix)        | 31/07/1972 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List           |
| Red Grouse (Lagopus lagopus)          | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive   |

|  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
|  |            | >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List  |
| Common Coot (Fulica atra)              | 05/06/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Common Pochard (Aythya ferina)         | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Eurasian Teal (Anas crecca)            | 25/02/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope)        | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Northern Pintail (Anas acuta)          | 31/12/2001 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List    |
| Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula)          | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Common Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)     | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section III Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Eurasian Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola) | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species:   |

|  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
|  |            | EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section III Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Northern Shoveler (Anas clypeata)              | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section III Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List |
| Gadwall (Anas strepera)                        | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Eurasian Curlew (Numenius arquata)             | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List  |
| Northern Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)           | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List  |
| Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica)                 | 19/04/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Common Grasshopper Warbler (Locustella naevia) | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Common Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)             | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Common Linnet (Carduelis cannabina)            | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)          | 31/07/1972 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Common Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)             | 27/05/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List   |
| Common Swift (Apus apus)                       | 27/07/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species:   |

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
|   |            | Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Passer montanus) | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus) | 29/02/1984 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)   | 15/09/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| House Martin (Delichon urbicum)         | 25/06/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)       | 28/05/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) | 31/12/2001 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis)   | 25/02/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Mew Gull (Larus canus)                  | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)                 | 10/05/2017 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Northern Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe)   | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Sand Martin (Riparia riparia)           | 23/07/2016 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Sky Lark (Alauda arvensis)              | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa striata)  | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| Stock Pigeon ( <i>Columba oenas</i> )                 | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Water Rail ( <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> )                | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List |
| Barn Owl ( <i>Tyto alba</i> )                         | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List   |
| Black-headed Gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )         | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List   |
| Common Quail ( <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> )             | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List   |
| Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )              | 31/07/1991 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List   |
| Ring Ouzel ( <i>Turdus torquatus</i> )                | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List   |
| Yellowhammer ( <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> )           | 31/12/2011 | Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List   |
| <b>Clubmoss</b>                                       |            |  |
| Stag's-horn Clubmoss ( <i>Lycopodium clavatum</i> )   | 31/12/1900 | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V  |
| <b>Flowering Plant</b>                                |            |  |
| Meadow Barley ( <i>Hordeum secalinum</i> )            | 31/12/1877 | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Opposite-leaved Pondweed ( <i>Groenlandia densa</i> ) | 31/12/1866 | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Small-white Orchid ( <i>Pseudorchis albida</i> )      | 31/12/1891 | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Cornflower ( <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> )                | 31/12/1900 | Threatened Species: Regionally Extinct   |
| Greater Broomrape ( <i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i> ) | 31/12/1981 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Heath Cudweed ( <i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> )        | 31/12/1900 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Water-violet ( <i>Hottonia palustris</i> )            | 29/06/2010 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |

| <b>Insect</b>  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Nebrioporus (Nebrioporus) depressus                            | 31/08/1931   | Threatened Species: Data deficient   |
| Large Red Tailed Bumble Bee (Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius) | 20/07/2016   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |
| Andrena (Ptilandrena) angustior                                | 31/05/2009   | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Baetis fuscatus  | 31/12/1996   | Threatened Species: Data deficient   |
| <b>Liverwort</b>   |  |  |
| Atlantic Pawwort (Barbilophozia atlantica)                     | 31/12/1999   | Protected Species: Flora Protection Order    Protected Species: Flora Protection Order >> Flora Protection Order 2015 Schedule C (Liverworts    Threatened Species: Endangered |
| Northern Earwort (Scapania subalpina)                          | 21/08/1966   | Threatened Species: Data deficient   |
| Fringed Heartwort (Ricciocarpos natans)                        | 31/12/1991   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |
| Horsehair Threadwort (Sphenolobopsis pearsonii)                | 28/08/1966   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |
| Waxy Earwort (Douinia ovata)                                   | 31/08/1966   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |
| Lesser Bulin (Merdigera obscura)                               | 31/12/1886   | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| <b>Crustacean</b>  |  |  |
| Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)   | Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) | Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)   |
| <b>Mollusc</b>   |  |  |
| Moss Chrysalis Snail (Pupilla (Pupilla) muscorum)              | 31/12/1886   | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Pisidium pulchellum  | 31/12/1940   | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Plated Snail (Spermodea lamellata)                             | 31/12/1940   | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Pygmy Pea Mussel (Pisidium moitessierianum)                    | 31/12/1940   | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Smooth Ramshorn (Gyraulus (Torquis) laevis)                    | 31/12/1886   | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Common Whorl Snail (Vertigo (Vertigo) pygmaea)                 | 31/12/1886   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |
| Globular Pea Mussel (Pisidium hibernicum)                      | 31/12/1940   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |
| Prickly Snail  | 31/12/1886   | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| (Acanthinula aculeata)  |            |  |
| Ash-black Slug ( <i>Limax cinereoniger</i> )                      | 31/12/1886 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Brown Snail ( <i>Zenobiella subrufescens</i> )                    | 10/08/1971 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Ear Pond Snail ( <i>Radix auricularia</i> )                       | 31/12/1965 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| English Chrysalis Snail ( <i>Leiostyla (Leiostyla) anglica</i> )  | 10/08/1971 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Heath Snail ( <i>Helicella itala</i> )                            | 10/08/1971 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Hollowed Glass Snail ( <i>Zonitoides (Zonitoides) excavatus</i> ) | 31/08/1966 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Lake Orb Mussel ( <i>Musculium lacustre</i> )                     | 07/09/1969 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Smooth Grass Snail ( <i>Vallonia pulchella</i> )                  | 31/12/1886 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| Tree Snail ( <i>Balea (Balea) perversa</i> )                      | 30/09/1984 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable   |
| <b>Moss</b>   |            |  |
| Varnished Hook-moss ( <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> )            | 10/08/1999 | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II    Protected Species: Flora Protection Order    Protected Species: Flora Protection Order >> Flora Protection Order 2015 Schedule B (Mosses)    Threatened Species: Near threatened |
| Large White-moss ( <i>Leucobryum glaucum</i> )                    | 21/08/1966 | Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive    Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV   |
| Cernuous Thread-moss ( <i>Bryum uliginosum</i> )                  | 07/11/1852 | Protected Species: Flora Protection Order    Protected Species: Flora Protection Order >> Flora Protection Order 2015 Schedule B (Mosses)    Threatened Species: Endangered  |
| Prince-of-Wales Feather-moss ( <i>Leptodon smithii</i> )          | 31/12/1956 | Protected Species: Flora Protection Order    Protected Species: Flora Protection Order >> Flora Protection Order 2015 Schedule B (Mosses)    Threatened Species: Endangered  |
| Small Mouse-tail Moss ( <i>Myurella julacea</i> )                 | 31/12/1902 | Protected Species: Flora Protection Order    Protected Species: Flora Protection Order >> Flora Protection Order 2015 Schedule B (Mosses)    Threatened Species: Endangered  |
| Lance-leaved Pottia ( <i>Tortula lanceola</i> )                   | 31/12/1956 | Threatened Species: Critically Endangered  |
| Hair-pointed Grimmiid ( <i>Grimmia trichophylla</i> )             | 12/09/2007 | Threatened Species: Data deficient   |
| River Thread-moss ( <i>Bryum riparium</i> )                       | 31/12/1966 | Threatened Species: Endangered   |
| Common Extinguisher-moss ( <i>Encalypta vulgaris</i> )            | 31/05/1956 | Threatened Species: Near threatened  |

