

EIA Screening Report

Dromod to Rooskey Greyway

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Leitrim County Council

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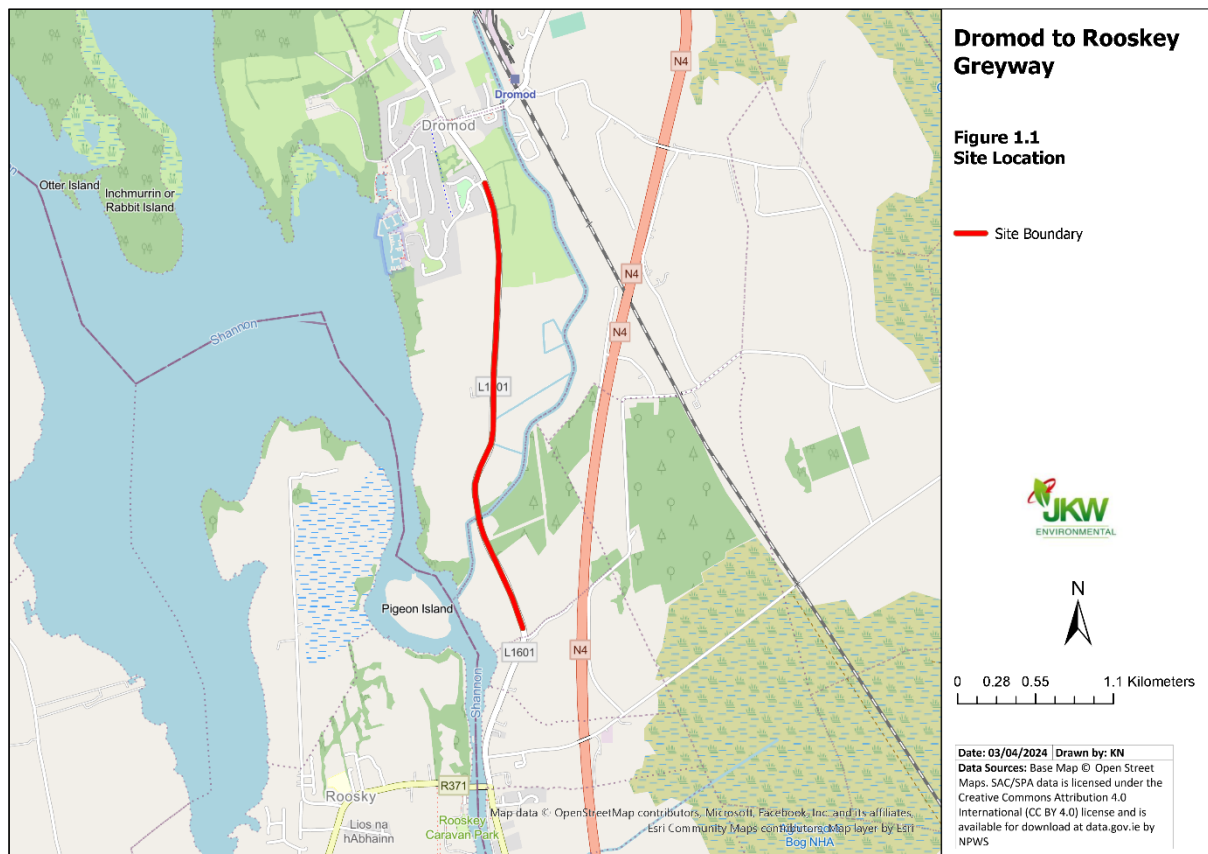
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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

JKW Environmental Ltd was engaged by Leitrim County Council to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report for the proposed Greyway (footpath) between Rooskey and Dromod, Co. Leitrim. Figure 1.1. shows the project location.



1.2 Legislative Background

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a procedure undertaken by a competent authority pursuant to its obligations under the EIA Directive the terms of European Directives on the assessment of the impacts of certain public and private projects on the environment. In accordance with the provisions of Part X of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), an EIA shall be carried out in respect of an application for development which is specified in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, (as amended) (“the 2001 Regulations”). A mandatory EIA is required for developments which fall within the classes of development prescribed in remit of Schedule 5.

