January 2022
Rev 1.0

# Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

# **Project Title:**

R611 Cork Road Pedestrian Crossing & Active Travel Link to CETB Site



Document Info Sheet		
Project Title	R611 Cork Road Pedestrian Crossing & Active Travel Link to CETB Site	
Document Title	Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report	
Filename	2022_P8_01_03_03_Report for the EIA Screening_Rev1.0.docx	

Document Revision History						
Revision	Date	Originator	Consulter	Checker	Approver	Description
Rev 1.0	15/01/2022	MD	-	-	-	First Draft

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#### 1 Introduction

This document contains the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report in respect of the proposed R611 Cork Road Pedestrian Crossing & Active Travel Link to CETB Site, Carrigaline.

#### 1.1 Description of the Project

The study area starts at the edge of the R611 Cork road, traverses the shared green space of the Carrig Na Curra Estate beside an existing attenuation tank, goes through a small, overgrown and not in use triangular privately owned land and up to the rear gates of the Educational Campus - whereby the proposed pedestrian/cycle path is to be linked with completed pedestrian/cycle path. (*See Figure 1*) The purpose of this project is to construct approx. 70m long 3-4m wide footpath linking an existing footpath along R611 Cork road and the recently completed pedestrian/cycle path within school grounds.

The land acquisition is necessary from private landowners.

The scheme includes the following principle features:

- Alterations to existing footpaths, cycle tracks and shared space paths;
- Installation of new footpaths, cycle tracks and shared space paths;
- Alteration to the existing boundary between the Carrig Na Curra estate and private dwelling;
- Erection of the protective fences on both sides of the proposed Pedestrian Link to separate the path from the green space within Carrig Na Curra estate and the private dwelling;
- Demolition and reconstruction of short section of the Estate Boundary Wall and Fence at the connection to the R611 road;
- Alteration to existing drainage;
- Alteration to the existing Attenuation Tank;
- Alteration to existing public lighting;
- Installation of new signage and road markings;
- Installation of the controlled gate, to be operated by the School Campus management;
- Several hedges/bushes/briars will be trimmed and removed; and
- All ancillary works required to deliver the proposed upgrade works.

The project requires excavation and removal of existing soil and other organic material and the laying down of new surfaces. Excavated material is to be removed off site and disposed of to licensed landfill. Refuelling of plant and machinery is to be undertaken at dedicated Contractor fuel stations on the route during delivery of the works.

#### 2 Legislative Context for Environmental Impact Assessment

EIA requirements derive from Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Directive 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC. The Directive and its amendments were subsequently codified and replaced by Directive 2001/92/EU, as amended in turn by Directive 2014/52/EU. This amending Directive was transposed into national planning consent procedures in September 2018 through the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018).

#### 2.1 EIA Directive

The objective of the EIA Directive is to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health, through the establishment of minimum requirements for environmental impact assessment prior to development consent being given, of public and private developments that are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

EIA is mandatory for certain projects and for other projects that meet or exceed a stated threshold as set out in Annexes I and II of the Directive (and Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended). Projects that do not meet or exceed a stated threshold are subject to a preliminary assessment for the requirement, or not, for 'sub-threshold' EIA.

#### 2.2 Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

The Proposed Development is a local authority own development and therefore, the requirement for sub-threshold EIA is addressed under Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2019, which states:

- (a) Where a local authority proposes to carry out a subthreshold development, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.
- (b) Where the local authority concludes, based on such preliminary examination, that—
  - (i) there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall conclude that an EIA is not required,
  - (ii) there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination, or
  - (iii) there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall—
    - (I) conclude that the development would be likely to have such effects, and
    - (II) prepare, or cause to be prepared, an EIAR in respect of the development.

Schedule 5 Part 1, does not include any development types which are applicable to the proposed scheme whereas in Part 2 the only reference to road development is listed for "All private roads which would exceed 2km in length" and as such is not applicable to subject works on public road.

#### 2.3 Roads Act 1993 (as amended).

The provision of the Roads Act 1993, as amended, has been considered for the proposed road development. Section 50 (1)(a) [Environmental Impact Assessment Report] requires a road development comprising any of the following road development types listed in Table 2.1 to be subject to an environmental impact assessment. For clarity, Cork County Council are considered to be the Road Authority for the purposes of Section 50 (1) of the Roads Act 1993, as amended.

