

# **EIA Screening Determination for Part 8 Development Proposed Environmental and Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square and Main Street, Kilcullen, including part of Bentley's Lane (L-60741-0) and section of the pedestrian walkway along the eastern banks of the River Liffey**

## **1. Introduction**

This report assesses the requirement for an EIAR for the proposed Part 8 development of environmental improvement works to Market Square and Main Street, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

## **2. Development**

The development will comprise of following at Market Square and Main Street to include part of Bentley's Lane (L-60741-0) and also a section of the pedestrian walkway along the eastern banks of the River Liffey, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare.

- Footpath widening and resurfacing
- Resurfacing of riverside walkway and LED lighting introduced
- Upgrade of street furniture and street lighting to include a multi-functional lighting column in Market Square
- Resurfacing of Market Square and introduction of new stepped access from Main Street, planter and street furniture.
- Upgrade of stepped access to riverside walkway from Market Square
- Planting of 6 trees
- Removal of 15 car parking spaces in Market Square and formalisation of on street parking along Main Street
- Junction improvements at the local access into Bentley's Lane (L-60741-0) to include a raised pedestrian crossing
- 3 Pedestrian crossings on Main Street (2 no controlled and 1 uncontrolled)
- All necessary services and utility provision and associated site works.

## **3. Legislative Context**

The proposed development is not within the prescribed classes of development/thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, for the purposes of Section 176 of the Planning Act.

It is noted that Article 120(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) requires;

- (a) *where a local authority proposes to carry out an EIA sub-threshold development, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at least, the nature, size or location of the development.*
- (b) *Where the local authority concludes, based on such preliminary examination, that-*
- (1) *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.*

Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) sets out information to be provided for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development, i.e.

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.*

#### **4. Preliminary Examination**

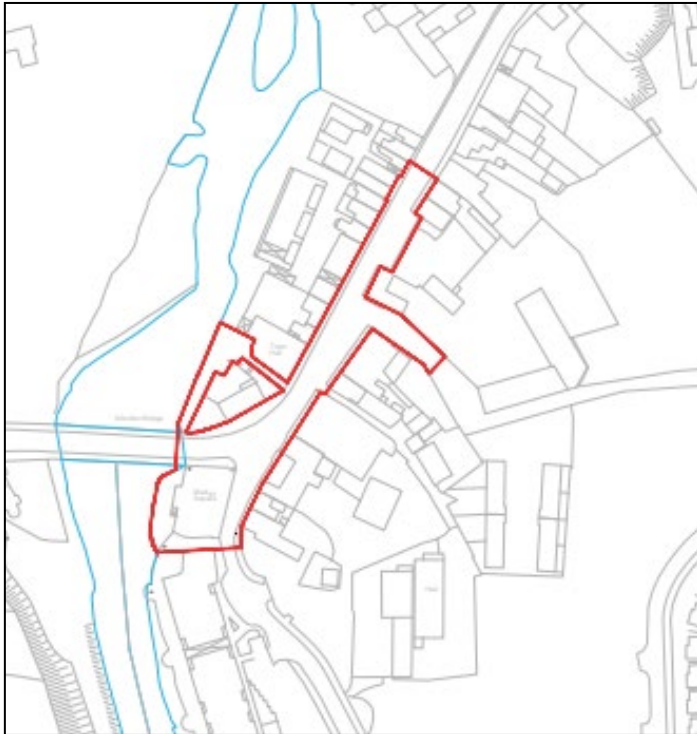
##### **Proposed Development**

The proposed scheme involves environmental improvement works to Market Square, Main Street to include part of Bentley's Lane (L-60741-0) and section of the pedestrian walkway along the eastern banks of the River Liffey Kilcullen - to create a flexible, pedestrian-orientated space.