In addition, an EIA of “sub-threshold” development EIA may be required, if the competent Planning Authority determines that the proposed development would be likely to have significant impacts on the environment. Schedule 7 of the Regulations details the criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant impacts on the environment considering the characteristics of the proposed development, its location and characteristics of potential impacts.

Thus, Article 93 of, and Schedule 5 to, Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (“the 2000 Regulations”) sets out the classes of development for which a planning application must be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment report (EIAR). Part 1 and Part 2 Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 prescribes the categories of, and thresholds for, prescribed development requiring EIA.

1.2.1 Project Type and thresholds

Schedule 5 Part 1 of the 2001 Regulations is aligned with Annex I of the EIA Directive and identifies those developments for which EIA and the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is mandatory. This schedule lists a range of development activities including major infrastructure projects such as airports, motorways or power stations. The proposed development does not fall within any of the classes of prescribed development contained in Part 1 of Schedule 5.

Schedule 5 Part 2 of the 2001 Regulations is aligned with Annex II of the EIA Directive and lists the type of development that may require an EIA. This depends on site area, and quantum of development in relation to thresholds listed and therefore if there is potential for likely significant environmental effects.

Paragraph 10(b) of Part 2 of Schedule 5 contains the following prescribed development:

“b) (i) Construction of more than 500 dwellings

(ii) Construction of a car-park providing more than 400 spaces, other than a car-park provided as part of, and incidental to the primary purpose of, a development.

(iii) Construction of a shopping centre with a gross floor space exceeding 10,000 square metres.

(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 20 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.)”.

In this regard, the proposed development does not fall within any of the above categories as listed above, as it relates to pedestrian footpath with overall site of approximately 0.1ha. This is well below the threshold of 10 hectare.

European Commission (2015) guidance provides information on the interpretation of definitions of project categories and details potential project types that would meet the definition of ‘urban development’. These are as follows:

- Projects with similar characteristics to shopping centres and car parks, such as bus garages, train depots;
- Construction projects such as housing development; concert halls; cultural venues;
- Projects to which the term ‘urban’ and ‘infrastructure’ may relate such as construction of sewerage and water supply networks.

The proposed project does not correspond or have similar characteristics to any of the suggested project definitions and would therefore not be considered under the ‘urban development’ criteria of Schedule 5 Part 2.

For the purposes of EIA, the 2001 Regulations define ‘business district’ as a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use. A review of current landuse

based on the landuse zoning of the County Leitrim Plan area, a review of google aerial imagery and site visit show that the immediate project area comprises agricultural grasslands, and mixed forestry with peatlands further east. It does not correspond to a 'business district; for the purposes of EIA, and more accurately corresponds to 'elsewhere' as listed under the above regulations.

In summary, the project does not correspond to 'urban development' project definition following European Commission guidance, nor does it meet the threshold for EIA in this project category, being an area of 0.1ha with a mandatory EIA threshold of 20ha in this category.

In relation to criteria applied for mandatory EIA development as listed in Section 50 of the Roads Act 1993, the project does not meet the criteria for EIA given the scale, and nature of the proposed works, relating to play area provision. In light of this, the project does not meet the criteria for such works under the Roads Act 1993, as amended.

However, notwithstanding that the proposed development is "sub threshold", as set out in the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment* (August 2018), screening is the initial stage in the EIA process and determines whether or not specified public or private developments are likely to have significant effects on the environment and, as such, require EIA to be carried out prior to a decision on a development consent application being made.

One of key amendments introduced by the 2014 EIA Directive includes strengthening of the procedures for screening, particularly through the introduction of new information requirements to be provided by the developer (Annex IIA, and transposed into Irish law by Schedule 7A to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended) and revised selection criteria to be used by the competent authority in making a determination (Annex III of Directive, Schedule 7 to the 2001 Regulations).