Table 1 EIA Requirements under Section 50(1) of the Roads Act

Section 50 (1) Roads Act reference	EIA Requirement?
(a)(i) Construction of a motorway	No. The proposed
	development consists of
	improvements to an existing
	regional road.
(ii) Construction of a busway	No. The proposed
	development does not include
	a busway.
(iii) Construction of a service area	No. The proposed
	development does not include
	any service area.
(iv) Any prescribed type of proposed road development consisting of the	No. The proposed
construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of a public road.	development comprises
The types of road development are prescribed under Article 8 the Roads	footpath/cyclepath.
Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 119 of 1994), as comprising;	T
The construction of a new road of four lanes, or the	Total proposed length of
realignment or widening of an existing road so as to	footpath is 70m which falls
provide four or more lanes, where such new,	below the 500m threshold for urban areas.
realigned or widened road would be eight kilometres or more in length on a rural area, or 500 metres or	urban areas.
more in length an urban area	
The construction of a new bridge or tunnel which	There is no bridge or tunnel
would be 100 metres or more in length	proposed as part of the
would be 100 metres of more in length	development.
(b) Where an An Bord Pleanála (ABP) considers that a proposed road	The proposed development is
development would be likely to have significant effects on the	being made under Part 8
environment it shall direct the road authority to prepare an EIS	(Requirements in Respect of
, and an	Specified Development by, on
	behalf of, or in Partnership
	with Local Authorities) of the
	Planning and Development
	Regulations 2001, as
	amended.
(c) Where a road authority considers that a proposed road development	No. Not applicable based on
would be likely to have significant effects on the environment it shall	the outcome of this screening
inform ABP in writing and where ABP concurs it shall direct the road	assessment.
authority to prepare an EIS	
(d) Where a proposed road development would be located on certain	No. The proposed
environmental sites the road authority shall decide whether the proposed	development is not within or
road development would be likely to have significant effects on the	proximate to any European
environment. The sites concerned are:	Site or any site listed under
(i) a European Site within the meaning of Regulation	the Wildlife Act.
2 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural	The Appropriate Assessment
Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No.477 of 2011),	Screening Report prepared for
(ii) land established or recognised as a nature	this application confirms no
reserve within the meaning of section 15 or 16 of the	significant effects to European
Wildlife Act 1976 (No. 39 of 1976),	Sites within proximity to the proposed road development.
(iii) land designated as a refuge for fauna or flora	Sites designated under the
under section 17 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (No. 39 of	Wildlife Act are not adversely
1976), or	or significantly impacted by
(iv) land designated a natural heritage area under	the proposed development.
section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, (v) A Nature Reserve within the meaning of sections	p. oposea development.
15 or 16 of the Wildlife Act, 1976	
13 of 10 of the Whallye Act, 1970	

Section 50 (1) Roads Act reference	EIA Requirement?
the road authority or the Authority, as the case may be, proposing the	
development shall decide whether or not the proposed development	
would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.	
(e) Where a decision is being made pursuant to this subsection on	No. Not applicable based on
whether a road development that is proposed would or would not be	the outcome of this screening
likely to have significant effects on the environment, An Bord Pleanála, or	which has been assessed
the road authority or the Authority concerned (as the case may be), shall	against the criteria specified
take into account the relevant selection criteria specified in Annex III.	in Annex III.

Proposed road development also does not meet any descriptions or thresholds set out in Section 50(1) of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) therefore there is no mandatory requirement for EIA to be completed.

## 3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening

## 3.1 Sub-Threshold EIA Screening Considerations

Sub-threshold projects in Schedule 5 Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, require screening for EIA, except in cases where the likelihood of significant effects can be readily excluded. Schedule 7 sets out the following criteria for determining whether development listed on Part 2 of Schedule 5 should be subject to an EIA:

- Characteristics of the proposed development
- Location of the proposed development
- Types and characteristics of potential impacts

Table 2 Sub-Threshold EIA Screening Criteria

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	
Characteristics of the proposed development	The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:	
	a. the size and design of the whole project;	
	b. cumulation with other existing development and/or	
	development the subject of a consent for proposed development	
	for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or	
	development the subject of any development consent for the	
	purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by	
	or under any other enactment,	
	c. the nature of any associated demolition works;	
	d. the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and	
	biodiversity;	
	e. the production of waste;	
	f. pollution and nuisances;	
	g. the risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant	
	to the project concerned, including those caused by climate	
	change, in accordance with scientific knowledge; and	
	h. the risks to human health (for example due to water	
	contamination or air pollution)	
Location of the proposed	The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected	
development	by projects must be considered, with particular regard to:	
	a. the existing and approved land use;	
	b. the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative	
	capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and	
	biodiversity) in the area and its underground;	

