



EIA SCREENING REPORT

Mount Saint Oliver Graveyard Wall

Prepared for Limerick City and County Council

MEC Ltd.

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Minogue & Associates
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

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Draft	1	Rajshree Anand MSc	Ruth Minogue, MCIEEM

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Limerick City and County Council have proposed the development of the 'boundary wall at the Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery' in Limerick City.

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

1.3 Screening

According to European Commission Guidance (2017²)

“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.”

Changes to the EIA Screening Process

The EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) has brought a number of changes to the EIA process with a strengthening of the Screening process as follows:

Article 4 (4) of this Directive introduces a new Annex IIA to be used in the case of a request for a screening determination for Annex II projects. This is information to be provided by the developer on the projects listed in Annex II (see below):

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**);

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

(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*)

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, and

1.5 Statement of Authority

This report has been prepared by Ruth Minogue, MCIEEM and Rajshree Anand, MSc. Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy. Ruth has been a practicing environmental consultant for 21 years and has specialised in the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Rajshree has been a Junior Consultant at Minogue Environmental Consulting since October 2020. Additional inputs were provided by [Dr](#) Ronan Hennessy, who provided the Geographical Information Systems analysis and mapping outputs.

2 Description of the Proposed Development

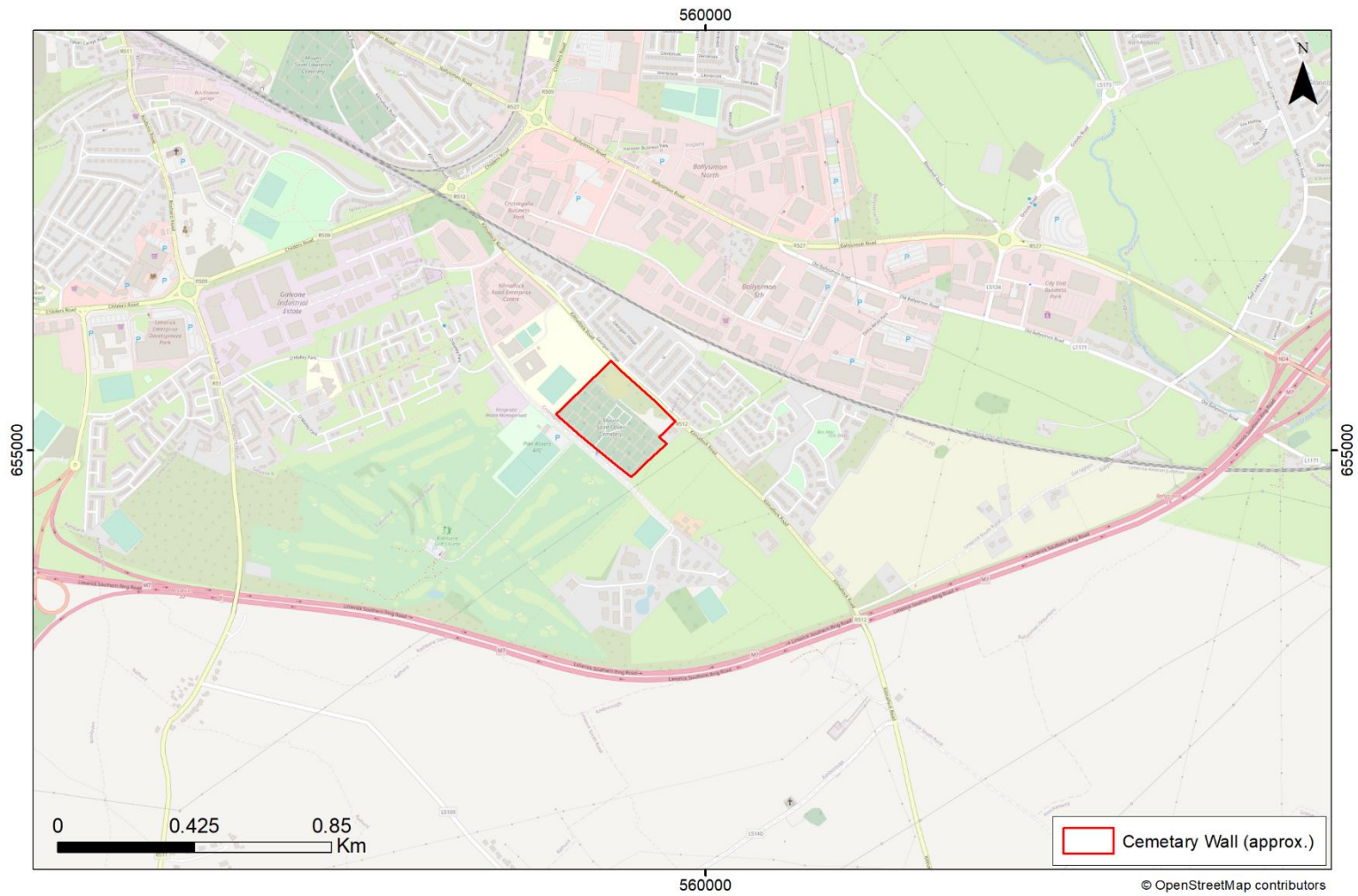
2.1 Project Description

This planning application is for the development of the 'boundary wall at the Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery' in Limerick City.

