

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) - Part XAB
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) –Part 8

Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Kildare County Council is proposing Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square, Kildare Town comprising an area of c. 6540m² which incorporates the public areas both North and South of Bride Street (R415), Church Lane (known as Firecastle Lane) extending Westward to Heffernan's Lane and the pedestrian laneway to Nugent Street carpark (rear of Top Nolans).

A detailed description of the proposed development has been provided in Section 2.2 of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report, prepared by NM Ecology Ltd Consultant Ecologists on behalf of Kildare County Council, with drawings provided with the Part 8 application. The development includes

- Adjustments to the road network and parking arrangements .
- Re-grading Market Square, North of Bride Street, Bride Street and the Eastern roadway whereby kerbs are removed to bring the surface of the public realm to top of existing kerb levels.
- Re-grading the entrance area to Market House (RPS 822-42) to provide level access.
- Upgrading footpath surfaces throughout site area using high quality natural stone.
- Widening and revision of the footpath layouts along Dublin Street.
- Introduction of bollards to manage vehicular access at Church Lane (Firecastle Lane) and Market Square East.
- Repositioning of the Bus Shelter on the North side of Dublin Street to improve pedestrian movement and access around Market House .
- Consolidation of wayfinding and signage throughout the site area .
- Introduction of hard and soft landscaping (including 8no. additional street trees) throughout Market Square .

- Introduction of bespoke street furniture, seating, lighting and bicycle parking .
- Provision of 6no. Pedestrian crossings (1 no. controlled and 5no. uncontrolled) and widening of existing 3no. controlled crossings .
- Removal of overhead cables and services and relocation underground .
- Upgrading of carriageways, signage, road markings and drainage works including implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems .
- Provision of all utilities, necessary services and associated site works .

Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the guidance contained in the document entitled "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities*" (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009) and following an examination of the objective information provided in the *Screening for Appropriate Assessment report* prepared by NM Ecology, on behalf of Kildare County Council, as the Competent Authority, determines that the proposed Public Realm Improvement Works at Market Square, Kildare Town, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, does not have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on European sites, their conservation objectives or integrity, and therefore does not require an Appropriate Assessment.

Key points in the determination:

- The proposed development site is not located within any Natura 2000 sites, so there is no risk of habitat loss, fragmentation or any other direct impacts.
- Rainwater runoff will be collected in roadside drains and discharged to a combined sewer. The proposed development will not generate foul water.
- The site does not have connections to watercourses.

It is therefore highly improbable that a project of this nature and scale will have any measurable impact on the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the project appraisal either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 sites and their Conservation Objectives.


Bébhinn O'Shea
Senior Executive Planner

16/01/2024

Aoife Brangan

Aoife Brangan

A/SP

16/01/24

ORDER: That Kildare County Council as the Competent Authority, having considered the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report, prepared by NM Ecology Ltd Consultant Ecologists on behalf of Kildare County Council, makes a determination that a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the proposed public realm improvement works at Market Square, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 sites and their Conservation Objectives.

Signed: 
Chief Executive

Date: 16/1/2024