

# EIA PN02: Template Screening Form

## Form 1

Establishing if the proposal is a 'sub-threshold development':	
Planning Register Reference:	ABP-310301-21
Development Summary:	The proposal includes the removal of approximately 240m <sup>3</sup> of silt, sand and gravel deposits, as well as vegetation, from the River Galey to 300mm above summer-low water levels in the vicinity of Athea bridge. The works are essential to reduce the potential risk of flooding along the proposed section of the river.
Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, no further action required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Proceed to <b>Part A</b>
<b>A. Schedule 5 Part 1</b> - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, <b>Part 1</b> , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify class <u>    [insert here]    </u>	<b>EIA is mandatory</b> No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Proceed to <b>Part B</b>
<b>B. Schedule 5 Part 2</b> - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, <b>Part 2</b> , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) <b>and</b> does it meet/exceed the thresholds? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2	<b>No Screening required</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 <b>and</b> meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): <u>    [specify class &amp; threshold here]    </u>	<b>EIA is mandatory</b> No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is of a type listed <b>but</b> is <i>sub-threshold</i> : <u>    [insert here]    </u>	Proceed to <b>Part C</b>
<b>C. If Yes</b> , has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant	<b>Screening Determination required</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant	<b>Preliminary Examination required</b>

## Form 2

<b>Preliminary Examination:</b>		
The planning authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the <b>least, the nature, size or location of the development.</b>		
	<b>Comment:</b>	<b>Yes/No/ Uncertain:</b>
<p><b>Nature of the development:</b> <i>Is the nature of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in significant emissions or pollutants?</i></p>		
<p><b>Size of the development:</b> <i>Is the size of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Are there cumulative considerations having regard to other existing and/or permitted projects?</i></p>		
<p><b>Location:</b> <i>Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or does it have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?<sup>1</sup></i></p> <p><i>Does the proposed development have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?</i></p>		
<b>Preliminary Examination Conclusion:</b>		
Based on a preliminary examination of the <b>nature, size or location</b> of the development. (Tick as appropriate)		
<div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>There is <b>no real likelihood</b> of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>EIA is not required.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>There is <b>real likelihood of</b> significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>An <b>EIAR is required.</b></p>	<div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>There is <b>significant and realistic doubt</b> regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Request the applicant to submit the <b>Information specified in Schedule 7A</b> for the purposes of a screening determination.</p> <p>Proceed to Screening Determination.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Sensitive locations or features includes European sites, NHA/pNHA, Designated Nature Reserves, land designated as a refuge for flora and fauna, and any other ecological site which is the objective of a CDP/LAP (including draft plans).

## Form 3

<b>Screening Determination:</b>		
<b>A. Case Details:</b>		
<b>Planning Register Reference:</b>	ABP-310301-21	
<b>Development Summary:</b>	The proposal includes the removal of approximately 240m <sup>3</sup> of silt, sand and gravel deposits, as well as vegetation, from the River Galey to 300mm above summer-low water levels in the vicinity of Athea bridge. The works are essential to reduce the potential risk of flooding along the proposed section of the river.	
	<b>Yes / No / N/A:</b>	<b>Comment (if relevant):</b>
Does the application include information specified in Schedule 7A?	Yes	
Other relevant information submitted:	N/A	
Does the application include a NIS and/or other reports to enable AA screening?	Yes	Natura Impact Statement
Is an IED/IPC/Waste Licence or Waste Water Discharge Authorisation (or review of licence/ authorisation) required from the EPA for the subject development?	No	
If <b>YES</b> has the EPA been consulted?	N/A	
Have any other relevant <sup>2</sup> assessments of the effects on the environment been carried out pursuant to other relevant Directives –for example SEA or AA?	Yes	Natura Impact Statement
<b>B. Examination:</b>		
<b>1. Characteristics of proposed development (including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning):</b>		
	<b>If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the development</b> (i.e. the nature and extent):	
(a) The size and design of the whole of the proposed development (including any demolition works):	The proposal includes the removal of approximately 240m <sup>3</sup> of silt, sand and gravel deposits, as well as vegetation, from the River Galey to 300mm above summer-low water levels in the vicinity of Athea bridge.	
(b) Other existing or permitted projects (including under other legislation that is subject to EIA) that could give rise to cumulative effects:	<b>No.</b> The development of the gravel removal works from the River Galey at Athea bridge complies with the objectives and policies of the draft Limerick Development Plan [2022-2028]. Athea is a small Village as defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment produced in connection with the County Development Plan. The SFRA lists Athea Flood Relief Scheme as a scheme at design stage. Based on Objective CAF O23 [Flood Relief Schemes] of the County Development	

<sup>2</sup> Relevant assessments are those which have a significant bearing on the project.