|  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| Felted Thyme-moss<br>(Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum)        | 28/08/1966 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| Fountain Feather-moss<br>(Amblystegium tenax)            | 04/09/1966 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| Long-fruited Thread-moss (Pohlia elongata var. elongata) | 28/08/1966 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| Pendulous Wing-moss (Antitrichia curtipendula)           | 31/12/1966 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| River Bristle-moss (Orthotrichum rivulare)               | 04/09/1966 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| Toothed Streak-moss (Rhabdoweisia crispata)              | 12/09/2007 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| Tufted Feather-moss (Scleropodium cespitans)             | 14/05/1956 | Threatened Species: Near threatened    |
| Drummond's Pincushion (Ulota drummondii)                 | 31/12/1852 | Threatened Species: Regionally Extinct |
| Tufted Thread-moss (Bryum caespiticium)                  | 31/12/1879 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable         |
| Twisting Thread-moss (Bryum torquescens)                 | 31/12/1858 | Threatened Species: Vulnerable         |

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Scientists Limited

Registration number 444752

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# Clonmel Public Realm Improvement Works

## EIAR Screening Report (Final)

June 2020

[www.jbaconsulting.ie](http://www.jbaconsulting.ie)

**Tipperary County Council**  
Emmet Street  
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Co. Tipperary



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

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## Revision History

| Revision Ref/Date  | Amendments                                | Issued to     |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| S3-P01 /17.02.2020 | Draft Report                              | Gillian Flynn |
| S3-P02 /14.05.2020 | Draft, incorporation of client's comments | Gillian Flynn |
| S3-P03 /05.06.2020 | Draft, incorporation of client's comments | Gillian Flynn |
| C01 /08.06.2020    | Final                                     | Gillian Flynn |

## Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Gillian Flynn, on behalf of Tipperary County Council, by a letter dated 15th November. Malin Lundberg of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

Prepared by ..... Malin Lundberg BSc MSc  
 Assistant Ecologist

Reviewed by ..... Bernadette O'Connell BA MSc CMLI  
 Associate Director

## Purpose

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## Abbreviations

|      |  |
|------|--|
| AA   | Appropriate Assessment                       |
| ACA  | Architectural Conservation Area              |
| EIAR | Environmental Impact Assessment Report       |
| NIAH | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage |
| RMP  | Record of Monuments and Places               |
| ZoI  | Zone of Influence                            |

# 1 Introduction

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) was commissioned by Tipperary County Council to prepare an EIAR Screening Document for proposed public enhancement works in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. This report outlines the findings of the screening exercise.

Three options were provided and assessed in the Environmental Options assessment Report (JBA, 2020), and Option 1 was chosen as the preferred option by Tipperary County Council. Therefore, this Assessment is based on the design of Option 1.

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to identify whether there is a need under The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for an EIAR for the proposed works.

Schedule 5 (Parts 1 and 2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 lists the groups of development projects which are subject to different EIAR screening requirements. Those listed in Part 1 are automatically subject to an EIAR under the EU Directive 85/337/EEC due to the scale and nature of the project which has deemed to have significant environmental impacts. Part 2 lists projects which are also likely to have significant environmental effects based on the nature and size of the development set out by threshold criteria. An additional group of projects, which are considered sub-threshold developments under Part 2, may fall below the thresholds set but may under further analysis be deemed to have significant environmental effects due to their location within a catchment, size, or proximity to sensitive areas.

This report documents the methodology employed to determine whether the proposed development falls under any of these groups, and therefore will have significant environmental impacts. Rationale has been given for the decision made in reference to the relevant legislation, and additional documents have been referenced where required.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has been prepared by JBA (2020) and has identified any potential impacts to Natura 2000 sites and protected landscapes. This EIAR Screening document, along with the AA Screening Report, will be submitted as part of the Part 8 planning process for the proposed development.

