



# EIA SCREENING REPORT

Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience

Prepared for Limerick City and County Council

MEC Ltd.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Background

Limerick City and County Council have proposed interventions as part of the Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience under the Failte Ireland Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme. The proposed development is situated in Limerick City Centre, encompassing the areas of Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane.

## 1.2 Legislative Background

EIA requirements derive from EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC, Directive 2014/52/EU and S.I. 454 of 2011; S.I. 464 of 2011; S.I. 456 of 2011 and S.I. No 296 of 2018).<sup>1</sup> on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The purpose of this Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report is to determine whether this proposed development will require full Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Directive outlines in Article 4 (1) 21 Annex 1 projects that require mandatory EIA. Article 4 (2) outlines Annex 2 projects that require consideration for EIA further to a case-by-case examination or through thresholds and criteria established by Member States. Projects requiring mandatory EIA are listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Where developments are under the relevant EIA threshold, planning authorities are required under Article 103 of the 2001 Regulations, as amended, to request an EIS where it considers the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. In these cases the significant effects of the project are assessed relative to the criteria contained in Schedule 7a of the regulations, principally:

- The projects characteristics
- Sensitivity of the project location, and
- Characterisation of potential impacts.

In addition, where the development would be located on or in an area, site etc. set out in Article 103(2), the planning authority shall decide whether the development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment for such site, area or land etc. the implication being that if it decides that it would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, it can invoke its powers to request an EIS. Article 103(2) sites comprise the following:

- a) A European Site;
- b) An area the subject of a notice under section 16(2) (b) of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000;
- c) An area designated as a Natural Heritage Area under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000;
- d) Land established or recognised as a nature reserve within the meaning of section 15 or 16 of the Wildlife Act, 1976, as amended by sections 26 and 27 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000; or

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/si/296/made/en/pdf>

e) Land designated as a refuge for flora or as a refuge for fauna under section 17 of the Wildlife Act, 1976, as amended by section 28 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000.

### 1.3 Screening

According to European Commission Guidance (2017<sup>2</sup>)

*“Screening has to implement the Directive’s overall aim, i.e. to determine if a Project listed in Annex II is likely to have significant effects on the environment and, therefore, be made subject to a requirement for Development Consent and an assessment, with regards to its effects on the environment. At the same time, Screening should ensure that an EIA is carried out only for those Projects for which it is thought that a significant impact on the environment is possible, thereby ensuring a more efficient use of both public and private resources. Hence, Screening has to strike the right balance between the above two objectives.”*

According to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (2018):

*“For all sub-threshold developments listed in Schedule 5 Part 2, where no EIAR is submitted or EIA determination requested, a screening determination is required to be undertaken by the competent authority unless, on preliminary examination it can be concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment. This is initiated by the competent authority following the receipt of a planning application or appeal*

*A preliminary examination is undertaken, based on professional expertise and experience, and having regard to the ‘Source – Pathway – Target’ model, where appropriate. The examination should have regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 to the 2001 Regulations.*

*Where, based on a preliminary examination of the information submitted with the application and any other supplementary information received, the competent authority concludes that, having considered the nature, size and location of the proposed development, there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment, this should be recorded with reasons for this conclusion stated, and no EIA required or formal determination made. The recording of the competent authority’s view should be brief and concise, but adequate to inform the public. In many cases this considered view will be included in the planner’s/inspector’s report on the planning application and this may be cross-referenced in the competent authority’s decision. Normally, this will be published at the time of the decision of the competent authority.”*

Annex II: Information to be provided by the developer on the projects listed in Annex II:

#### **1. A description of the project, including in particular:**

- (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole project and, where relevant, of demolition works (**Section 2 of this report**);
- (b) a description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected (**Section 3 of this report**)

#### **2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project (Section 3 of this report)**

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<sup>2</sup> Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU). European Commission 2017. Page 23.

**3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the project on the environment resulting from:**

(a) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant (*Section 4 of this report*);

(b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity (*Section 4 of this report*).

**4. The criteria of Annex III shall be taken into account, where relevant, when compiling the information in accordance with points 1 to 3 (*Section 4 of this report*).**

Article 4(4) specifies that the developer may provide a description of any features of the project and/or mitigation measures to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant effects on the environment. It should be noted that this does NOT include compensation measures (**Mitigation measures are provided in Section 2.2.**).

Article 4(5) Determination of Screening

The competent authority shall make its determination, on the basis of information provided by the developer in accordance with paragraph 4 taking into account, where relevant, the results of preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to Union legislation other than this Directive.

