

Our ref: MCW1078

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An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1.
D01 V902

Date: 20th January 2022

Re: **Application to An Bord Pleanála for approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended for development comprising ground investigation work at Annacotty, Ballynanthy, Castletroy, Corbally, Condell Road, Dock Road and Conigar embankments in County Limerick, and Athlunkard, Knockballynameath and Quinspool South embankments within County Clare.**

On behalf of: **Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90**

Dear Sir / Madam,

RPS is instructed by Limerick City and County Council to lodge this application for approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended for the above described development.

The proposed development consists of ground investigation works to inform the option selection and design of the proposed Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme. The proposed works will comprise of boreholes, cone penetration tests, window sampling and geophysical surveys as well as associated temporary access requirements and localised vegetation removal works. As required under Article 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the proposed ground investigations works have been screened by Limerick City and County Council to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required in respect of the proposed works. Based on this screening, it was determined that the proposal may give rise to significant impacts on at least one European Site. Accordingly, a Natura Impact Statement has been prepared and the Council is hereby applying for planning approval under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act (as amended).

The requirements for the content of an application under section 177AE are set out under article 249 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (PDR) as amended.

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Article 249 of the PDR requires as follows:

1. 3 No. copies of the plans and particulars of the proposed development
2. 3 No. copies of the NIS for the proposed development
3. A copy of the notice published under section 177AE(4)(a) of the Act, and
4. A list of the bodies to which notice was sent under section 177AE(4)(b) of the Act, a copy of each notice and an indication of the date on which the notice was sent.

RPS has been in touch with the Strategic Infrastructure Development section of An Bord Pleanála regarding some of these requirements. The Board has indicated that 2 No. hard copies and 1 No. electronic copy of the application is appropriate to submit.

The application comprises of the following documents:

1. Plans and Particulars

The plans and particulars submitted to robustly described and assess the proposed development for the purposes of this application are as follows:

a) Cover Letter

b) Drawings

In preparing the drawings for this application we have had regard to the requirements of articles 22 and 23 of the Planning and Development Regulations, In this regard we are enclosing a Site Location Map and Site Layout Plan. Given the nature of the proposed development, i.e. ground investigations works, there are no structures proposed as part of the application and accordingly do not have any further plans or detailed drawings.

The Site Layout Plan drawings are provided at a scale of 1:1000. While it is acknowledged that under Article 23 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) (PDR) that site layout plans are standardly required at 1:500 scale, there is scope for another scale to be used as agreed with the planning authority. In this instance, following correspondence with the SID section of Board, it was agreed that the Site Layout Plan could be provided at a scale of 1:1000 scale. Given the geographic extent of the site area and the nature of the works it is considered that this scale is appropriate to clearly indicate the locations of the proposed GI works and to show the contexts of these locations.

Drawings prepared by RPS are as follows:

Drawing No.	Drawing Title	Scale	Sheet Size	Compliance with A22/23 of PDR
MCW1078-RPS-00-GE-DR-Z-0100A	Site Location Map	1:25000	A1	Given the extent of the site area, for legibility and to understand the full extent of the site area this is provided at a scale of 1:25,000. This is an additional drawing beyond the requirements of Article 22.
MCW1078-RPS-00-GE-DR-Z-0101	Site Overview Plan	1:2500	A1	This series of drawings comprises 15 No. sheets presented at 1:2,500 which comply with the requirements of Article 22 for Site Location Map. This series of drawings also identifies each of the Sheet areas for which the Site Layout Plans are presented at 1:1,000

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Drawing No.	Drawing Title	Scale	Sheet Size	Compliance with A22/23 of PDR
MCW1078-RPS-00-GE-DR-Z-0100B	Site Key Plan	1:25000	A1	This drawing at 1:25,000 is a key plan which shows the keys for both the 15 No. 1:2,500 Site Overview Plan sheets (i.e.equivalent to the statutory Site Location Map requirements) and also the key for the 43 No. 1:1,000 Site Layout Plan sheets
MCW1078-RPS-00-GE-DR-Z-0102	Site Layout Plan	1:1000	A1	This series of 43 No. drawings presents the site layout plans in line with the requirements of article 23 of the PDR. As noted above the scale of 1:1,000 in lieu of 1:500 was agreed in advance with ABP.

- c) **Planning Report** prepared by RPS
 - d) **Ecological Impact Assessment Report** prepared by RPS
 - e) **Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment** prepared by Archaeological Management Solutions Consultancy
 - f) **Copy of AA Screening Determination by Limerick City and County Council**
2. **Natura Impact Statement** (including AA Screening) prepared by RPS
 3. Copy of **Newspaper Notice** published in the Irish Examiner on 20.01.22
 4. **Details of Prescribed Bodies** to which the application was sent including:
 - a) **List of Bodies** to which the application was sent
 - b) **Copies of Letters of Notice** issued to the Prescribed Bodies dated 20.01.22 and sent to the bodies on 20.01.22

As set out in the Newspaper Notice enclosed, the planning documentation and NIS will be available for inspection at the following locations in addition to the offices of An Bord Pleanála.

- Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94, EH90, between the hours of **9.00 am and 5:00 p.m**
- Limerick City and County Council, Merchants Quay, Limerick, V94 EH90, between the hours of **9.00 am and 5:00 p.m**
- Clare County Council, Áras Contae and Chláir, New Road, Ennis County Clare, between the hours of **9.00am and 4:00pm**

A printed copy of the Natura Impact Statement may be purchased on payment of a fee of €25. Copies are also available on a USB for purchase on payment of a fee of €10.

The documents and NIS are also available to view and can be downloaded from My Point, <https://mypoint.limerick.ie/>, the online public collaboration and consultation portal of Limerick City and County Council.

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We trust all is in order and we look forward to a decision in due course.

Yours faithfully,
for RPS Group Limited

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Lombard', written in a cursive style.

Maria Lombard
Director - Planning & Environment
maria.lombard@rpsgroup.com

Encl/....