According to European Commission Guidance (2017¹)

"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."

¹ Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU). European Commission 2017. Page 23.

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."

For the avoidance of doubt, Section 3 of this report, provides an assessment of the project against Schedule 7 criteria of the EIA regulation to which sub threshold development is required to be assessed. Section 4 provides the EIA Screening Determination.

1.3 Screening

1.3.1 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 2.2 Proposed Development**);

(b) a description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected (**Section 2.3 Receiving Environment**)

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 3 of this report**);

(b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity (**Section 3 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 3 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.

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 Leitrim County Council, the EIA Screening Determination please see Section 4 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:

- Practice Note on EIA – Office of Planning Regulator, 2021
- 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.
- Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive, 2015.
- 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 is written by Katie Neary. She is a Senior Ecologist with JKW Environmental. Katie has completed an honours B.Sc. in Environmental Science. She is a full member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES). She regularly carries out reporting on Ecological Impact Assessment and to inform Natura Impact Assessments / Appropriate Assessments carried out by statutory authorities. Furthermore, she has several years' experience in habitat surveys, mammal surveys, bird and bat surveys for a number of large infrastructure schemes, commercial and residential projects. Katie is an experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW).

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Works. Jamie is also Chartered with the Society for the Environment holding the postnominal C.Env. Over the past 20 years, working as an Environmental / Ecological Consultant, Jamie has gained extensive experience in a range of ecological surveys and assessment techniques including bird surveys, bat surveys and Ecological Clerk of Works.

The project was informed by a site visit and walkover on 9th April 2024 by Katie Neary.

2. Description of the Proposed Development

2.1 Site Description

The project is located along the L1601 between Dromod and Rooskey and has a footprint of c.0.1Ha . The proposed site consists of a mixture of farmland, conifer plantation and hedgerows bordered by artificial surfaces in the form of roads. The proposed development is located in a semi-rural setting with residential units to the north in Dromod, a small number of once off housing along the L1601 and at the edge of Rooskey. Lough Boffin and the River Shannon are located to the west of the proposed project.

2.2 Project Description

The proposed development will consist of the construction of a footpath along the L1601 between Dromod and Rooskey. The footpath will be 2m wide with a 1m separation zone between it and the public road. The footpath will be construction using approximately 50mm of macadam laid on 100mm of CL.804.

One bridge crossing is required at the Rooskey Eslin Bridge. A 1.5 wide footpath will be installed within the existing bridge structure. The footpath will be separated from the road with a crash barrier and a 0.6m wide separation zone.

No lighting is proposed to be installed along any section of the proposed footpath.

2.3 Receiving Environment

2.3.1 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 2.1 presents a summary of existing environmental baseline under the above topics.

2.4 Summary of Environmental Baseline

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

EIA topic	Summary
Human Being	<p>Dromod and Rooskey has a combined population of 1540 persons according to the 2022 Census and varies between marginally above average and marginally below average in the HP Deprivation Score.</p> <p>The site fronts the L1601 connecting Dromod and Rooskey.</p> <p>The topography of the surrounding areas is largely low lying.</p>
Fauna and Flora	<p>The project site is located within an area of roadside verge with hedgerow forming the western boundary and the L1601 forming the eastern boundary. These are of varying condition and quality with sections affected by ash dieback.</p> <p>The closest European site to the proposed development is Clooneen Bog SAC [002348] c. 3km south of the proposed development. Clooneen Bog SAC is designated for its Annex I priority habitat: Bog woodland [91D0], as well as Annex I habitats Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150].</p> <p>The following protected flora or fauna were recorded within the 2km polygons, N08N and N08P surrounding the project site.</p> <p>Species name</p> <p>Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>) Blackcap (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>) Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) Blue Tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>) Chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>) Coal Tit (<i>Parus ater</i>) Common Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>) Common Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>) Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) Common Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>) Common Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) Common Grasshopper Warbler (<i>Locustella naevia</i>) Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>) Common Pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>) Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) Common Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>) Common Whitethroat (<i>Sylvia communis</i>) Common Wood Pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>) Eurasian Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>) Eurasian Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>) Eurasian Treecreeper (<i>Certhia familiaris</i>) European Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>) Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) Great Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>) Hooded Crow (<i>Corvus cornix</i>) House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)</p>