The determination shall be made available to the public and:

(a) where it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is required, state the main reasons for requiring such assessment with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III; or

(b) where it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is not required, state the main reasons for not requiring such assessment with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III, and, where proposed by the developer, state any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.

The EIA Screening prepared here will inform the competent authority, in this instance Limerick City and County Council on the EIA Screening Determination please see Section 5 of this Report for the EIA Screening Determination as proposed.

## 1.4 Approach to this EIS Screening

This EIS Screening report has been prepared and informed by the following guidance and guidelines:

- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018;
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), European Commission, 2017.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2003;
- Guidance on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements Environmental Protection Agency 2002.

## 1.5 Statement of Authority

This report has been prepared by Ruth Minogue, MCIEEM and Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta, MSc. Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy. Ruth has been a practicing environmental consultant for 21

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years and has specialised in the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Sanghamitra is a Junior Consultant at Minogue Environmental Consulting. Additional inputs were provided by Eilis Vaughan, who provided the Geographical Information Systems analysis and mapping outputs.

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## 2 Description of the Proposed Development

### 2.1 Project Description

The proposed development is situated on a site in Limerick City, Co. Limerick. Encompassing the areas of Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane. The overall footprint of the development site is approximately 0.40 hectares. It will comprise of the following elements:

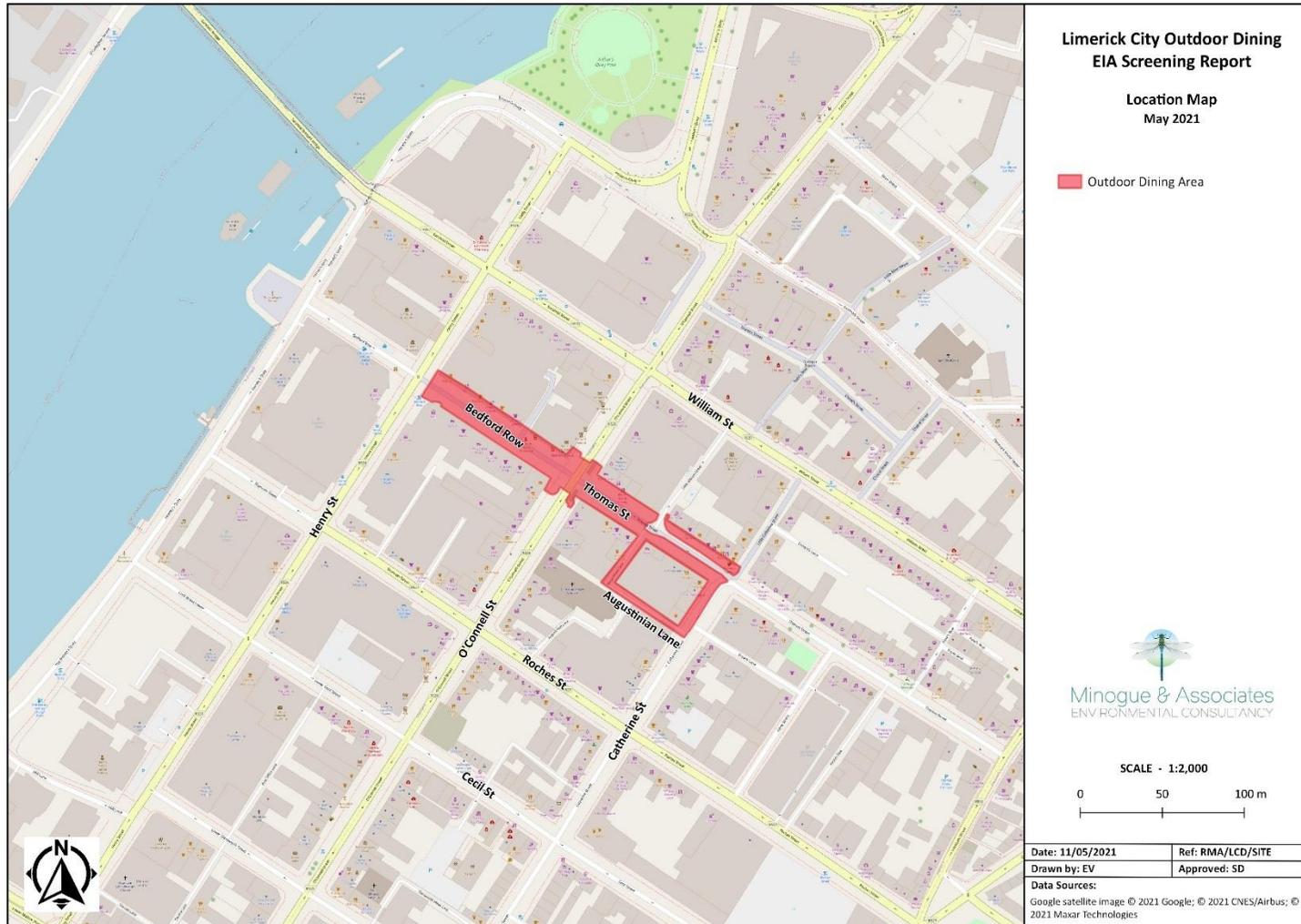
The existing City Centre public realm setting and outdoor dining experience will be up-graded through new sheltered dining areas and street furniture.