This EIAR Screening Report is based on:

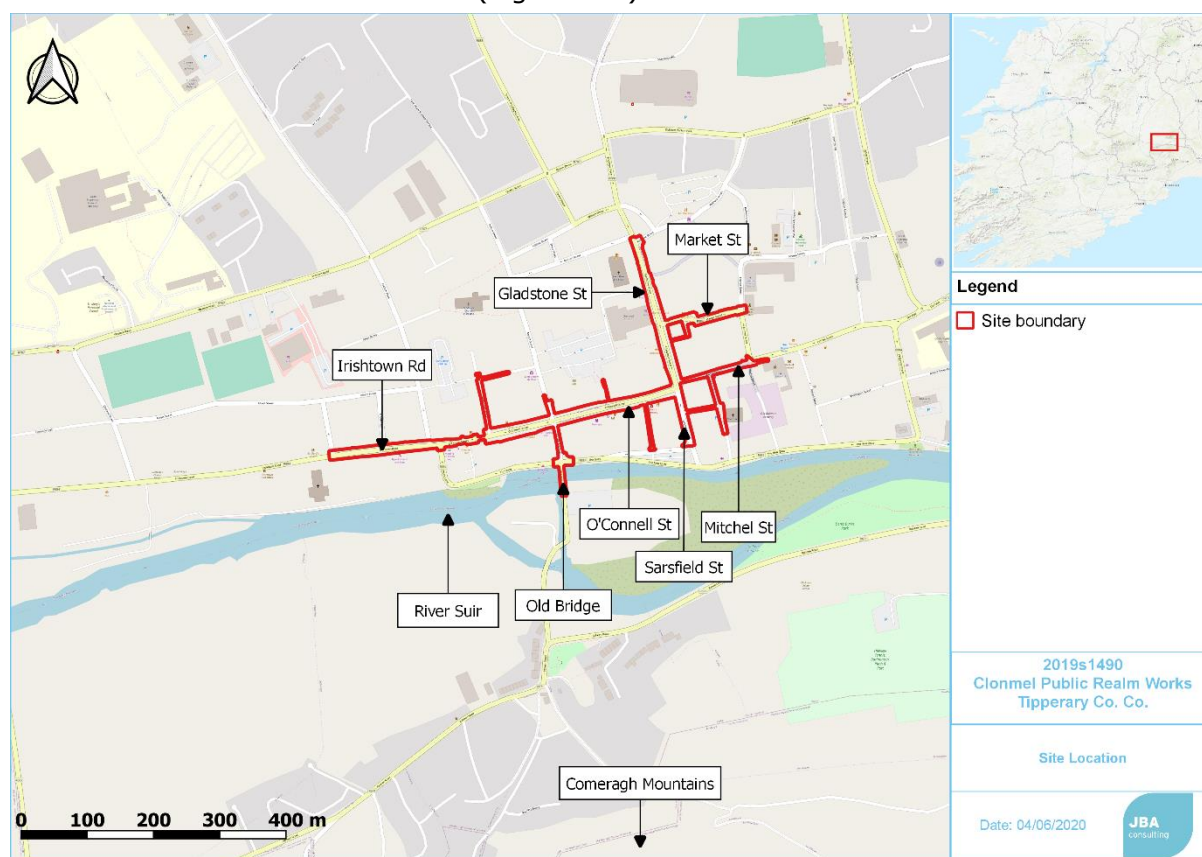
- Clonmel Public Realm Improvement Works – Screening for Appropriate Assessment report (JBA, 2020);
- Review of Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2013-2019 (Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council 2013);
- General Arrangements Overall Scheme Proposals Option 1 (Drawing MGT0491-RPS-00-XX-DG-CGA0001) (RPS, March 2020); and
- Existing Drainage Layout (Irish Water Sewer Network, 2019) and proposed Drainage Layout (Drawing MGT0491-RPS-00-XX-M2-C-DR0001) (RPS, Jan 2020)

## 2 Description of Proposed Works

### 2.1 Site Location

Clonmel is located in the south of County Tipperary and adjacent the border of County Waterford. Its location at the National Road N24 gives an easy access to the gateways of Limerick and Waterford.

The proposed works will be in the town centre of Clonmel. The main roads included in the proposed works are Irishtown Road, O'Connell Street, Gladstone Street, Sarsfield Street, Mitchell Street, Market Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge, Wolf tone Street, Abbey Street and Bank Lane. Also included are some of the lanes off O'Connell St such as Hopkins Lane, Elbow lane and Blue Anchor Lane. (Figure 2-1).



**Figure 2-1: Site location**

### 2.2 Proposed Development

The proposed works to improve the public realm of Clonmel town centre will include the widening and upgrading the surface of existing footpaths, planting of street trees and other landscaping measures, new street furniture, resurfacing and repositioning of parking bays and resurfacing road carriageways and changes to traffic management. The works will also include undergrounding and upgrading of certain utilities. The General Arrangements drawings of the scheme are provided in the Part 8 Application.

The works will include:

- Widening of existing footpaths: the excavation of existing footpaths and pavement and replacing this with stone pavers and macadam to parking bays and carriageways.
- Reduced quantity of parking by change from diagonal parking to parallel parking on O'Connell Street and removal of some spaces to install pedestrian crossings.