Sub-Criteria
c. the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:  i. wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;  ii. coastal zones and the marine environment;  iii. mountain and forest areas;  iv. nature reserves and parks;  v. areas classified or protected under national legislation;  Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States  pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive  2009/147/EC;  vi. areas in which there has already been a failure to meet  the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
vii. densely populated areas; and viii. landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or
archaeological significance.  The likely significant effects of projects on the environment must be considered in relation to criteria set out in points 1 and 2 of this Annex, with regard in particular to the impact of the project on the factors specified in Article 3(1), taking into account:  a. the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);  b. the nature of the impact; c. the transboundary nature of the impact; d. the intensity and complexity of the impact; e. the probability of the impact; f. the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact; g. the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment, and

Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, sets out the following information to be provided by the Applicant or Developer for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for EIA.

- 1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular:
  - a. a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works; and
  - b. a description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.
- 2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.
- 3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from
  - a. the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and

- b. the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.
- 4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.

This information is provided in Paragraph 1.1 above and in the subsequent section of this report.

#### 3.2 Criteria in Relation to Sub-Threshold Development

The following sections consider the criteria detailed in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, for determining whether sub-threshold development listed on Part 2 of Schedule 5 should be subject to an EIA.

#### 3.2.1 Characteristic of the Proposed Development

The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:

Table 3 Characteristic of the Proposed Work Criteria

Criterion	Discussion	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment?
The size and design of the whole of the proposed development	The proposed development comprises of construction of approx. 70m long 3-4m wide footpath, breaking down 1m high masonry wall over a distance of approx. 5m and installation of lockable gate. The works will be done within existing housing estate's common area.	The size of the entire proposed development is not considered significant. These types of works are common in Ireland. Impacts can be predicted, and effective mitigation can be readily implemented to ensure that significant adverse impacts are
Cumulation with other existing and/or approved projects	Cork County Council planning enquiry system has been searched for applications lodged in the vicinity of the proposed scheme. Small scale dwelling developments (construction/alteration/improvements) were found. These are small scale in nature and will not have adverse cumulative effect.	not likely.  There are no functional interdependencies with any existing and/or approved projects that will give rise to potential impacts.  There is no significant impact to the environment when the proposed scheme is considered cumulatively with other existing and/or approved projects.
The nature of any associated demolition works	It is required to make an opening and install a gate in the boundary wall of Carrig na Curra property. Dismantling works of approx. 1m high masonry wall over a distance of approx. 5m is required. The wall to be broken down is not load bearing or otherwise related to the physical integrity of any other structure.	No, impact of the demolition works required are not anticipated to be significant and will be removed using hand tools or entirely by hand.  Resulting rubble will be disposed to licensed landfill.
The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity?  The production of waste	Other than construction materials (aggregate, sand, rock, bitumen), the volumes of natural resources will be limited for the proposed development.  The project will require excavation and	The impacts in terms of natural resource use are not anticipated to be significant.  The appointed contractor shall
	removal of existing topsoil and short section of masonry boundary wall.	implement a construction phase waste management plan which is in compliance with the Waste