	<p>Lesser Redpoll (<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>) Long-tailed Tit (<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>) Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>) Mistle Thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>) Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) Northern Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>) Sand Martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>) Sky Lark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>) Willow Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>) Winter Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>) Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>) Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto</i>) Daubenton's Bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>) Lesser Noctule (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>) Natterer's Bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>) Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i>) Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>) European Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) Pine Marten (<i>Martes martes</i>) Irish Hare (<i>Lepus timidus</i> subsp. <i>hibernicus</i>) Eurasian Red Squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>) Eurasian Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)</p>
Water Resources	<p>The study area lands are situated within the Upper Shannon catchment (code:26C) and the sub catchment of Eslin_SC_010 (26C_10).</p> <p>The River Eslin is located within the southern section of the project boundary. The Eslin is classified as 'Moderate' water quality as per the WFD River Waterbody Status 2016-202 and classified as 'At Risk' as per the WFD Risk 3rd Cycle.</p> <p>The project is located within the Kilglass Dromod Groundwater body (IE_SH_G_120) and the Mohill Groundwater body (IE_SH_G_171) and is not at risk of not meeting the WFD good status by 2027. The existing hydrological environment is characterised primarily by the presence of the River Shannon and the River Eslin. There are no open drains within the boundary of the site an open drain runs along the field boundary adjacent to the site boundary. This drain ultimately discharges into Lough Boffin. Groundwater Vulnerability is considered low to moderate.</p>
Soil and Geology	<p>The geology of the site was reviewed using data from the Geological Survey of Ireland (available at www.gsi.ie). The soil type at the location of the proposed development is identified as 'Sandstone and shale till (Lower Paleozoic). The surrounding areas comprise mainly of same and a mixture of peat and alluvium.</p>
Landscape and townscape	<p>The project site comprises grassy verges with hedgerows/treelines. The surrounding area is mixture of farmland, conifer plantation and hedgerows bordered by artificial surfaces in the form of roads. An area of High Visual Amenity is located adjacent to the proposed project.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<p>The project is located with the Rural Air quality zone with air quality classified as 'good' as of 25-May-2021. No noise mapping was available for this area.</p>
Cultural heritage &	<p>No archaeological sites or protected structures are in or adjacent to the project site.</p>

Material Assets	
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2.5 Standard construction practices

2.5.1 Management of Surface Water

The construction management of the site will take account of the recommendations of the CIRIA guidelines:

- Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites (2001) and Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects (2006) and
- Inland Fisheries Ireland's (IFI's) Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works.

2.5.2 Measures to reduce the spread of invasive species

It is confirmed that no non-native invasive species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 were recorded within the proposed development site. Mitigation measures to confirm continued absence of invasive species in light of the ongoing construction activity in and around the development site are outlined below:

- In the event that additional topsoil and quarried stone is required on the site, it will be sourced from a stock that has been screened for the presence of any invasive species and where it is confirmed that none are present.
- All machinery will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to arrival and departure from the site (through pre-agreed Biosecurity Protocols) to prevent the spread of invasive species. This process will be detailed in the contractor's method statement.

These will be developed in line with

- TII: The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Roads – Standard (2020)
- NRA (2008). Guidelines for the Management of Waste from National Road Construction Project.
- Biosecurity protocols available for aquatic and riparian species available on the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species and Restoration of Natural Communities in Ireland (CAISIE) www.caisie.ie.