- Installation of new public lighting columns
- Tree and shrub planting
- Installation of new CCTV
- Undergrounding the existing overhead ESB network on Gladstone street.
- Peter Street: Undergrounding of overhead electric lines to underground ducting approx. 750mm depth. 3 no. draw pit chambers at approx. depth of 1200mm
- Parnell Street: Undergrounding of overhead electric lines to underground ducting approx. 750mm depth. 1 no. draw pit chambers at approx. depth of 1200mm. Diverted fibre optic duct connecting into existing chamber, duct to depth of approx. 750mm. Upgraded watermain to depth of approx. 1200mm and valve chamber to depth of approx. 1500mm. Diverted gas main to depth of approx. 1200mm and valve chamber to depth of approx. 1500mm
- Excavate trenches for new surface water mains to connect to the existing combined sewers. The depths of these excavations will be: Irish Town: 2.76m, West Gate: 1.97m, O'Connell St. West: 1.97m, Junction of O'Connell St. and Bridge St.: 2.81m, O'Connell St. East/Sarsfield St.: 2.78m, Mitchell St.: 2.87m, Market St.: 1.11m, Foul Sewer at O'Connell St.: 1.45m.

## 2.3 Constraints

Constraints relative to the site and the surrounding area are described below to further describe the baseline environment and to inform this screening on important cultural heritage and ecological features.

### 2.3.1 Cultural Heritage Features

Clonmel town has a rich heritage dating back to medieval times with both architectural and archaeological features throughout the town (Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council, 2013). The town centre has two areas designated Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and is a zone of archaeological potential and features a town wall built during the medieval period which is classified as a National Monument. Only one-sixth of the town wall remains above ground and the rest is sub-surface. The proposed improvement works will be undertaken in the town centre within these sites.

There is one National Monument in State Care, namely the Courthouse also known as 'The Main Guard' (RMP Number: TS083-019004-) which is located at the east end of O'Connell Street.

There are almost hundred features which have been included in the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and which are located within 500m to the proposed works. There are more than 200 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) sites within 500m to the proposed works, all of which are of regional and local heritage status. Some of the RMP sites and NIAH sites are overlapping. These sites are shown in Figure 2-2.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment has been carried out and is provided as part of the Part 8 Application.

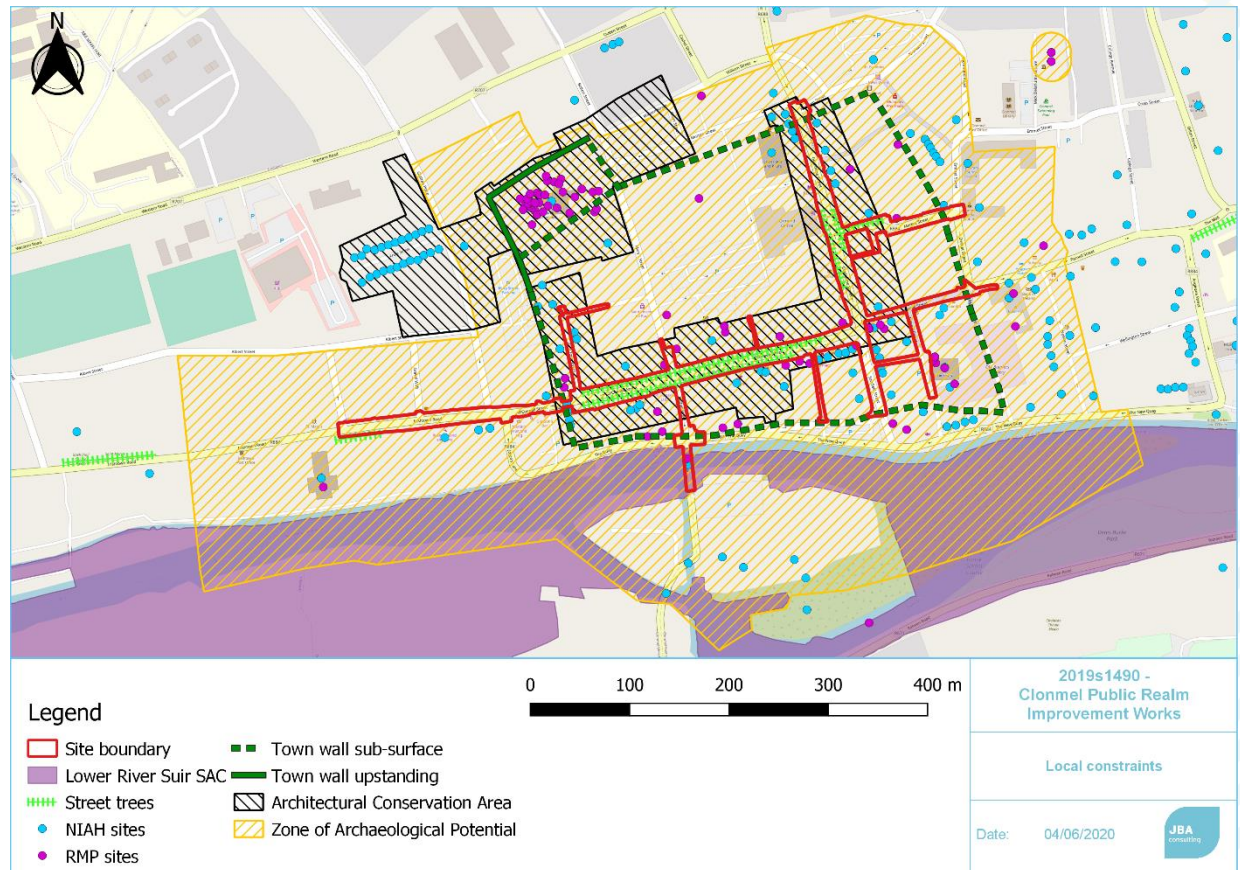
### 2.3.2 Statutory and Non-statutory Protected Sites

The closest Natura 2000 site is Lower River Suir SAC (002137) which is adjacent Clonmel town in the south (Figure 2-2). The SAC consists of the freshwater stretches of the River Suir, which becomes tidal at the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford, including several tributaries. Habitats that may be present within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) include Alluvial Woodland, Floating river vegetation and Hydrophilous tall herb communities. The river itself supports populations of White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), Brook (*Lampetra planeri*), River (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Twaité Shad (*Alosa fallax*) and Salmon (*Salmo*

salar), all of which are qualifying interests of the SAC. There are no other Natura 2000 sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) or proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) within the ZoI (5km). An AA Screening was completed for this development, which determined that the development would have no significant impact on the Natura 2000 sites, neither alone or in combination with other projects.