	<p>Plan, <i>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the development of Flood Relief Schemes as identified in the CFRAM 10 Year Investment Programme.</i></p> <p>The implementation of the River Basin Management Plan will not contribute to in-combination or cumulative impacts with the proposed gravel removal works.</p> <p>The development of the gravel removal works from the River Galey at Athea bridge complies with the objectives and policies of the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>A review of the Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) Planning Enquiry Webpage identified a number of approved applications in Athea. It is not considered that there will be any significant adverse in combination effects with the proposed gravel removal works and any other development.</p>
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<p>(c) Use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity:</p> <p><i>Will construction or the operation of the proposal use natural resources such as land, soil, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?</i></p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Natural resources including energy, are required for the removal of silt, sand and gravel deposits, as well as vegetation, from the River Galey. Although, the required volumes are not significant and any resources utilised will not be in short supply.</p>
<p>(d) Production of waste:</p> <p><i>Will the proposal produce solid wastes during construction, operation, or decommissioning?</i></p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Suspended solids could potentially be produced within the water column during the works due to machinery traversing the site and the movement of silt and sediments. Mitigation measures will be put in place to avoid this. Mitigation is summarised in Section 11 of the Natura Impact Statement accompanying this planning application.</p>
<p>(e) Pollution and nuisances:</p> <p><i>Will the proposal release pollutants to ground or surface water, or air (including noise and vibrations) or water, or lead to exceeding environmental standards set out in other Directives?</i></p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Hydro-carbons could potentially be released into the river from machinery working instream, however, mitigation measures will be put in place to avoid this. Mitigation is summarised in Section 11 of the Natura Impact Statement accompanying this planning application.</p>
<p>(f) Major accidents and disasters:</p> <p><i>In accordance with scientific knowledge, is there a risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project, including those caused by climate change?</i></p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Potential risk of accidents or disasters with regards to human health during works on site. Mitigation measures will be put in place to avoid this. Mitigation is summarised in Section 11 of the Natura Impact Statement accompanying this planning application.</p>
<p>(g) Risks to human health, for example due to water contamination or air pollution:</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Potential risk of water contamination due to instream works.</p>

<p><b>2. Location of proposed development:</b></p>	
<p><b>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development:</b></p>	<p><b>If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the location</b> (with particular regard to the (a) existing and approved land use, (b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources, and (c) the absorption capacity of the environment):</p>

<p>(a) Generally describe the location of the site and its surroundings:</p>	<p>Athea village is located in west Co. Limerick, 3 km from the Limerick-Kerry border. The village is situated on the R523 Listowel to Ardagh regional road and the R524 Glin to Abbeyfeale regional road. The River Galey is a tributary of the River Feale, that rises on the western slopes of Knockanimpuha Hill, in a steep-sided valley, and flows in a westerly direction through Athea before joining the Feale, approximately 25km downstream of Athea village.</p> <p>Deposition of sediments, gravels and cobbles occurs in the River Galey at Athea bridge and a vegetated gravel bar has formed immediately up and downstream of the bridge. This deposition is impacting on the conveyance capacity at the bridge and potentially increasing flood risk locally. It is believed that historically, these deposits were removed as necessary by local landowners from the channel, however, since the river was designated as part of the Lower River Shannon SAC, this no longer happens. Following extreme weather events in 2008, high river levels along the River Galey resulted in the major accumulation of trees and debris at Athea bridge, which significantly reduced the available flow conveyance of the structure and represented a flood risk to the immediate locality. The OPW agreed to carry out the necessary remedial works and remove the debris at the request of LCCC. Since the works in 2008, OPW have returned to Athea on 4 separate occasions to remove trapped debris from beneath Athea bridge, freeing up any blockage and alleviating the immediate flood risk. On each occasion advanced consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other stakeholders was facilitated by the Office of Public Works OPW.</p> <p>The dominant habitats within and adjacent to the gravel removal works are Depositing/lowland rivers (FW2), Exposed sand, gravel or till (ED1) and Amenity grassland (improved) (GA2). There are no Annex I Habitats identified within the study area.</p>
<p>(b) Is the project located within, close to or has it the potential to impact on any site specified in Article 103(3)(a)(v) of the Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European site</li> <li>- NHA/pNHA</li> <li>- Designated Nature Reserve</li> <li>- Designated refuge for flora or fauna</li> <li>- Place, site or feature of ecological interest, the preservation, conservation, protection of which is an objective of a development plan/ local area plan/ draft plan or variation of a plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), proposed works are located within the SAC. Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161), located 171m from the proposed works.</p>