Increased lighting provision including feature catenary lighting in Augustinian Lane and feature uplighting of the Bow-way.

'Smart bollards' to provide wifi, pedestrian management, as well as additional lighting and art projections.

**Figure 3.1.** depicts the location of the proposed project.

Figure 3.1. Location of the Proposed Project



## 2.2 Proposed Development

The development will entail the removal of elements of existing surplus or damaged street furniture as well as potential building mounted elements from parts of the site to accommodate the following:

- Covered pergola structures with retractable roofs, toughened glass screens, containerised small trees, bin screen, smart bollards, water bottle refill station, smart solar compacting bins, catenary lighting, uplighting of Bow-way and all ancillary site works.
- Ancillary wastes will be managed as part of an integrated Waste Management Plan and will be separated to the appropriate waste streams for disposal to suitably licensed facilities in the region. These waste streams are described below.

### 2.2.1 Excavation

This will involve localised excavation of existing hard surfaces for installation of pergola structures and other features that require foundation and services.

Spoil material will be removed from site to an authorised waste facility.

### 2.2.2 Surface Water and water supply

Surface water run off from pergolas will drain to the existing surface and storm water network and water supply for refill bottles will be supplied from the mains water supply. There are no issues in relation to capacity of these elements of the infrastructure.

Description of elements included in the proposed works can be found in the following **Table 2.1**.

**TABLE 2.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED WORKS**

Element	Location(s)	Description
Covered Pergolas	Bedford Row Thomas Street	A network of self standing pergolas that will extend along the frontages of restaurants and cafes along the street, which would extend covered outdoor dining space into the street. These would feature a retractable roof and side shades, integrated lighting and optional attachments including heaters and additional lighting.  These structures would need reinforced concrete foundations as well as a metered electrical connection extending to the associated premises. Rainwater management is integrated into the pergola with internal guttering system.
Toughened Glass Screens	Bedford Row Thomas Street	Toughened glass screens of varying heights from approximately 1m to 2m depending on locational requirements. These form an enclosure and partitions within and around the pergolas. They will be root fixed requiring a small foundation, or bolted to existing surface as situations allow.
Containerised Small Trees and Shrubs	All Areas	A series of small multistem trees (Amalanchier etc) and shrubs in large containers.

Element	Location(s)	Description
Bin Screen	Augustinian Lane	<p>Hardwood clad screens to enclose and secure waste containers and other unavoidable clutter associated with businesses in Augustinian Lane. The screen would also act as a secondary secure threshold for the rear of business premises.</p> <p>These units could require a localised excavation for a small foundation or are bolted to existing surface as situation dictates.</p>
Smart Bollards	Bedford Row Thomas Street	<p>'Smart' modular luminaire in the form of a slim cylindrical column.</p> <p>With integrated smart components including wifi, pedestrian/traffic management, environmental sensors and projectors.</p> <p>These units could require localised excavation for a reinforced concrete foundation as well as an electrical connection and associated ancillary works</p>
Water Bottle Refill Stations	Bedford Row Thomas Street	<p>Stainless steel potable water faucet for refilling water bottles.</p> <p>These could require a localised excavation for a small foundation and a potable water connection.</p>
Smart Solar Compacting Bin	Bedford Row Thomas Street	Solar powered compacting waste storage unit with removable 120L wheelybin. Bolted to existing surface.
Catenary Lighting	Augustinian Lane	Building and/or post hung tensile catenary lighting system at first and second floor levels along the Lane. Posts could require localised excavation for a reinforced concrete foundation as well as provision of an electrical connection and associated ancillary works
Bow-way Uplighting	Augustinian Lane	Building mounted uplighters/projectors within the Bow-way. These would require provision of an electrical connection and associated ancillary works