### 2.3.3 Summary of Constraints

A map of the local constraints including cultural heritage features and ecologically sensitive sites is provided in Figure 2-2 below.



**Figure 2-2: Local constraints of proposed site.**

### 3 Purpose of Screening

#### 3.1 Legislative Context for EIAR in Ireland

The EU sets out mandatory requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments under the EIA Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC). The Directive identifies that certain project types, described under Annex I, will always have significant environmental effects due to their nature and size. These projects are required to undergo an EIAR in every Member State.

For projects listed under Annex II, the EIA Directive gives Member States discretion to decide the limits of projects requiring an EIAR. In Ireland, mandatory thresholds have been set for projects that would otherwise fall under Annex II, which are described in Schedule 5 of The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. These thresholds are based on project characteristics including size and location. Projects within these thresholds are always subject to an EIAR. In some circumstances, projects considered below the thresholds set under Schedule 5 Part 2 may still be considered by the Planning Authority to have significant effects on the environment, such as in cases where the projects are in a location of particular environmental sensitivity and may also be subject to an EIAR. These sub-threshold projects are reviewed by the Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis.

The principal piece of legislation under which an EIAR may be undertaken for various developments is The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Further regulations are explained in The Planning and Development (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2001-2018.

Legislation is examined below as to whether an EIAR will be required for this project.

#### 3.2 The Planning and Development Act 2000 – Mandatory EIAR

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, Section 172 sets out the types of projects that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

An environmental impact assessment shall be carried out by the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, in respect of an application for consent for proposed development where either:

- a. the proposed development would be of a class specified in
  5. i. Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and either-
    - I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or
    - II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned, or
  6. ii. Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and either-
    - I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or
    - II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned, or
- b.
  - i. the proposed development would be of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 but does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, and
  - ii. the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, determines that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

### **3.2.1 Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018**

The proposed development does not fall under Schedule 5, Part 1. The projects under Part 1 are typically large infrastructure and energy projects and by their nature will always have significant environmental effects.

### **3.2.2 Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018**

With regards to Part 2 projects, the categories and thresholds were examined. The proposed development falls under the following category:

- 10. Infrastructure projects: (b) (iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere.  
(In this paragraph, "business district" means a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use.)

The proposed development is defined as an urban development in a business district. However, the development is <2ha (1.93ha) and therefore, an EIAR has not been automatically triggered for this proposed development.

However, it is necessary to consider if this development could result in significant environmental effects under the category of sub-threshold developments.

### **3.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development (August 2003)**

In order to assist planning and other consenting authorities in deciding if significant effects on the environment are likely to arise in the case of development below the national mandatory EIAR thresholds, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published a Guidance document in August 2003 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development.

The criteria, as transposed in Irish legislation, are grouped under three headings:

- i. Characteristics of Proposed Development
- ii. Location of Proposed Development
- iii. Characteristics of Potential Impacts

For the purposes of assessing if the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in reference to these three parameters, the project is described below in further detail.

## 4 Screening Assessment

### 4.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

To determine whether the characteristics of the proposed development are likely to have significant impacts on the environment, the following questions were answered in Table 4-1, following guidelines set out in Guidance for Consenting Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development (2003).

Table 4-1. Characteristics of the Proposed Development

| Characteristics of the Proposed Development - Screening Questions   | Comment  |
|---|--|
| <p>Could the scale (size or design) of the proposed development be considered significant?</p>  | <p>The development will cover 1.93ha. The works are small scale and will entail improvement of existing roads and public realm enhancements to the town centre. The works will also make pedestrian spaces safer and enhance accessibility around the town, this will provide greater opportunities for businesses.</p>  |
| <p>Considered cumulatively with other adjacent proposed developments, would the size of the proposed development be considered significant?</p> | <p>Other developments which have been granted permission within the vicinity include several housing developments, demolition of the Clonmel Meat Factory, new nursing home, hospital extension, a 114 bed hotel and erection of solar panels.</p> <p>These projects could cumulatively impact on surface water, noise and dust. However, best practice construction methods and mitigation measures will be followed, and the effect is not considered to be significant.</p>   |
| <p>Will the proposed development utilise a significant quantity of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water or biodiversity?</p>      | <p>There will be no land take as the improvement works will be carried out on existing roads. Some excavation will be undertaken; however, the works will not require the use of any natural resources. Street trees occur along some sections of the scheme and could potentially be impacted by the works. These trees would provide suitable nesting opportunities for birds. Therefore, any removal of trees will have to take place outside of the bird nesting season, i.e. removal to be undertaken October to March.</p>   |
| <p>Will the proposed development produce a significant quantity of waste?</p>   | <p>During the construction phase, waste generated will be limited to the existing concrete footpaths and excavation from trenches for undergrounding ESB and water. These materials will be extracted and disposed of at a licenced waste facility. The development will not require demolition of any existing buildings.</p> <p>During the operational phase, stormwater from road surfaces will discharge to the existing drainage network which is a combined sewer with overflow discharging into River Suir. This is not anticipated to be a change from current conditions.</p> |
| <p>Will the proposed development create a</p>   | <p>During construction, best practices and mitigation measures will be followed in order to avoid incidents</p>  |