Criterion	Discussion	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment?
	During construction solid waste will be generated however volumes requiring off-site management will not be significant. Waste requiring off-site management will be sent off site for disposal to licensed landfill.	Management Act 1996, as amended, and associated Regulations to ensure that significant adverse effects in terms of waste management can be avoided.
Pollution and nuisance	The proposed works will result in nuisance and disturbance relating to noise, dust and potential surface run-off caused by construction activities.  Noise & Vibration: Given the proximity of the main R611 Cork road with extremely high volumes of traffic at peak hours, the surrounding environment is habitually subject to a degree of disturbance.  Dust: The proposed works are likely to result in the temporary generation of dust. Breaking out the section of a masonry boundary wall has the potential to cause dust.  Surface Water Run-off: The proposed site has a hydrological connection to the Cork Harbour SPA. At the closest point the distance from the work site to the boundary of the SPA will be approximately 2800m.  There is potential for run-off associated with the works. This can arise from cementitious materials due to concrete works, toxic contamination of hydrocarbons due to accidental spills and leaks, and sediment laden waters due to instream and bankside works.	Construction phase impacts will be of temporary to short-term duration. The development and implementation of a Construction Regulations will ensure that those impacts are minimised. It is not anticipated that significant impacts relating to pollution and nuisance are likely.
The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge	Due to the small nature and location at the outer fringe of existing housing estate common area the proposed works are not subject to any risks related to major accidents and/or disasters.	There are no significant risks associated with this scheme.
The risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)?	Small amounts of dust may be generated during the construction phase and the implementation of standard construction control measures will ensure that dust deposition is minimised or eliminated.  There are no identified public drinking water supplies therefore the overall risk to human health is low.	Given the nature of the proposed development and measures that will be implemented in relation to containment and storage of materials, the impacts associated with substances or materials which could be harmful to human health, to the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health.

# 3.2.2 Location of the Proposed Development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development, with particular regard to:

Table 4 Location of the Proposed Work Criteria

Criterion	Discussion	Is this likely to result in
		significant effects on the
		environment?
The existing and approved land use	The proposed works are located within the existing housing estate common area. At present the land required for the proposed works is of similar use.	Given the nature of the proposed development, it is not anticipated that impacts in terms of land use will be significant.
The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	The land comprises of amenity improved grassland within an existing housing estate and bound on one side by overgrown arborvitaes cleared of foliage and prepared for removal. At the completion of works surrounding areas will be landscaped with similar material.	Impacts to natural resources are not anticipated to be significant and are anticipated to be localised and of temporary to short-term duration, with land use reinstated where possible after the works are completed.
The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:  • wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;  • coastal zones and the marine environment;  • mountain and forest areas;  • nature reserves and parks;  • areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;  • areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;  • densely populated areas; and  • landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or	There is a significant distance between the works site and Cork Harbour SPA (approx. 2800m) and a source-pathreceptor analysis carried out as part of Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that impacts on the above SPA during construction or operational phases of the development will be negligible. The proposed site is located within densely populated area and will not have any impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment. There are no nearby sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.	The works are limited in scale and will not result in any significant adverse impact on the natural environment, in particular any area listed under Schedule 7 Paragraph 3(c) (i) to (viii) as listed herein.

## 3.2.3 Type and Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The likely significant effects on the environment of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(I) to (V) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment report' in section 171A of the Act, taking into account:

Table 5 Type and Characteristic of the Proposed Work Criteria

Criterion	Discussion	Is this likely to result in
Citterion	Discussion:	significant effects on the environment?
The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The magnitude and spatial extent of the proposed works are limited to the common area of an existing housing estate.	The anticipated impacts will relate to the construction phase only and will be of temporary and short-term in duration.
The nature of the impact, the transboundary nature of the impact	The impacts generated by the construction activities will occur over short duration construction period and is expected to be contained to the site.	The project will not result in transboundary impacts.
The intensity and complexity of the impact	Potential construction impacts are not considered to be significantly complex nor intense due to the nature of the works.	Given the transient and standardised nature of the proposals, the impacts are not anticipated to be particularly intense or complex.
The probability of the impact	During construction, conventional construction and best environmental practice techniques can be readily deployed. Impacts in relation to noise, vibration, dust and traffic nuisance will be associated with the construction stage only, these likely impacts are negative, temporary but not significant.	While impacts are likely to occur, it is anticipated that standard construction mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that significant impacts are not likely.
The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact	Construction stage traffic impact and nuisances will be temporary and short-term coinciding with the construction phase of the project.	Impacts during the construction phase will be infrequent and can be anticipated to be insignificant, temporary and short-term. Once completed, effects will be insignificant and permanent.
The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects and the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	There are currently no known existing or permitted projects (including under other legislation that is subject to EIA) that could give rise to significant adverse cumulative effects.  There will be habitat loss within the footprint of the works which is unable to be reduced as topsoil removal will be required for the footpath. Dust and noise raising during the construction phase will effectively reduce any such impacts on the local population/human health.	It is anticipated that standard construction mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise the risk of adverse cumulative effects related to nuisance and disturbance during the construction phase and adverse cumulative impacts post-construction.