2.5.3 Mitigation Measures for Breeding Birds during Construction

Removal of vegetation (e.g. scrub and grassland) should be avoided, between the 1st of March and the 31st of August, to avoid direct impacts on nesting birds. Where the construction programme does not allow this seasonal restriction to be observed, then these areas will be inspected by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of breeding birds prior to clearance. Areas found not to contain nests will be cleared within three days of the nest survey. Where the vegetation is not cleared within three days of checks, a repeat check will be required. Should nesting birds be encountered during surveys, the removal of vegetation will be required to be delayed until after the nesting has finished.

3. EIA Screening

3.1 Environmental Factors to be considered in the EIA Screening

This Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report assesses whether this proposed development requires “full” Environmental Impact Assessment. The legislation requires screening to be undertaken to determine whether specified public or private developments are likely to have significant effects on the environment and, as such, require EIA to be carried out prior to a decision on a development consent application being made. As described in Section 1.2.1 this project does not meet the criteria or categories for mandatory EIA nor correspond to development of over 2 hectares in a business district for urban development, nor corresponds to Roads Development under the Roads Act 1993, as amended.

As further referenced above, the 2014 EIA Directive introduces a new Annex IIA (which is transposed into Irish planning law as Schedule 7A to the 2001 Regulations) to be used by competent authorities carrying out EIA screening determinations. Schedule 7A requires that the following information be provided by a developer in respect of projects listed in Annex II:

1. *A description of the proposed development, including in particular:*
 - a) *a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works.*
 - b) *a description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.*
2. *A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.*
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.*
 - b) *the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.*
4. *The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.*

3.2 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 3.1
2. Characteristics of the Proposed Development - Table 3.2
3. Location of the Proposed Development - Table 3.3 and
4. Characteristics of Potential Impact Tables 3.4 and 3.5

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.

3.3 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 for Leitrim Council was consulted on the 10th April 2024 for the subject lands and immediate surrounds for permitted developments in the past five years.

Table 3.1 - Applications within 1km of the Site Boundary

Planning Authority	Application Number	Description	Development Address	Decision	Grant/Decision Due Date
Leitrim County Council	2217	demolish existing habitable dwelling house and decommission existing septic tank and percolation area. 2. To construct a replacement storey and half bungalow type dwelling house on same footprint as the existing dwelling house. Provide mechanical effluent treatment unit percolation area, including all ancillary works necessary to complete the development	Drumod More Td, Dromad, Co. Leitrim	Conditional	25/04/2022
Leitrim County Council	2132	(a) erect type dwelling house with accommodation at attic level, domestic garage, mechanical effluent	Killinakar Td, Roosky, Co Leitrim	Refused	23/04/2021

		treatment unit and percolation area; (b) To utilise and upgrade existing forestry entrance previously granted under planning permission Ref: P.15/155 to provide entrance and access road to proposed development including all ancillary site works necessary to complete the development.			
Leitrim County Council	21112	1. erect dormer type dwelling house with accommodation at attic level, domestic garage, mechanical effluent treatment unit and percolation area. 2. To utilise and upgrade existing forestry entrance previously granted under planning permission Ref: P15/155 to provide entrance and access road to the proposed development including all ancillary site works necessary to complete the development	Killinaker Td, Roosky, Co Leitrim	Conditional	25/11/2021
Leitrim County Council	20133	(1) retention of single storey rear extension to the South of the dwelling (2) retention of attic conversion & associated roof lights (3) retention of detached shed (4) permission for the construction of a new single storey extension to the South West of the existing dwelling comprising of Accessible Bedroom & Bathroom and (5) associated site works & services	Moher ED, Roosky Td., Roosky, Co Leitrim	Conditional	19/11/2020
Leitrim County Council	20220	complete 6 number two storey town houses previously granted and commenced under Planning Reference P.04/676, erect boundary walls, extend existing service road, connections	Knockmacrory Td., Roosky, Co Leitrim	Conditional	16/03/2021

		to existing services and all associated works			
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In light of the above, the project however will not have the potential to combine with other land use activities to result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats or species of the European sites or other environmental parameters.