| Characteristics of the Proposed Development - Screening Questions  | Comment  |
|--|--|
| significant amount or type of pollution?   | of pollution. Therefore, a significant amount of pollution is not anticipated.   |
| Will the proposed development create a significant amount of nuisance?   | <p>During construction phase, some noise will be created, and the residences in the immediate area would be impacted by this noise. However, this will be temporary and construction works will be limited to certain times of the day and night to avoid nuisance to local residences.</p> <p>During operation phase, noise and vibration levels and air quality emissions is expected to be the same as before the improvement works, potentially slightly less given that the town centre will be enhanced in favour for pedestrians and the number of parking spaces will be reduced.</p>  |
| Will there be a risk of major accidents having regard to substances or technologies used?                              | Heavy machinery will be used during construction but will be used by licensed operators and will be kept to legal standards of repair. Any work conducted during construction will be subject to the construction company's health and safety policies.  |
| Will there be a risk of natural disasters which are relevant to the project, including those caused by climate change? | Part of the scheme improvement lies within Flood Zone A (1% AEP) and B (0.1% AEP). Flood defences are in place (walls and embankments) and provide the standard protection to the 1% AEP, as such, the residual flood risk is low. Overtopping of the defences will occur during any event greater than 1% AEP, which may become more likely in the future due to climate change. An adaptive approach has been taken so that the flood defences can be altered in the future to account for 20% increase in design flow to allow for climate change. Other residual flood risks include breach, structural failure or operational failure (JBA, 2013; OPW, 2019). |
| Will there be a risk to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)?                        | There will be some temporary air pollution from laying concrete/asphalt, and from the operation of heavy machinery. However, this will be temporary during the construction phase of this project and all contractors will be subject to best practice methodologies and risk assessments to minimize the risk to human health. The proposed development, i.e. improvement and widening of footpaths, will provide a safer area for pedestrians in the town centre.  |
| Would any combination of the above factors be considered likely to have significant effects on the environment?        | No.  |

**Conclusion:** The characteristics of the proposed development are not considered to result in a significant impact on the environment by virtue of their size, nature, or operational activities. The works entail improvement of existing roads and public realm enhancements

to the town centre which will provide opportunities for businesses. The works also make pedestrian spaces safer and enhance accessibility around the town. During the construction phase there will be short term, temporary impacts from noise and air resulting from construction activities.. Best practice guidelines will be adhered to during the construction in order to minimise the probability of impacts on the surrounding environment.

**Reasoning: The proposed works within this project will provide additional pedestrian space/make safer and more inclusive, by carry out widening of footpaths, installation of new light columns and undergrounding the ESB network. The works will be undertaken along existing roads; thus no new land take will occur. The construction works will not require significant use of natural resources, nor will it generate significant amounts of waste. Any environmental or noise impacts will be during the construction phase and not during operation of the improved roads and footpaths. The proposed development is relatively small in nature and is not likely to have impacts on the environment after construction.**

#### 4.2 Location of the Proposed Development

The following questions have been answered below in Table 4-2 to determine whether the geographical location of the proposed development can be considered ecologically or environmentally sensitive.

Table 4-2. Location of the Proposed Development

| Characteristics of the Proposed Development - Screening Questions  | Comment  |
|--|--|
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any site designated for conservation interest (e.g. SAC, SPA, pNHA)?  | An AA Screening has been completed by JBA which determined that the proposed development will not have any significant on any Natura 2000 sites. The River Suir SAC is within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the project but have been screened-out in the AA Screening Report. There are no other designated sites within the ZoI of the project. |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any habitats listed as Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive?          | As outlined by the AA Screening, there are some Annex I habitats within the ZoI, however, any potential impacts on these protected habitats have been ruled out in the AA Screening.   |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any habitats listed as Priority Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive? | As above. The priority habitat 91E0 Alluvial Forests which is within the ZoI is not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed works. This is confirmed by the AA Screening Report.  |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any species listed as Annex II in the EU Habitats Directive?          | River Suir supports Annex II species, however it is not anticipated that the proposed works will significantly impact on these. This is confirmed by the AA Screening Report.  |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on the breeding places of any  | The development will be carried out in the built environment of the town centre. Though there are some street trees along some sections of the roads which could be impacted by the works, these are   |

| Characteristics of the Proposed Development - Screening Questions   | Comment   |
|---|---|
| species protected under the Wildlife Act?   | immature and not suitable as breeding habitat for e.g. birds. However, any vegetation removal will have to be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season, i.e. removal between October and March.   |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on the existing or approved land use?   | The land where the proposed improvements will be undertaken is zoned as "03 - Town Centre" in the Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2013, which is in line with the objectives of the development. The proposed works will upgrade the existing roads and footpaths.  |
| Has the proposed development the potential to significantly impact directly or indirectly the relative abundance, availability, quality or regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground? | The development is small in its nature and will not utilize a significant amount of materials during construction. The works will entail improvement of existing public realm in the town centre, and so the development will not cause a significant loss of biodiversity.   |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any protected structures or Recorded Monuments and Places of Archaeological Interest?  | The development is in a zone of archaeological potential, it is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and includes a town wall built during the medieval period which is a National Monument. Only one-sixth of the town wall remains above ground and the rest is sub-surface. The area has a high density of Recorded Monuments and Places, almost hundred records within 500m of the proposed development. There are over 200 recorded sites listed by NIAH within 500m of the development site, which are of regional and local importance. There is one National Monument within State Care in Clonmel town centre, the Courthouse (RMP Number: TS083-019004-). Whilst no elements of above ground built heritage will be altered as part of the works, the unknown underground archaeological resources may be affected by excavation works. |
| Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on listed or scenic views or protected landscapes as outlined in the County Development Plan?   | There are no listed or scenic views in proximity of the proposed development.   |

**Conclusions:** It can be concluded that the proposed development will not have a significant impact on any European Designated Sites by virtue of its location. This has been confirmed in the AA Screening Report provided for this development. An ecological walkover of the site has been completed and no potential adverse effects on sensitive

habitats and/or species of conservation concern within the development site were identified.