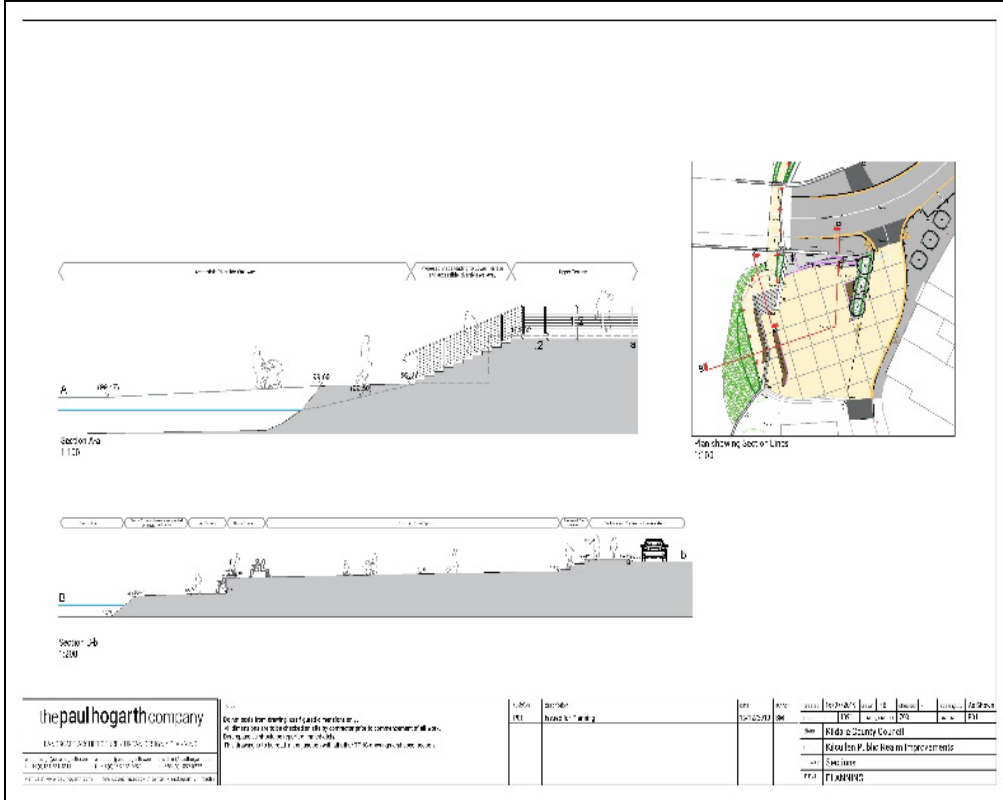
The proposal uses high quality public realm materials and craftsmanship comprising natural stone paving, semi-mature specimen tree planting, bespoke street furniture and contemporary lighting and involves the removal of 15 car parking spaces from Market Square and the rationalisation of informal on-street parking on Main Street.

Footpath widening and a footpath surface upgrade is proposed, in addition to the introduction of generous, natural stone steps that will improve pedestrian connectivity between Main Street and Market Square and between Market Street with the riverside walkway. A feature multi-functional lighting column at the Market Square will include Wifi, CCTV, image projector, Tannoy speaker system, power and water

supply, all integrated into the feature column. As a result, the Market Square will be equipped to host a range of activities and events throughout the year for the benefit of the community and local businesses.



Site layout plan



Site Section Drawings

## **Location and Context**

The Part 8 site is entirely located within Kilcullen town centre, County Kildare on the east bank of the River Liffey that runs through the centre of the Town. The town itself is situated off the Dublin to Waterford (M9) motorway, approximately 50km from Dublin City Centre, 12km from Naas and 8km from Newbridge. The site area is outlined in red on the Plan above and comprises 158m of Main Street from the east side of Kilcullen Bridge, a carpark area to the south-east of the bridge- known locally as Market Square, a part of Bentley's Lane and also a section of riverside walkway to the north of the bridge.

Market Square, accommodating a fifteen-space car park, is overlooked by a modern 5-storey mixed-use block containing apartments and businesses. Extending northwards, Main Street, which is the primary vehicular route through Kilcullen, is bounded on either side by predominantly two-storey commercial properties and Kilcullen Town Hall. To the northeast, the Part 8 site branches into Bentley's Lane (L-60741-0) to allow for junction improvements which include a raised pedestrian crossing and to the north along a section of pedestrian walkway which needs upgraded and carefully illuminated.

The current horizontal surfaces of the Part 8 site are, in the most part, given over to vehicular traffic and parking with an uncoordinated range of paving, walling and uneven pedestrian footways. At the outset it should be emphasised that the proposed works are confined to the horizontal surfaces of the square and no work is envisaged to the surrounding buildings which form the vertical enclosure to the sides of the Part 8 site. The Part 8 site comprises a total area of 4615m<sup>2</sup> (0.4615 Ha).



*Aerial view of site*



*Nature of site and surrounding area*

### **Supporting Assessments**

The geographical area affected does not have environmental sensitivities. Supporting studies have been conducted including an Archaeological Assessment, Conservation Report, Parking Report, Storm Drainage, Utilities and Flood Risk Assessment and conclude the proposed works have no significant environmental impact.

The Archaeological Assessment determines that no structures or features were identified as having the potential to be impacted, directly or indirectly, by the proposed works and note the development area is considered to be of limited archaeological potential.

The Conservation Report states that no historic surfacing materials appear to survive in the Part 8 site and the Flood Assessment states that the existing area and proposed public realm upgrade can be classified as a “*less vulnerable development*”.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also been prepared for the proposed development and it concludes that the development is unlikely to significantly affect the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of European Sites. A Natura Impact Statement therefore is not required.