<p>(c) Are there any other areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies (including riparian areas and river mouths), the coastal zone and the marine environment, mountains, forests or woodlands, that could be affected by the project?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> River Galey – the proposed works include instream works within the River Galey. As set out in Section 5.3 of the Natura Impact Statement which accompanies this planning application, Works will be undertaken in the region of a two-week period between July and September, depending on flow conditions in the channel and weather conditions being suitable. In stream works will therefore avoid salmonid spawning periods and will comply with IFI Guidelines.</p>
<p>(d) Is the proposal likely to be highly visible to many people? Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location, or are there any routes or facilities that are used by the public for recreation or other facilities which could be affected by the proposal?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> The proposed works are located adjacent to Athea bridge which is on R523, which is the primary route utilised to access Athea village.</p>
<p>(e) Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location that could be affected by the project?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Athea road bridge is listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Record of Protected Structures (RPS).</p>
<p>(f) Are there areas within or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, or occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities that could be affected by the proposal?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> The proposed works are located close to a Athea National School.</p>

<p>(g) Are there any areas within or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, that could be affected by the proposal?</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p>
<p>(h) Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, and where there has already been a failure in environmental standards that could be affected by the proposal e.g. the status of water bodies under the Water Framework Directive?</p>	<p><b>No.</b></p>
<p>(i) Is the site located in an area susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, or flooding which could cause the proposal to present environmental problems?</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Past flooding events occurred in January 2005, April 2005, July and August 2008, September 2009, November 2009 and September 2015.</p>
<p>(j) Are there any additional considerations that are specific to this location?</p>	<p><b>N/A.</b></p>

3. Types and characteristics of potential impacts:		
If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the potential impacts under the headings below.  (including where relevant the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (e.g. geographical areas and size of population likely to be affected), nature of impact, intensity and complexity of impact, probability of impact, and duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact):	If relevant, briefly describe any mitigation measures proposed to avoid or prevent a significant effect.	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment?
<i>Population and human health:</i>		
<i>Pollution of River Galey</i>	A CEMP will be implemented and adhered to during works. Mitigations to be implemented.	With the implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed gravel removal works alone or in combination with other plans and/ or projects <b>will not give rise to significant negative effects</b> on the integrity of European Sites.
<i>Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.<sup>3</sup> *</i>		
<i>Watercourses of plain to montane levels with Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicetum albae) [91E0] Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095] Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096] River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099] Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106] Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355]</i>	An Ecological Clerk of Works (EcOW) will be appointed for part time attendance for the full duration of the works. Removal of gravel deposit will be undertaken during appropriate periods and weather conditions. Method statements and Risk Assessments will be provided and approved. Works will be undertaken in accordance with OPW's Environmental Management Protocols & Standard Operating Procedures. Any guidelines provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland will be adhered to.	With the implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed gravel removal works alone or in combination with other plans and/ or projects <b>will not give rise to significant negative effects</b> on the integrity of European Sites.
<i>Land, soil, water, air and climate:</i>		

<sup>3</sup> -And with particular regard to areas specified in Article 103(3)(a)(v) of the Regulations.

<i>Suspended solids and hydrocarbon pollution</i>	Silt curtains and floating boom. Hydrocarbon control.	With the implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed gravel removal works alone or in-combination with other plans and/ or projects <b>will not give rise to significant negative effects</b> on the integrity of European Sites.
<i>Material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape:*</i>		

<i>Cumulative effects:</i>		
<i>Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (extended) and 2022-2028 (draft)</i> <i>River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle)</i> <i>National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021</i>		<b>There will be no cumulative impacts</b> arising in combination with any other plans or project.
<i>Transboundary effects:</i>		

<b>4. Additional Considerations:</b>		
Further relevant information, if any, relating to how the results of any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment have been taken into account (e.g. SEA, AA screening, AA):	AA Screening stated that the proposed gravel removal works at Athea bridge have the potential to impact on the Qualifying Interest of European Sites and should therefore be subject to a <b>Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIS)</b> . NIS states that with the implementation of the mitigation measures specified in this report, the proposed gravel removal works alone or in-combination with other plans and/ or projects <b>will not give rise to significant negative effects on the integrity of European Sites</b> .	
<b>Other relevant information/ considerations of note:</b>		

<b>C. Determination:</b>		
<b>No real likelihood</b> of significant effects on the environment.	X	EIAR is not required
<b>Real likelihood</b> of significant effects on the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EIAR is required</b>

<b>D. Main Reasons and Considerations:</b>		
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**Having regard to the criteria in Schedule 7, the information provided in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and the following:**

- (a) The main reasons and considerations specific to the nature, size, or location of the proposed development, and the types and characteristics of potential impacts as set out above.
- (b) Key mitigation measures as set out above and summarized in Section 11 of the Natura Impact Statement:
- (c) The Natura Impact Statement:
- (d) Any other relevant information:

**It is considered that the proposed development ~~would~~/ would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an environmental impact report ~~is~~/ is not therefore required.**