

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

Development of a new Kinnegad Community Library and Education and Training Centre,
Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath



**Environmental Impact Assessment
Screening Report
for
Development of a new Kinnegad Community
Library and Education and Training Centre at
the former National School, Main Street,
Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath, N91 DP22,
a protected structure.**

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**Environmental Impact Assessment
Screening Report**

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Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

Introduction

This is an EIA screening report for the Development of a new Kinnegad Community Library and Education and Training Centre at the former National School, Main Street, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath, N91 DP22, a protected structure.

The purpose of the report is to screen the proposed development to establish whether it requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and as a result if an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should be prepared in respect of it. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement has also been prepared as a separate document.

The screening process includes an assessment of the details of the proposal with reference to the relevant EIA legislation, including the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended by Planning and Development Regulations 2015), the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) and relevant EU Guidance including Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex I and II of the EU Directive, EU, 2015 and Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening, EU, 2017.

The EIA Screening covers

1. Description of the proposed development
2. The legislative basis for EIA
3. Screening consideration
4. Conclusions

The Proposed Development

The proposed development is for a new Kinnegad Community Library and Education and Training Centre at the former National School, Main Street, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath, N91 DP22, a protected structure

The proposed development will include the following:

1. Restoration and adaption of the former National School into a Community Library and Education and Training Centre, including a two-storey rear extension and glazed links to the front and rear;
2. Alterations to the boundary walls and public footpath;
3. Provision of hard and soft landscaping including a new civic space adjoining the site;
4. Installation of all associated services above and below ground to connect to the existing systems;
5. The provision of signage;
6. The provision of cycle stands and
7. Ancillary Works.

Legislative Basis for EIA

EIA requirements derive from the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). As the amended Directive came into force on 16th May 2017 and regulations transposing it into national legislation have been enacted. No changes to the prescribed project types or thresholds are required under the amended Directive so the types and thresholds set out in the 2001-2010 Regulations remain in effect.

EIA legislation as it relates to the planning process has been largely brought together in Part X of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018. Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulation lists project types, included in Annex I of the Directive which automatically require EIA. Part 2 of the same Schedule lists projects types included in Annex II. Corresponding developments automatically require EIA if no threshold is given or if they are exceeding a given threshold. Developments which correspond to Part 2 project types but are below the given threshold must be screened to determine whether they require EIA or not. This is done by consideration of criteria set out in Schedule 7.

Screening Considerations.

Class of Development

In the first instance it is necessary to determine whether the project is of a type (or 'class') that require an EIAR. This project does not correspond to any of the prescribed types listed in Annex I. However, it could be considered to correspond to the Infrastructure Projects types set out in Annex II, as discussed below.

Infrastructure Projects

Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 includes this project type

10. Infrastructure Projects

(b)(iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 2- hectares elsewhere.

(in this paragraph, 'business district means a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use)

The EU guidance on '*Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex I and II of the EIA Directive*' (2015) interprets 'urban development' as taking 'account of, inter alia the following

- i. Projects with similar characteristics to car parks and shopping centres could be considered to fall under Annex II (10)(b). This could be the case for example, of bus garages or train depots, which are not explicitly mentioned in the EIA Directive, but have similar characteristics to car parks.
- ii. construction projects such as housing developments, hospitals universities, sports stadiums, cinemas, theatres, concert halls and other cultural centres could also be assumed to fall within this category. The underlying principle is that all these project categories are of an urban nature and that they may cause similar types of environmental impact.
- iii. Projects to which the terms 'urban' and 'infrastructure' can relate, such as the construction of sewerage and water supply networks, could also be included in this category.

The overall area of the proposed development is c.1.8 hectares; all is located within the business district of Kinnegad town. Therefore, the proposal is a prescribed project type but is considered below threshold.

Sub-threshold Development

As the proposed development corresponds to an Annex II project type but does not meet the prescribed thresholds above, it can be considered to be a ‘sub-threshold’ development.

Having regard to the ‘wide scope and broad purpose’ of the Directive, it is appropriate to consider if it is likely to cause significant environmental impacts by reference to the relevant criteria for determining same, as set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Developments Regulations.

Given the scale of the proposed development it is unlikely to cause sufficiently significant effects to warrant a sub-threshold EIA. However, in order to provide a comprehensive screening, this screening proceeds to consider it against the Schedule 7 criteria, nonetheless. Schedule 7 specifies ‘Criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment’ under these three headings.