## 3 Receiving Environment

### 3.1 Introduction:

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, outline the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a proposed development. These are:

- Human beings
- Fauna and flora
- Soil
- Water
- Air/climatic factors
- Landscape
- Cultural heritage, including the architectural and archaeological heritage and cultural heritage
- Material assets

**Table 3.1** presents the baseline information pertaining to the project site.

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TABLE 3.1 BASELINE INFORMATION FOR THE PROJECT SITE

Parameter	Sub-parameter	Information
Human beings	Population	The proposed development is located on Thomas Street and Bedford Row in the City Centre of Limerick, encompassing the electoral divisions of both Shannon A (2016 population 994) and Shannon B (2016 population 925).
	Human Health and Noise	The EPA noise mapping tool indicates that the project site is subject to Lden levels of 55-69dB and Lnight levels of 45-54dB. Higher noise levels are observed in the intersections of Bedford Road and Henry Street, as well as the intersection of Thomas Street and O'Connell Street.
Flora and Fauna	Screening for Appropriate Assessment	A screening for Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive has also been prepared for this project proposal and should be read in conjunction with this EIA Screening report.
	Summary of Habitats present	The habitat present on the project site is predominately BL3- Built Land and Artificial Surfaces, reflecting the urban landuse in the city centre.
	European Sites	There are five Special Areas of Conservation and one Special Protection Area within 15km of the project site.
	Protected species	21 Protected Species (2 Amphibians, 3 Bees, 8 Birds, 1 Butterfly, 6 Mammals, and 1 Flowering Plant) have been recorded in the 10km grid containing the project site for the period 2017-2021.
	Invasive Species	15 Invasive Species (1 Fern, 2 Flatworm, 8 Flowering Plants, and 2 terrestrial mammals) have been recorded in the 10km grid containing the project site for the period 2017-2021. 65 instances of Japanese Knotweed were notably recorded.
Geology and Soil	Geology	The GSI bedrock under the project site is classified as Visean Limestone.  The aquifer is designated as <i>Locally Important Aquifer</i> due to a moderately productive bedrock, while the GSI vulnerability is valued at <i>High</i> .

Parameter	Sub-parameter	Information
	Soil	The soils and subsoils underlying the project site are categorized under “urban” and “man-made”, respectively. The CORINE (2018) Landcover categorizes the sites under Continuous Urban Fabric.
Water	Surface Water	The site is considered under the Water Framework Directive catchment Lower Shannon (25D), and sub-catchment Shannon[Lower]_SC_090 (25D_9).
	Groundwater	The project site lies on top of the groundwater body Limerick City Southwest (under catchments 24 Shannon Estuary South and 25D Lower Shannon). The groundwater body is considered to be <i>At Risk</i> under the Water Framework Directive, and the Overall Groundwater Status as of 2018 was <i>Good</i> .
	Flooding	The OPW Flood Maps indicate that while the project site is <b>not at risk</b> of fluvial flooding, Bedford Row is at <b>low risk</b> of coastal flooding with 0.1% AEP Coastal Flood Extent (1 in 1000 chance in any given year).
Air and Climatic Factors		The proposed sit is in Zone C “Other Cities and Large Towns” under the Air Quality Zones of the EPA. Air quality at the site has been recorded via EPA Air Quality Monitoring as “Good”, with an AQI of 3, as of May 11 <sup>th</sup> 2021.
Landscape		The receiving environment is predominantly urban and commercial, with businesses such as restaurants and shops comprising the majority of the properties.
Cultural heritage		No architectural conservation areas are listed within or adjoining this area and the Record of Protected Structures list three entities in the vicinity of the project. There are a number of Public Entities (designated under NIAH Heritage Sites) in the vicinity of the proposed development. The project is parallel to seven sites designated as NIAH Building Footprints.
Material Assets		The main streets relevant for this project are Thomas Street, Bedford Row and Augustinian Lane.

Parameter	Sub-parameter	Information
Interrelationships between the above parameters		The primary interrelationships identified for this project relate to Population and Human Health and the Landscape.

