



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council



Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Part XI

Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 8

Roads Act 1993 (as amended) – Section 50 (1) (a)

Statutory Instrument No. 119/1994 – Roads Regulations 1994 (as amended).

CARRIGTWOHILL TO MIDLETON INTER-URBAN CYCLEWAY PHASE 2

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SCREENING DETERMINATION

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Cork County Council is proposing the construction of a dedicated pedestrian and cycle route from lands west of Ballyadam Road (L7640-0), Carrigtwohill to lands east of Castle Rock Avenue, (L3618-0), Water-Rock, Midleton. The dedicated pedestrian and cycle corridor will connect the Carrigtwohill and Water Rock Urban Expansion Areas and to the Carrigtwohill to Midleton Inter-urban Cycle Route Phase 1. The proposed development includes the following:

- A general cross section of 4m wide shared pedestrian and cycle path with public lighting and landscaping on both sides;
- 1 no. pedestrian / cyclist underpass below an existing bridge embankment north of the Cork to Midleton railway line;
- 1 no. toucan crossing at Carrigane Road (L3617-25);
- Raised pedestrian/cycle crossings at Ballyadam Road (L7640-0 and Castle Rock Road (L3618-0);
- Traffic calming measures on existing roads Ballyadam Road (L7640-0 and Carrigane Road (L3617-25).

A detailed description, location map and drawings of the proposed development route have been provided in the accompanying Part 8 Planning Documentation which includes the Part 8 Planning Application Report, Ecological Impact Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report, Report on Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and associated drawings prepared in respect of the proposed scheme, and which will be placed on display with the Part 8 documentation.

Having regard to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive), the guidance contained in: “*Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development*” (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2003); “*Environmental Impact – Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Screening*” (published by the European Commission in 2017); “*Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*” (published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 2018); and on the basis of the objective information provided in the Part 8 drawings and details including the EIA Screening Report carried out by ATKINS dated December 2023, which concluded that the proposed development is a sub-threshold development that is unlikely to have significant environmental affects in the relevant areas, Cork County Council, as the Competent Authority, must determine whether this project individually, or in combination with other plans and projects requires an Environmental Impact Assessment.

In making a determination, consideration must be given to the EIA Directive and in particular to Annex I, II and III of that Directive, which set out requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA. Consideration must also be given to the Roads Act 1991 (as amended) and Roads Regulations 1994 (as amended). It is considered that the Screening Report, has been carried out giving full consideration to the EIA Directive and to Annex I, II and III of that Directive and to the Roads Act 1991 (as amended) particularly S 50 (a) and SI. No. 119/1994 – Roads Regulations 1994 (as amended).

As the Scheme is sub-threshold, it has therefore been assessed on a case-by case basis in accordance with the Criteria for Determining Whether or Not a Development Would or Would Not be Likely to have Significant Effects on the Environment as outlined within Annex III of the EIA Directive. The EIA Screening Report has considered the characteristics of the proposed development and potential impacts, the environmental site setting and the type and characteristics of potential impacts.

Having reviewed and considered the EIA Screening Report and having regard to:-

- The scale, nature and location of the proposed development which relates to the development of pedestrian and cyclist facilities likely to have an overall positive impact on the existing environment, in that it may lead to a reduction in car use and the associated congestion / pollution associated with same;
- The urban nature of the proposed development which starts within the development boundary of Carrigtwohill adjoining the suburban railway line and extends to the development boundary of Midleton;
- The existing pattern of development in the vicinity of the proposal;
- The conclusions of the Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Screening Determination that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans / projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 site);
- The criteria set out in Article 120(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended;

- The mitigation measures proposed in the report to inform the environmental impact assessment screening of the proposed development, including the implementation of an approved project specific CEMP.

It is considered that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and it is determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.



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