#### 4 Overall Conclusion

It is concluded that impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed road improvement scheme are not considered to be significant in the context of Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, to the extent that an EIA is required. This conclusion is based on the findings of the analysis provided in the preceding sections in relation to:

- Characteristics of Project
- Location of Project
- Type and Characteristics of Potential Impact

As part of the above analysis, a broad range of environmental media have been assessed including soil, hydrology, ecology, air quality and noise in combination with planning and landuse considerations in the context of construction and operational phases. No potential impacts of significance were identified during either phase of the proposed development's lifetime.

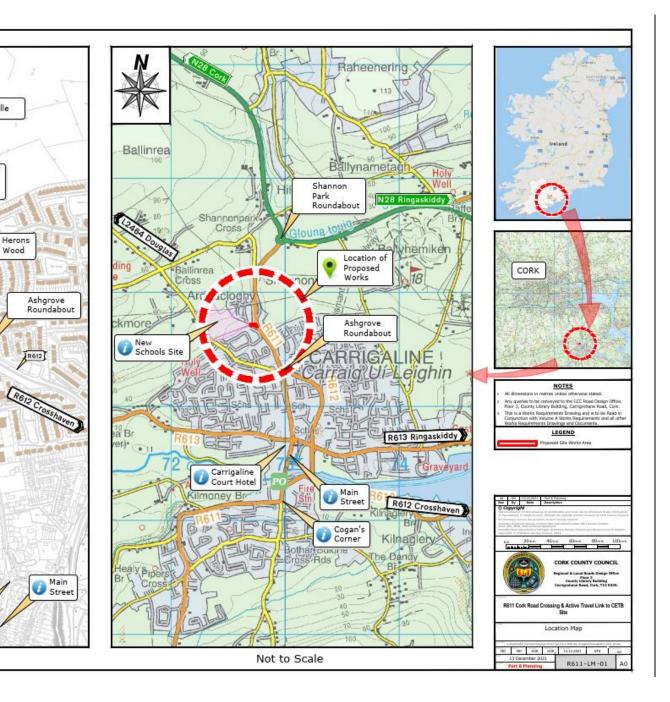


Figure 1 Project Location Map

Janeville

Location of Proposed

Works

Carrig Na Curra

Carrigmore

Carrigaline Court Hotel

Not to Scale

Heron Roundabout

New

U Eoin

Schools Site

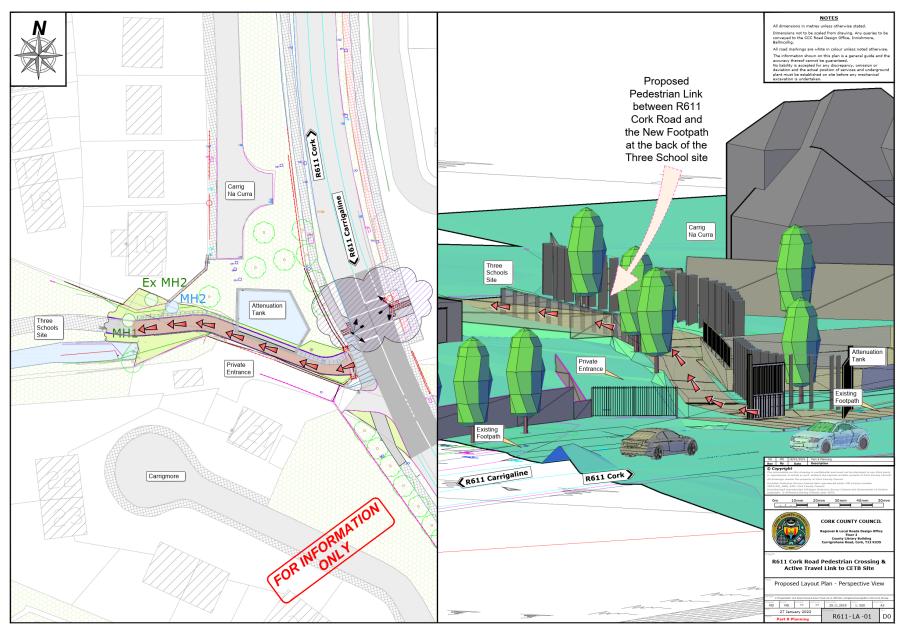


Figure 2 Project Overview Plan