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## 4 EIA Screening

### 4.1 Environmental Factors to be considered in the EIA Screening

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, outline the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a proposed development. These are:

- Population and Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soils & Geology
- Water
- Air
- Climate
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape
- The interrelationships between the above factors

This EIA Screening report will therefore assess the development for potential impacts on the above parameters and against the criteria provided in Schedule 7a of the Regulations. The criteria contained in Schedule 7a can provide the basis for determining whether a proposed development may create significant impacts on the environment. The criteria are used to help in the screening process to determine whether a development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The criteria used in this EIA Screening Report are those listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive of 2014.

### 4.2 Impact Assessment

Having considered the above environmental factors, the aim of the next section is to address likely impacts on the environment by the implementation of the proposed development. Whether an EIA would be deemed relevant to the scale of the project and the environment will then be determined. The following sections presents the EIA Screening Report based on the criteria contained in Schedule 7a and are grouped under the following headings.

1. Planning Applications within the past five years – table 4.1
2. Characteristics of the Proposed Development – Table 4.2
3. Location of the Proposed Development - Table 4.3 and
4. Characteristics of Potential Impact Tables 4.4 and 4.5

The screening process assesses the most significant potential impacts in relation to the themes outlined below in Table 4.3. These are considered as follows:

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 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;
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- (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 approved projects;
- (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

### 4.3 Projects for the Cumulative Assessment

The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment.

The online planning system myplan.ie was consulted on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 for the subject lands and immediate surrounds. A search was undertaken of the Limerick City and County Council planning website to identify developments with the potential for significant effects on environmental resources within the zone of influence of the proposed development within the past 5 years. Please see **Table 4.1** below.

**TABLE 4.1. PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

Planning Reference	Outline of development	Planning status
<b>19325 (2019)</b> <b>6 and &amp; Henry Street,</b> <b>Bedford Row</b>	1) a change of use from public house to restaurant at basement level; 2) provision of a new kitchen at basement levels; 3) provision of extra customer toilet facilities at basement level; 4) elevational changes to include new doors, windows and new timber shop front detail at ground floor level; 5) new high quality awnings and signage; 6) provision of air ducting/extraction and all associated site development works	Granted planning permission with conditions
<b>1849 (2018)</b> <b>11 and 12 Bedford Row</b>	(1) change of use of section of existing ground floor retail unit to ancillary Café use. (2) provision of a new accessible entrance door to existing ground floor retail unit. (3) erection of retractable awning to front façade over existing ground floor retail unit. (4) erection of signage, to existing ground floor retail unit. (5) all associated works	Granted planning permission with conditions
<b>17278 (2017)</b> <b>11 and 12 Bedford Row</b>	1. Change of use of: (a) existing offices & storage areas located at first, second & third floor levels over existing ground floor retail unit to new guest house accommodation comprising of 12no. bedrooms, (b) existing WC & storage areas at lower ground floor level, to include provision of new separate dining & lounge room areas, gymnasium, steam room, WC facilities & storage areas to serve the proposed new guest house accommodation (c) section of ground &	Granted planning permission with conditions

	<p>upper ground floor retail unit to circulation route to serve new guest house accommodation 2. Construction of: (a) new stairwell &amp; lift shaft to service all floors of new guest house accommodation, (b) new accessible en-suite bathroom extension at first floor level, 3. All associated elevational treatment, 4. Erection of signage &amp; all associated works in accordance with plans and documents submitted.</p>	
<p><b>198006 (2019)</b>  <b>O'Connell Street</b>  <b>Limerick, in the area defined by the junctions with Denmark Street/Arthur's Quay and Cecil Street/Lower Cecil Street</b></p>	<p>O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project comprising reduction in the width of 2 no. traffic lanes on O'Connell Street between Denmark Street and Cecil Street to a maximum of 3.0m each, and subsequent increase in footpath widths, replacement of one of the two southbound vehicular lanes on O'Connell Street with a southbound bus lane between William Street and Cecil Street, Introduction of a shared surface, where the footpath and the carriageway will be at the same level, on O'Connell Street from north of Denmark Street to south of Roches Street. A shared surface is also proposed outside the proposed International Rugby Experience museum just north of Cecil Street, conversion of all junctions within the proposed development boundary to raised table junctions, which will act as traffic calming measures, relocation of parking and other kerbside vehicular spaces from O'Connell Street to adjacent side streets. This space will be adapted to provide wider footpaths and additional pedestrian areas to facilitate people gathering, on-street trading, and "spill out zones" from shops and cafes on the street, provision of street furniture on O'Connell Street including seating areas, trees, planting, bicycle stands, and lighting, as well as features such as sculptures, pedestrian plazas and water installations.</p>	<p>Granted planning permission with conditions</p>
<p><b>18399 (2018)</b>  <b>58-59 Thomas Street</b></p>	<p>a change of use from offices to one bed apartment on the second floor and all associated works both above and below ground</p>	<p>Granted planning permission with conditions</p>
<p><b>18824 (2018)</b>  <b>57 Thomas Street</b></p>	<p>the change of use from retail shop to café/ice-cream parlour</p>	<p>Granted planning permission with conditions</p>