3.4 Assessment of effects

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 3.2

2. Location of the Proposed Development - Table 3.3 and

3. Characteristics of Potential Impact - Tables 3.2 and 3.3

TABLE 3.2. 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 provision of a pedestrian footpath connecting Dromod and Rooskey.</p> <p>The size of the project at 0.1 ha is significantly below the EIA threshold, as is the overall design. Of itself the project is not identified as giving rise to significant negative environmental effects due to scale, nature and size of the proposed development.</p>
(b) cumulation with 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. No significant environmental effects are identified from interaction or in combination with other existing or approved projects.</p>
(c) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;	<p>Due to the scale and nature of the project, small volumes of natural resources will be used during the construction process. Natural resources will not be used from the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.</p>
(d) the production of waste;	<p>Yes, small amounts of construction waste are anticipated.</p> <p>Likely significant effects on the environment are not identified.</p>

<p>(e) pollution and nuisances;</p>	<p>The construction phase is minor in scale and approach. The project is not expected to result in any likely significant adverse effects on the environment and are identified as contributing positively to a number of factors in particular human beings, and material assets.</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 standard construction practices being followed through the construction phases. The project 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>Given the above approaches, the project does not pose significant risk of major accidents and/or disaster.</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. Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment</p>
<p>Will the proposed development create a significant amount of nuisance during its construction or operation?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 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 3.3 . 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>The project as summarised in Section 2.2 .</p> <p>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 rural in character.</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 will not impact the natural resources in the area. 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 identified as giving rise to significant effects given its scale and approach to works.</p> <p>An Appropriate Assessment Screening has been prepared by JKW Ltd and it was found that no likely significant effects on the conservation management objectives of European Sites are predicted.</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>There are no direct or indirect effects identified for the project and potential risks to these surface waters of the Eslin River, River Shannon or tributaries of same. This is due to the nature of the works, the scale of the project, the absence of surface water hydrological links and the low risk of effects on groundwaters.</p> <p>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. Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.</p>

(vii) densely populated areas;	The project site is adjacent to an established urban area and through a rural area and given its size, type and scale, no negative effects are identified in relation to this criterion.
(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance	Given the above approaches the project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment, no such effects are identified.

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

Rationale: The works as proposed in this development are considered to result in negligible environmental effects given the above approach the potential construction related effects is reduced to minimal effects. The screening process assesses the most significant potential impacts in relation to the themes outlined below in Table 3.4 below. These are considered as follows:

3.4.1 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 3.4. LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Topic	Potential Impact
Human Beings	The project does not result in likely significant negative effects on the environment in relation to Human beings due to the scale, location, type of project and approach to construction.
Flora and Fauna	The project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment in relation to Flora and Fauna. No instream works are proposed and the project in and of itself is not identified as giving rise to effects on flora and fauna.
Soil and Geology	The project does not result in likely significant effects on soil and geology due to the scale, size, type and location of the project and the approach to construction.
Water	No instream works proposed. The construction approach will reduce the risk of any construction related activities on the water resources. The project does not result in likely significant effects on water resources in the environment.
Air Quality and climate	Emissions during works phase will be minimized through best practice and will be temporary in duration and nature. The project does not result in likely significant negative effects on the air quality and climate.
Noise and Vibration	Noise during the construction phase may result in temporary and relate only to the construction elements of the works. The project does not result in likely significant effects on the environment.
Cultural Heritage	Given the scale, type and duration of the project no significant negative effects on this parameter are identified. Positive effects are identified.
Landscape	No significant negative effects identified.
Interrelationship between parameters	The key interrelationship arises between human beings, material assets. Given the approach outlined in Section 2, the project does not result in significant negative effects on the environment and is expected to enhance the wellbeing of the community in the longer-term and enhance these topics.

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

Rationale: Localised and temporary negligible impacts are identified associated with construction. The nature of the receiving environment and the proposed development, together with the effective implementation of the standard construction and installation measures means that there is no real likelihood of significant negative effects on the environment.