This project relates to the provision of a new boundary wall and associated site development works including soft landscaping (planting & trees) to the North-eastern boundary of Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery along Kilmallock road. The proposed wall will be circa 3.175-3.625m high (height will vary to correspond to known site levels) and circa 271.3m in length. Recent aerial photography and the known site history indicate that the area where the proposed boundary wall will be located has been a hedgerow for many years. The existing hedgerow will be removed, the new boundary wall constructed, and remedial works carried out between the existing footpath to Kilmallock road the newly constructed wall. The wall has been set back from the existing footpath to allow for future expansion of the existing road width to accommodate potential future cycle lanes etc. to be installed. The site is bounded to the northeast by the Kilmallock road and thereafter a residential housing estate, to the southwest by Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery (extension), to the Northwest by the Further Education & Training Centre - Kilmallock Road Campus and to the Southeast by agricultural lands. The overall site measures 0.512 hectares (1.265 acres) and has a sloping gradient ranging from approximately +26.220m in the Northwest corner to +30.425m in the Southeast corner.

Figure 3.1. depicts the location of the proposed project.

FIGURE 3-1 LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT



Mount St. Oliver Cemetery

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Map: RH

Data: Limierick C&C Co.; OpenStreetMap
CRS: IREN95 ITM

1:10,000

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.

TABLE 3.1 BASELINE INFORMATION FOR THE PROJECT SITE

Parameter	Sub-parameter	Information
Human beings	Population	The proposed development is located on Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery 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 area on the east of the project site is subject to Lden levels of 55-69dB.
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 dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2), stone walls and other stonework (BL1) and Hedgerows (Linear Woodland/Scrub) (WL-1), reflecting the urban landuse in the city centre.
	European Sites	There are five Special Areas of Conservation and two Special Protection Areas within 15km of the project site.
	Protected species	There are no protected species that have been recorded in the 2km grid containing the project site for the period 2017-2021.
	Invasive Species	1 Invasive Species, Winter Heliotrope (<i>Petasites fragrans</i>) has been recorded in the 2km grid containing the project site for the period 2017-2021. No instances of Japanese Knotweed were recorded.
Geology and Soil	Geology	The GSI bedrock under the project site is classified as Visean Limestone. There are two types of aquifers within the project site designated as <i>Locally Important Aquifer</i> due to a moderately productive bedrock and <i>Regionally Important Aquifer</i> due to karstified bedrock while the GSI vulnerability is valued at <i>High</i> .
	Soil	The soils underlying the project site was mainly categorized as “urban” and the subsoils underlying the project site are categorized under “limestone till”, “bedrock at or close to surface”, and “man-

Parameter	Sub-parameter	Information
		made". The CORINE (2018) Landcover categorizes the sites under Sports and Leisure Facilities.
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 partially lies on top of two groundwater bodies Limerick City Southwest and Limerick City East (under catchment 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 the project site is not at risk of fluvial flooding.
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 25 th 2021.
Landscape		The receiving environment is predominantly urban and residential , with a housing estate facing the development site.
Cultural heritage		The proposed site is not contained within any Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). No architectural conservation areas are listed within or adjoining this area and the Record of Protected Structures list no entities in the vicinity of the project. There are no designated NIAH Heritage Sites in the vicinity of the proposed development.
Material Assets		The main streets relevant for this project are Kilmallock Road.
Interrelationships between the above parameters		The primary interrelationships identified for this project relate to Population and Human Health and the Landscape.

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;

- (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 25th June 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
20106 (2020) 24 Butterfield Avenue, Old Cork Road, Limerick	Construction of a single storey extension to the side of dwelling and ancillary works	Granted planning permission with conditions
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.		