18204 (2018) 51 Thomas Street	a change of use from offices to one bed apartments on the first, second and third floors (three apartments in total). Permission is sought for modifications to the elevations to include the replacement of the existing windows first to third floor inclusively, replacement of ground floor entrance door and all associated works both above and below ground	Granted planning permission with conditions
17581 (2017) 49/50 Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane	Retention permission for 3 no. vent, air handling unit and associated development works	Granted planning permission with conditions
<b>None of these developments will give rise to any impacts on environmental resources and there will be, similarly, no predicted cumulative impacts in relation to environmental resources, for example in terms of habitat loss or disturbance to, protected species as a result of the proposed development or emissions to water or air arising from same.</b>		

Having considered the above environmental factors, the aim of the next section is to address likely impacts on the environment by the implementation of the proposed development. A brief overview of the sensitivities and impacts will be highlighted. Whether an EIA would be deemed relevant to the scale of the project and the environment will then be determined. The following sections present the EIA Screening based on the criteria contained in Schedule 7a and are grouped under the following headings:

1. Characteristics of the Proposed Development - *Table 4.2*
2. Location of the Proposed Development - *Table 4.3* and
3. Characteristics of Potential Impact – *Tables 4.4* and *4.5*

TABLE 4.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Screening Question	Response
1. Characteristics of projects	
The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:	
(a) the size and design of the whole project	<p>The project relates to the existing Limerick City Centre public realm setting, with the aim of upgrading the outdoor dining experience through new sheltered dining areas and street furniture. Increased lighting fixtures including catenary lighting in Augustinian Lane and featured uplighting of the Bow-way are also considered, in combination with ‘Smart Bollards’ to provide wifi, pedestrian management and additional lighting and art projections. The total covered area is expected to be 450m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Of itself the project is not identified as giving rise to significant environmental effects due to scale, nature and size of the proposed development.</p>

Screening Question	Response
<p>1. Characteristics of projects</p> <p>The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:</p>	
<p>(b) cumulation with other existing and/or approved projects;</p>	<p>The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment. Please see Table 5.1 for information on these projects. No significant environmental effects are identified from interaction or in combination with other existing or approved projects.</p>
<p>(c) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;</p>	<p>Due to the scale and nature of the project, minor volumes of natural resources will be used during the construction process. Natural resources will not be used.</p> <p>Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.</p>
<p>(d) the production of waste;</p>	<p>Yes, but not significant. Ancillary wastes will be managed as part of an integrated Waste Management Plan and will be separated to appropriate waste streams for disposal to suitably licensed facilities in the region.</p> <p>Likely significant effects on the environment are not identified.</p>
<p>(e) pollution and nuisances;</p>	<p>As the construction phase involves localised excavation of the existing hard surfaces for the installation of pergola structures and other features requiring foundation and services, there may be noise and vibration. Any spoil material will be removed from the site to an authorised waste facility and is not expected to pollute the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Likely significant effects on the environment are not identified.</p>
<p>(f) 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;</p>	<p>The risks of major accidents are not considered to be significant subject to best construction practices being followed through the construction phase. This will include proper site management, maintenance and operation of all machinery and works associated with the construction phase, on site safety and training.</p>
<p>(g) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).</p>	<p>As above, significant risks to human health are not identified for this proposal. Positive effects are identified in relation to Population and human health by the provision of outdoor dining facilities in light of Covid</p>

Screening Question	Response
1. Characteristics of projects  The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:	
	19 and enhancement of the public realm. . Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment
Will the proposed development create a significant amount of nuisance during its construction or operation?	It is not anticipated that significant noise levels will arise during construction (they will be temporary and restricted to machinery) and operational noise is not identified as being significant.  Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment

### Response & Clarification

**Conclusion:** No significant effects likely to arise associated with the characteristics of the proposed development.

**Rationale:** The works associated with the project site are minor in scale and nature, construction activities are localised and minor; with the application of standard construction practice guidance no significant adverse effects are identified.