TABLE 3.5. LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Characteristics of potential impacts 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:	
(a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	Minor to negligible temporary impacts are identified primarily at construction stage. The geographic area of the proposed works are confined to the immediate project site, 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;	Given the scale, size and nature of the project no significant effects are identified.
(e) the probability of the impact;	There is low probability of impacts given the approach to construction, the location, scale and type of development proposals. .
(f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	Impacts identified for topics are not significant and will be temporary in nature, as they relate to construction phase. Operation phase impacts are not identified as significant for any environmental topic due to scale, location and design. .
(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. 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 not identified.

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 the construction phase of 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.

3.4.2 Identification of the Relevant Assessments Available

In consideration of a recent high court case (Waltham Abbey Residents Association v. An Bord Pleanala & ORS), the following statement was made:

“The kind of assessments that should be brought together in the statement under 299B(1)(b)(ii)(II)(C) include those under the following directives:

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- (i) directive 92/43/EEC, the habitats directive: see EC EIA, Guidance on Screening, 2017, p. 44;
 - (ii) directive 2000/60/EC, the water framework directive: see EC EIA, Guidance on Screening, 2017, p. 44;
 - (iii) directive 2001/42/EC, the SEA directive: see EC EIA, Guidance on Screening, 2017, p. 44;
 - (iv) directive 2002/49/EC, regarding environmental noise;
 - (v) directive 2008/50/EC, the clean air for Europe directive;
 - (vi) directive 2007/60/EC, regarding the assessment and management of flood risks; as well of course as
 - (vii) any other relevant provision of EU law.”

For this EIA Screening Report, the following sources are pertinent:

- (i) Leitrim County Development Plan 2023 -2029
- (ii) Natura Impact Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

3.4.3 Results of Relevant Available Assessments

3.4.3.1 Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 ER and NIR

The majority of the land on which the development is proposed is currently not zoned.

Similarly, the Leitrim County Development Plan SEA and NIS does not provide specific commentary of assessment in relation to this landuse zoning.

3.4.3.2 Water Framework Directive

The sub-catchment assessment is available for the Eslin_SC_010 within which the project is located. This is summarised below with text relevant to the sub catchment:.

“Three out of four water bodies are AT RISK due to less than Good biological status, Eslin_010, Eslin_030 and Eslin_040. Rowan, a lake water body, is AT RISK due to elevated phosphate. Agriculture is likely to be a significant pressure throughout the sub-catchment, in addition to channelisation that may be impacting habitat conditions and hence biology.”

No part of the project relates to works that would impact the hydromorphology by channelisation or embankment activities. The risk of siltation is noted, the scale, nature, location and design of the project is small, and is not identified as contributing significantly nor in any meaningful way to the risk of increased siltation or excessive contributions to combined sewer outflows. No wastewater treatment is associated with the project; the size of the project at 0.1ha is a tiny fraction of the total sub catchment.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Screening Determination

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.

As established in the preceding Section 1.2.1 of this report (EIA Project Type and Thresholds), given the nature and scale of the proposed project, the proposals do not correspond to any project type, nor do they meet the thresholds and criteria for the most appropriate potential project type of 'urban development' as set out in the EIA Directive and Schedule 5 of the 2011 Regulations.

The EIA Screening Report has provided an overview assessment of the Proposed Development against the Schedule 7 criteria of 2011 Regulations for the avoidance of doubt.

Section 3 examined the nature of the development including the size and location of the development, and the types and characteristics of likely potential effects. Construction works are anticipated to result in temporary negative effects on certain parameters, whilst the operation phase will result in neutral to positive effects relating to EV charging. The approach to construction will include best practice standard construction measures.

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 negligible/

The information provided in this EIA Screening Report can be used by the competent authority 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.

References

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

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

OPR Practice Note PN02 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening (2021)

Leitrim County Development Plan 2023 -2029

Natura Impact Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023 -2029

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023 -2029

Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive, 2015.

EU and Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Screening, 2017.

Government of Ireland EIA Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development, 2003.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment, 2018.

Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, EPA 2022

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