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
<p>1. Characteristics of projects</p> <p>The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:</p>	
<p>(a) the size and design of the whole project</p>	<p>The project relates to the provision of a new boundary wall and associated site development works including soft landscaping (planting & trees) to the North-eastern boundary of Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery along Kilmallock road. The proposed wall will be circa 3.175-3.625m high (height will vary to correspond to known site levels) and circa 271.3m in length. Recent aerial photography and the known site history indicate that the area where the proposed boundary wall will be located has been a hedgerow for many years. The existing hedgerow will be removed, the new boundary wall constructed, and remedial works carried out between the existing footpath to Kilmallock road the newly constructed wall. The wall has been set back from the existing footpath to allow for future expansion of the existing road width to accommodate potential future cycle lanes etc. to be installed. The overall site measures 0.512 hectares (1.265 acres) and has a sloping gradient ranging from approximately +26.220m in the Northwest corner to +30.425m in the Southeast corner.</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>
<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 4.1 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. Remedial works carried out between the existing footpath to Kilmallock road the newly constructed wall.</p>

Screening Question	Response
1. Characteristics of projects The characteristics of projects must be considered, with particular regard to:	
	Likely significant effects on the environment are not identified.
(e) pollution and nuisances;	As the construction phase involves localised removal of existing hedgerows and constructions of the boundary wall there may be noise and vibration. Remedial works will be carried out to avoid any pollution to the surrounding environment. Likely significant effects on the environment are not identified.
(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;	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.
(g) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).	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 maintenance of burial grounds recognising the historical and cultural value of the same. 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
<p>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by projects must be considered, with particular regard to:</p> <p>(a) the existing and approved land use;</p>	<p>For the purposes of this Part 8 consent process, the proposed project relates to the construction of a new boundary wall and associated site development works including soft landscaping (planting & trees) to the North-eastern boundary of Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery along Kilmallock road. 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.</p>
<p>(b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground</p>	<p>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-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.</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>

Screening Question	Response
(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>The River Shannon is located roughly 2.45km from the project site and there are no direct or indirect effects identified for the project and potential risks to these surface waters. There are no potential impacts identified for water quality or alterations to hydrological streams as there are no water bodies in the vicinity of the project site. 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>
(vii) densely populated areas;	<p>The site is bounded to the northeast by the Kilmallock road and thereafter a residential housing estate, to the southwest by Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery (extension), to the Northwest by the Further Education & Training Centre - Kilmallock Road Campus and to the Southeast by agricultural lands. No negative effects are identified in relation to this criterion, positive effects relating to increased historical and cultural use are identified.</p>
(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance	<p>The proposed site is not contained within any Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and the Record of Protected Structures list no entities in the vicinity of the project. The Lower Shannon River SAC is roughly at 2.45km from the proposed project. Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment</p>

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

Rationale: Works entail the removal of existing hedgerows and construction of a new boundary wall and associated site development works including soft landscaping (planting & trees) to the North-eastern boundary of Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery along Kilmallock road. . 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 historical and cultural 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.

TABLE 4.4 . LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Topic	Potential Impact
Human Beings	Potential temporary negative impacts to residents along Kilmallock Road, 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	As mentioned earlier, the wall will be constructed after the removal of the existing hedgerows in that area and remedial works will be carried out between the existing footpath to Kilmallock road the newly constructed wall so there will be temporary impacts associated with construction. Invasive species have been recorded within the 2km grid area so risk of spreading of same is a key issue. The project result in likely significant effects on the environment in relation to Flora and Fauna with the removal of hedgerows. Owing to the ecological importance of hedgerows as a wildlife habitat, that provides food, shelter, corridors of movement, nest and hibernation sites for many of our native flora and fauna, it is recommended that the removal of the hedgerows as proposed part of development should take place after the bird nesting season until August.
Soil and Geology	Permanent and minor negative impact related to works phase, particularly in relation to areas requiring removal of existing hedgerows and construction of proposed boundary wall. The project does not result in likely significant effects on soil and geology.

Environmental Topic	Potential Impact
Water	The River Shannon is located roughly at 2.45 km from the project site. 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 no Architectural Conservation Area and the Record of Protected Structures list no 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 historical and cultural value of the site.
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

Characteristics of potential impacts The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under Table 3.1 above, and having regard in particular to:	
(a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>Minor and localized temporary impacts are identified primarily at construction stage only.</p> <p>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</p>
(b) the nature of the impact;	<p>Impacts are identified as temporary as they relate to the construction stage and sufficient and detailed measures as shown in section 2.</p>
(c) the transboundary nature of the impact;	<p>There are no transboundary impacts identified for the proposed project.</p>
(d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;	<p>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</p>
(e) the probability of the impact;	<p>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.</p>
(f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	<p>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.</p>
(g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects;	<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 4.1 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</p>

	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.

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. No significant environmental impacts will occur once mitigation measures

outlined in Section 2 of this Report are implemented. These mitigation measures are representative of standard industry environmental management that are implemented to minimise the impact of projects to the environment.

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

The overall conclusion for this screening appraisal is that, having considered the appropriate criteria, Environmental Impact Assessment for the project is not required.