**TABLE 4.3 . LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

Screening Question	Response
The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by projects must be considered, with particular regard to:  (a) the existing and approved land use;	For the purposes of this Part 8 consent process, the proposed project relates to the installation and construction of dining and street infrastructure on Thomas Street, Bedford Row and Augustinian Lane. Given the overall approach and measures as presented in Section 2 of this report, the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment. The existing landuse is urban and the proposed development enhances rather than detracts from the urban landuse and public realm.
(b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil,land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	The works relate to the removal of elements of existing surplus or damaged street furniture as well as potential building mounted elements from parts of the stie to accommodate the installation of covered pergola structures with retractable roofs, toughened glass screens, containerised small trees, bin screen, smart bollards, water bottle refill station, smart solar compacting bins, catenary lighting and uplighting of Bow-

Screening Question	Response
	<p>way and all ancillary site works. The works do not result in likely significant effects on the environment.</p>
<p>(c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:</p> <p>(i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;</p> <p>(ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;</p> <p>(iii) mountain and forest areas;</p> <p>(iv) nature reserves and parks;</p> <p>(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;</p>	<p>The proposed development of itself is not predicted to result in changes to the patterns of surface water runoff that currently exist. Surface water will drain to the existing surface and storm water network and significant volumes are not identified.</p> <p>A screening statement for Appropriate Assessment has been prepared and a finding of no likely significant effects on the conservation management objectives of European Sites has been found.</p> <p>Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.</p>
<p>(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;</p>	<p>Although the surface water quality within the wider area containing the River Shannon (located roughly 112m from the project site at its nearest location of Bedford Row) is variable, there are no direct or indirect effects identified for the project and potential risks to these surface waters. The volumes of surface water draining the project site will enter the existing surface water and stormwater system and represent a miniscule fraction of the volumes discharging to the River Shannon. There are no potential impacts identified for water quality or alterations to hydrological streams. The project does not result in likely significant effects on water resources in the environment.</p> <p>Measures included in the overall scheme and as outlined above are not identified as generating additional pressure on the groundwater quality which is good within this area.</p> <p>Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.</p>
<p>(vii) densely populated areas;</p>	<p>The project site traverses the City Centre, which largely comprises of commercial properties. No negative effects</p>

Screening Question	Response
	are identified in relation to this criterion, positive effects relating to increased recreational use are identified.
(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance	The proposed site is contained within the Architectural Conservation Area ACA 1A South City Centre and Newtown Pery and the Record of Protected Structures list three entities in the vicinity of the project. The Lower Shannon River SAC is roughly 112m from the closest point of the proposed project on Bedford Road. . Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment

**Conclusion: No significant effects likely to arise associated with the location of the proposed development.**

**Rationale:** Works entail the removal of elements of existing surplus and damaged street furniture with the installation of new infrastructure. The works as proposed in this development are considered to result in minor and temporary impacts in terms of noise and waste production, with positive effects associated with increased recreational use of the site.

The screening process assesses the most significant potential impacts in relation to the themes outlined below in **Table 4.4** below. These are considered as follows:

#### 4.3.1 Type and Characteristics of the Potential Impacts

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 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 approved projects;
  - (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.
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TABLE 4.4 . LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Topic	Potential Impact
Human Beings	Potential temporary negative impacts to residents along Thomas Street, Bedford Row and Augustinian Lane, associated with construction works; as part of the overall scheme. In and of itself, the effects of this particular project element are identified as minor. The project does not result in likely significant negative effects on the environment in relation to Human Beings.
Flora and Fauna	Temporary impacts associated with construction and longer term operational impacts. Invasive species have been recorded at in the area so risk of spreading of same is a key issue.  The project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment in relation to Flora and Fauna
Soil and Geology	Permanent and minor negative impact related to works phase, particularly in relation to areas requiring excavation and installation of proposed elements. The project does not result in likely significant effects on soil and geology.
Water	The River Shannon is located roughly 112m from the project site at its nearest location of Bedford Row. The volumes of surface water draining the project site will enter the existing surface water and stormwater system and represent a miniscule fraction of the volumes discharging to the River Shannon. There are no potential impacts identified for water quality or alterations to hydrological streams. The project does not result in likely significant effects on water resources in the environment.
Air Quality and climate	Localised impacts arising from machinery such as excavators. Emissions during works phase will be minimized through best practice. Traffic related emissions are not considered significant but are likely to be decrease after the completion of the project due to increased presence of pedestrians and dining patrons. The project does not result in likely significant effects on the air quality and climate.
Noise and Vibration	Noise during the construction phase may result in temporary and short term nuisance but works will be undertaken within standard construction daytime hours.. The project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.
Cultural Heritage	The proposed site in contained within the Architectural Conservation Area ACA 1A South City Centre and Newtown Pery and the Record of Protected Structures list three entities in the vicinity of the project. The project does not result in likely adverse effects on the cultural heritage of this area and will result in the augmentation of the streetscape and public realm.