## **5. Screening Assessment**

### **Characteristics of Proposed Development**

<b>Is the size and design significant</b>	The proposed development is not significant in terms of size and design. The proposed development is a 0.46ha site area with existing buildings, carriageway, public realm and impermeable areas which is to be upgraded and improved.
<b>Potential for impacts from project in cumulation with other existing and/or approved projects</b>	None.
<b>Use of natural resources</b>	NA
<b>Will the works produce waste</b>	Construction waste (broken concrete and soil), to be disposed of in accordance with a waste management plan approved by Kildare County Council. Construction works are moderate in nature and building waste will be disposed of in accordance with a construction and waste management plan approved by Kildare County Council. The proposed development is not a type which produces waste, residue or emissions of note, nor is it the type of development which uses natural resources to give rise to any significant effects on the environment. Therefore, subject to normal construction and

	waste disposal practices, no aspects of the environment are likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.
<b>Will the works create significant amount of pollution nuisance</b>	No. Design has incorporated SUDS. Minor and localised temporary impacts due to noise and construction traffic during works
<b>Risk of major accident and/or disaster relevant to the project including those caused by Climate Change</b>	None
<b>Risk to human health</b>	None
<b>Potential for cumulative impacts with other existing and/or approved projects</b>	No significant cumulative impacts are likely to arise in view of the small scale and contained nature of the works.

**Location of Proposed Development**

<b>Environmental Sensitivity of project in relation to existing and approved land uses</b>	The project is located adjacent to the River Liffey. There are no European sites present within the redline boundary and the closest European site is 7.52 km away - Pollardstown Fen SAC (000396
<b>Relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of national resources in the area and its underground</b>	NA as existing site contains surfacing (carriage way, footpaths, hard standing areas)
<b>Absorption of natural environment including wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths, coastal zones and the marine environment, mountain and forest areas.</b>	Existing site contains surfacing (carriage way, footpaths, hard standing areas) and is surrounded by buildings. A section of the site runs along the River Liffey, however works are not proposed to the river banks, only to the existing hard surfacing.
<b>Potential of works to impact directly or indirectly on sites designated for the nature conservation (NHA?SAC?SPA)</b>	NA – the closest SAC is 7.52 km away - Pollardstown Fen SAC (000396) with no direct connections to same.
<b>Potential for Impacts directly or indirectly on Habitats or Species listed in Annex I, II and IV of the Habitats Directive</b>	NA – the closest SAC is 7.52 km away - Pollardstown Fen SAC (000396) with no direct connections to same.
<b>Potential for impacts on breeding places of any species protected under the Wildlife Act</b>	No mobile fauna species for which European sites are designated are known to use habitats within the subject lands. No habitat loss will be incurred by the proposed development
<b>Potential to directly or indirectly impact an ACA or protected structures or national monuments</b>	The subject site area is not located within an ACA. Works are not proposed to any protected structures, however works are proposed adjacent to a 6 structures of note . A conservation report has been submitted which details impact on same which are considered negligible.
<b>Potential to impact directly or indirectly on listed or scenic views/protected landscapes</b>	NA

<b>Potential to impact on densely populated areas</b>	Minor and localised temporary impacts due to noise and construction traffic during works
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***Characteristics of Potential Impacts***

<b>Human Beings</b>	Minor and localised temporary impacts due to noise and construction traffic during works
<b>Flora and Fauna</b>	No habitat loss will be incurred by the proposed development
<b>Soils and Geology</b>	No impact on existing soil characteristics by the proposed development
<b>Water</b>	SUDS network to be incorporated into the proposed public realm improvement works
<b>Air and Climate</b>	No impact on air and climate by the proposed development
<b>Noise and Vibrations</b>	Minor and localised temporary impacts due to noise and construction traffic during works
<b>Landscape</b>	The proposed development is within Kilcullen town centre and will not have a negative impact on the existing landscape
<b>Material Assets</b>	The proposed development will not have any significant impact on material assets including public utilities and natural resources
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	The impact of new public realm works adjacent to cultural heritage structures will be mitigated through careful conservation design

It is considered that the extent of the proposed works are largely confined to the immediate area. It is within a well populated town of Kilcullen, however, it is considered that the population will not be significantly impacted by the proposed development. All impacts on areas of sensitivity will be minimised by the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. Proposed works will be carried out in line with environmentally sensitive construction methodologies. Temporary impacts in relation to construction, such as noise and disturbance, are likely to occur, however these will be short term and best practice construction methods will result in any impacts being insignificant. Having regard to the above, it is considered that the types and characteristics of the potential impacts are not significant.

**6. Screening Determination**

Having regard to the scale and nature of the works proposed, the intended use of the site, and the nature of surrounding development, it is not considered that the proposed environmental improvement works will give rise to any significant effects or cumulative effects on the environment and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required.

**24th January 2022**