1. Characteristics of Proposed Development
2. Location of Proposed development
3. Characteristics of Potential Impacts

The tables below and overleaf set out these considerations using both the main and sub criteria which are specified in Schedule 7.

SCHEDULE 7 CRITERIA		Relevance	Commentary
1.Characterises of Proposed Development	The size of the proposed development	No	The proposed development is located on a site with an area of c.1.8ha.
The characteristics of proposed development in particular	The cumulation with the proposed development	No	There are no developments under construction on the Main Street of Kinnegad, in the vicinity of the site in question at present. Westmeath County Council is proposing public realm improvements in the town Kinnegad. These works will comprise of traffic calming measures and landscaping improvements on Main St.. In combination with proposed works it is not considered that significant environmental effects arise.
	The use of natural resources	Potential	The proposed development does include the use of natural resources.
	The production of waste	No	Waste will be produced during the construction of the proposed development, however, this is considered to be insufficient to cause significant effects. Waste materials will be brought to a construction and

			demolition recycling centre for reuse.
	Pollution and Nuisances	No	The impacts including noise and dust within acceptable standards are anticipated to be negligible.
	The risk of accidents having regard to substances or technologies		Given the nature of the proposed development, the potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible.

SCHEDULE 7 CRITERIA		Relevance	Commentary
<p>2. Location of Proposed Development</p> <p>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development, having regard in particular to</p>	The existing landuse	No	<p>The proposed development will take place within Town Core zoning of Kinnegad town. Some of the development will take place to the rear of the existing properties within the town core area.</p> <p>It is presently unused back land and former school yard. The development will significantly enhance the vitality and viability of the town.</p>
	The relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area	No	The impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the scale of the proposed development.
	The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas		
	Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;	No	There is no loss of habitat arising from the proposed development. The proposal has been assessed in the Ecology and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. This report has concluded that no rare, threatened or protected species were found during survey.
	Coastal Zones	No	N/A
	Mountain and forest areas	No	N/A
	Nature reserves	No	N/A

	and parks		
	Areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	No	The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report submitted as part of the Part VIII application concludes that the proposed development is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites.
	Areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded	No	
	Densely populated areas	No	
	Landscapes of historical, cultural, archaeological significance	No	The impacts particularly those of historical, and cultural significance are anticipated to be negligible. An Archaeological Impact Assessment as part of the works has concluded that it is not considered likely that any finds of significance will be encountered. An Ecology Survey carried out on the site has concluded that there is no findings on the site. The Architectural Impact Assessment has concluded that the proposed development is acceptable in terms of impact to existing protected structures. The development will provide and enhance existing uses in important buildings in the streetscape.

SCHEDULE 7 CRITERIA		Relevance	Commentary
3.Characteristics of Proposed Development The potential significant effects of proposed development in	The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (geographical areas and size of the affected population)	No	The impacts are anticipated to be insufficient given the scale of the proposed development.

relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above and having particular regard to:	The nature of the impact	No	The impact of the proposal will be negative during construction stage but will be positive once completed.
	The transboundary nature of the impact.	No	Not considered relevant
	The magnitude and complexity of the impact.	No	The impacts are anticipated to be insufficient given the scale of the proposed development.
	The probability of the impact	No	There are no significant environmental effects anticipated.
	The expected onset, duration frequency and reversibility of the impact.	No	There are no significant environmental effects anticipated.
	The cumulation of the impact of other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A) (b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment.	No	There are no significant effects anticipated.
	The possibility of effectively reducing the	No	There are no significant environmental effects anticipated.

	impact		
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Conclusion

The proposed development falls within the scope of the Infrastructure project type prescribed in the Directive or Regulations. However, it is considered to be sub-threshold in nature.

Having considered the nature, scale and location of the proposal, having regard to the characteristics and location of the proposed development, and having regard to the characteristics of potential impacts, it is considered that the project is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental impacts.

It is noted that a separate Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has concluded that there will be no negative impacts on the qualifying interests or species of any NATURA 2000 site within a 15KM radius of the proposed development.

It is concluded that there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out for the proposed Development of a new Kinnegad Community Library and Education and Training Centre. In addition, there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be prepared.