Environmental Topic	Potential Impact
Landscape	No significant alteration of landscape character in and of itself, as the area will retain its urban design and character; the proposed works will contribute to townscape character . The project does not result in likely significant effects on the surrounding landscape.
Interrelationship between above parameters	The key interrelationship arises between Population and Human Health and Landscape in particular. Given the approach outlined in Section 2, the project does not result in significant effects on the environment.

**Conclusion: No significant effects likely to arise associated with the potential impacts on environmental parameters.**

**Rationale:** As the preceding table shows, potential impacts relate primarily to temporary impacts at construction stage and the implementation of the Best Practice Construction measures will provide safeguards to avoid significant impacts at this stage. No long-term adverse effects have been identified.

TABLE 4.5 . LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

<b>Characteristics of potential impacts</b> <b>The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under Tables 3.3. and 3.2 above, and having regard in particular to:</b>	
(a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	Minor and localized temporary impacts are identified primarily at construction stage only.  The geographic area of the proposed works are confined to the immediate site area. Accordingly, there is no significant impact associated with the operational phase of the development
(b) the nature of the impact;	Impacts are identified as temporary as they relate to the construction stage and sufficient and detailed measures as shown in section 2.
(c) the transboundary nature of the impact;	There are no transboundary impacts identified for the proposed project.
(d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;	Whilst best practice guidelines and adherence to statutory requirements will address and mitigate for several environmental parameters during the design, construction and operation process; the principal potential impacts relate to Population and Human Health, particularly noise in the initial stages of the project. The proposed works will be carried out in line with environmentally sensitive construction methodologies therefore no significant impacts will arise
(e) the probability of the impact;	The design of the proposals, best practice construction measures, the scale, nature and design of the projects reduces and mitigates against significant effects arising, particularly in relation to the construction stage which is identified as giving rise to the greatest risk.
(f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	Subject to implementation and adherence to measures in Section 2, impacts identified for topics are not significant and will be temporary and reversible in nature, as they relate to construction phase only.
(g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects;	The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment. Please see Table 5.1 for information on these projects. No significant environmental effects are identified from interaction or in combination with other existing or approved projects. The proposed works have been assessed cumulatively within this Environmental Impact

	Assessment (EIA) Screening Report and concludes that potential cumulative effects are limited.
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**Conclusion:** No significant effects likely to arise associated with the characteristics of the potential impacts.

**Rationale:** Minor, localised and temporary impacts are identified associated with this project. The scale, nature, design and location of the project is not identified as giving rise to significant negative effects across the EIA topics.

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## 5 Conclusion

### 5.1 Screening Determination

The proposed development for the interventions proposed as part of the Limerick City Outdoor Dining Experience Project which is now under the ownership of Limerick City and County Council and is situated on Bedford Row, Thomas Street and Augustinian Lane does not trigger the threshold for mandatory EIA/EIAR and has been assessed as a sub-threshold EIA development.

Article 4(5) of the EIA Directive states:

*The competent authority shall make its determination, on the basis of information provided by the developer in accordance with paragraph 4 taking into account, where relevant, the results of preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to Union legislation other than this Directive.*

*The determination shall be made available to the public and:*

*(a) where it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is required, state the main reasons for requiring such assessment with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III; or*

*(b) where it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is not required, state the main reasons for not requiring such assessment with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III, and, where proposed by the developer, state any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.*

This EIS Screening Report has concluded that the effects of the proposed development are not identified as giving rise to significant negative effects on the environment, due to the scale, nature, location and design of the proposed development.

The implementation of the standard environmental management practices will also provide safeguards in relation to potential impacts identified in the preceding tables, which are identified as temporary and minor in nature. .

Given the scale and nature of the project and taking account of all available information, the overall probability of impacts on the receiving environment arising from the proposed development is considered to be low to negligible.

The information provided in this EIA Screening Report can be used by the competent authority Limerick City and County Council to conclude and determine that an EIA is not required for the proposed project as there will be no significant negative effects

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