The site is considered archaeologically sensitive, due to the historical significance of Clonmel town and the close proximity of multiple sites including Protected Structures under state care, and those listed by the NIAH. An Archaeological Impact Assessment has been prepared which identifies the potential impacts the development could have on archaeology (Henry, 2020). The Clonmel Public Realm Improvement works will be within a Zone of Archaeological Potential and all archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service

**Reasoning:** The AA Screening highlights the lack of connectivity from the proposed development via surface water, land & air and groundwater to the Natura 2000 sites within the 5km buffer zone. It is predicted that there will be no significant impacts on any of Natura 2000 sites. When considered with other plans and projects, this project will not significantly affect any European Designated Sites.

The study area is within the town centre, which is a Zone of Archaeological Potential, and designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), it is possible that the excavation works associated with construction activities have the potential to impact on these features. The works will take place in previously disturbed areas and as such, the risk of impact on archaeological features will be reduced. Further, all archaeological works will be carried out under Ministerial Consent and archaeological monitoring which will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to avoid impact on archaeology.

### 4.3 Characteristics of Potential Impacts

An additional screening exercise was completed to characterise potential impacts. This is outlined in Table 4-3 and Table 4-4.

The following table gives a brief assessment of impacts according to the theme in which they would be covered in any EIAR as specified in the Directive.

Table 4-3. Overview of Impacts According to Theme (as in an EIAR)

| EIA Section   | Brief Assessment of Impacts  |
|---------------|--|
| Human Beings  | <p>Local people will experience temporary impacts during the construction of the development also resulting in temporary road closure, which may cause traffic congestion elsewhere in the locality. Normal construction noise may impact on residences near the development site.</p> <p>There will be a benefit to human beings as the development will provide safe and accessible footpaths in the town centre, in favour for pedestrians. There will be a reduction in parking spaces in the town centre, potentially leading to a reduced traffic.</p> |
| Flora & Fauna | <p>The proposed development could potentially impact on some of the existing street trees; however, these are not considered to be of importance for bats or nesting birds. It is proposed to plant semi-mature trees within purpose-built tree pits. An AA Screening Report has been prepared on the proposed road development which finds no negative impact on</p>  |

| EIA Section          | Brief Assessment of Impacts   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | sensitive receptors or European sites. The proposed improvement works relates to pre-existing roads and footpaths, made ground and hard surfaces.   |
| Soils & Geology      | The construction works will require small amounts of excavation for the replacement of surfaces and for undergrounding the ESB network. Impacts on geology are unlikely and any potential impacts would be temporary during the construction phase.   |
| Water                | <p>Construction activities could have an impact on the water quality of River Suir through the creation of oil spillages, concrete, dust and emissions. Runoff from the roads during operation will enter the existing combined sewer system which is treated in Clonmel Waste Water Treatment Plant. Overflow during heavy rainfall is diverted to outfalls at River Suir. Best practice standards and guidelines will be adhered to in order to avoid impacts on water quality.</p> <p>Part of the scheme improvement lies within Flood Zone A (1% AEP) and B (0.1% AEP). Flood defences are in place (walls and embankments) and provide the standard protection to the 1% AEP. As such, the residual flood risk is low.</p> |
| Air & Climate        | <p>During the construction phase, temporary dust emissions will arise during excavation and construction works. Road closures and diversions will be implemented which will likely create more traffic jams on roads. This may increase the pollution and potential for petrol spillages from cars in a concentrated area, however this will be temporary during construction works.</p> <p>During operation, no increase in traffic emissions are expected compared to current use of the roads.</p>   |
| Noise & Vibration    | An increase in noise and vibration levels is expected during the construction phase but the impact will be temporary in nature. These will be from excavation of existing footpaths and replacing them with new pavement, and from excavations for undergrounding the ESB network.  |
| Landscape and visual | The proposed development will not intrude or obscure any scenic views for surrounding sensitive receivers. Improvements are proposed to enhance the public realm in the town centre, including planting of trees and shrubs.  |
| Material Assets      | <p>Road closures or resident only access may be required during construction. Traffic would be affected during this time and during deliveries to and from site by large machinery.</p> <p>The proposed development will improve access for pedestrians. Further, undergrounding of the ESB network will be carried out.</p>  |

| EIA Section              | Brief Assessment of Impacts   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Cultural Heritage        | The site of development is considered sensitive in terms of the cultural heritage, with several RMP sites and NIAH sites, including a protected National Monument within State care close to the proposed works. Whilst no elements of above ground built heritage will be altered as part of the works, the unknown underground archaeological resources may be affected by excavation works. However, the works will take place in previously disturbed areas and as such, the risk of impact on archaeological features will be reduced. An Archaeological Impact Assessment has been carried out which identify potential impacts. As the works will be within a Zone of Archaeological Potential, all archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service |
| Interaction of Foregoing | There will be no significant interactions of the foregoing causing significant environmental impacts.   |

The following questions were answered in Table 4-4, in line with Guidance on EIA Screening - June 2001, prepared for the European Commission by ERM (UK), to determine whether the environmental impacts of the development can be considered significant.

Table 4-4. Characteristics of Potential Impacts

| Characteristics of Impacts - Screening Questions                 | Comment  |
|--|--|
| Will there be a large change in environmental conditions?        | The proposed development will not result in any large change in environmental conditions as the development is small in nature. The works will include improvement of the existing public realm, such as widening of footpaths, reducing the amount of parking spaces and undergrounding the ESB network. The main layout of the town centre will stay the same. |
| Will new features be out-of-scale with the existing environment? | The widening of footpaths will enhance the public realm and is not anticipated to be out-of-scale.   |
| Will the effect be particularly complex?                         | The effects during construction will be predictable and alleviation measures can be appropriately applied to minimize the effects to the environment. No impacts have been identified during the operational phase of the project.   |
| Will the effect extend over a large area?                        | Given the small scale and local nature of the proposed development it is highly unlikely that the effect will extend over a large area.  |

| Characteristics of Impacts<br>- Screening Questions                                       | Comment   |
|---|---|
| Will there be any potential for trans-frontier impacts?                                   | No.   |
| Will many people be affected?   | During construction, the development has the potential to impact on the local residents and people working in Clonmel through noise and impacts to traffic flow, however, this will be temporary. The proposed works will improve the public realm for pedestrians, making it safer and more accessible. There will be a slight reduction in car parking, affecting tourists and people living outside of the town centre.  |
| Will many receptors of other types (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected? | The AA screening concluded that there will be no impacts to Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the site. No habitats or protected species, such as nesting birds or bats, will be impacted by the proposed works.<br>No business or facilities will be significantly impacted. Enhancement of the public realm will make it more accessible for pedestrians which will potentially benefit businesses in the area.   |
| Will valuable or scarce features or resources be affected?                                | There is potential for the proposed development to impact on protected structures/sites of cultural and archaeological heritage. An Archaeological Impact Assessment has been carried out and since the Clonmel Public Realm Improvement works will be within a Zone of Archaeological Potential, all archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service. |
| Is there a risk that environmental standards will be breached?                            | During the construction phase there is a residual risk of environmental standards being breached, however Contractors will be subject to a Risk Assessment and will be required to follow best practices in their contractual obligations, which will minimise the risk of any environmental standards to be breached.  |
| Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features will be affected?                   | The site is archaeologically sensitive, and there will be a risk that protected sites could be impacted during the construction phase of the project. However, works will be undertaken in previously disturbed areas reducing the risk to impact on any archaeological features. The works will be within a Zone of Archaeological Potential and all archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht.  |

| Characteristics of Impacts<br>- Screening Questions                                     | Comment  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service.</p> <p>There will be no Natura 2000 sites, sensitive ecological features, or water features impacted by this development.</p>  |
| <p>Is there a high probability of the effect occurring?</p>                             | <p>As Clonmel town centre is a zone of archaeological potential and has a high density of protected structures, an Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out. All archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service. As such, there is low probability of the effect to occur.</p> |
| <p>Will the effect continue for a long time?</p>  | <p>All archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service. As such, there will be no long time effect.</p>   |
| <p>Will the effect be permanent rather than temporary?</p>                              | <p>See above.</p>  |
| <p>Will the impact be continuous rather than intermittent?</p>                          | <p>The impact would be for the duration of construction works, and so temporary and short-term.</p>  |
| <p>If it is intermittent will it be frequent rather than rare?</p>                      | <p>The impact would be rare.</p>   |
| <p>Will the impacts be irreversible?</p>  | <p>All archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service. As such, no irreversible effect is anticipated.</p>   |
| <p>Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect?</p> | <p>An Archaeological Impact Assessment has been carried out and all archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any</p>  |

| Characteristics of Impacts<br>- Screening Questions | Comment   |
|---|---|
|   | uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service. . |

**Conclusions:** It is concluded that the type and characteristics of impacts on the environment for this development are not considered significant. There are no potential impacts on designated biodiversity sites. The site visit concluded that the proposed development is not anticipated to have an impact on protected species.

As the works will be within a Zone of Archaeological Potential and all archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service. Therefore, it is not considered for any impacts to be significant. **Reasoning:** The proposed scheme will be in line with the zoning and planning objectives of the Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2013. The impacts of the development will be limited to the phase of construction. There have been no identified impacts during the operational phase of the project. The impacts are predictable, temporary and not considered complex. Due to the absence of any sensitive or protected habitats; and the lack of potential impact connectivity with the Natura 2000 sites, the proposed development is not predicted to adversely impact these sites, neither will it impact on any protected species on site.

Given the heritage sensitivity of the site, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) has been carried out and it identifies potential impacts on these features from excavation works associated with the streetscape improvement. All archaeological works will be carried out under Ministerial Consent and archaeological monitoring which will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to avoid impact on archaeology.

## 5 Conclusions and Recommendations

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, the development project does not require the preparation of an EIAR. An EIAR Screening exercise was carried out to determine the potential for significant environmental impacts for sub-threshold projects listed under Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. This screening exercise examined the project in terms of its size, nature, operational activities, location, and the significance of any impacts identified. The EIAR screening made reference to the Clonmel Public Realm Improvement Works - Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) report, which will also accompany the planning application.

Based on the results of the above screening exercise, an EIAR is not required or recommended for this project. The site is considered archaeologically sensitive and an Archaeological Impact Assessment has been carried out (Henry, 2020). All archaeological works will be carried out under a Ministerial Consent to be granted by National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Archaeological monitoring during construction will ensure that appropriate strategies are adopted to resolve any uncovered deposits or features under the guidance of the National Monument Service.

It is not predicted that the proposed development will have a significant impact on the designated European Natura 2000 site (Lower River Suir SAC), which is confirmed by the accompanying AA Screening Report.

Overall, the proposed scheme will not result in a significant change in environmental conditions and that an EIAR is not required for this project.

The overall conclusion is based on the details of the scheme provided by Tipperary County Council. If the extent of the scheme or the construction methods for the scheme are changed then the EIAR Screening assessment should be reviewed.

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