

**HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT  
FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Liberty Square Phase 2, Thurles**

<b>(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:</b>	
<b>Site location:</b>	Thurles, Co Tipperary
<b>Proposed development:</b>	<p>Liberty Square/Parnell St/O'Donovan Rossa St &amp; Friar St:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widening of footpaths to provide a better pedestrian environment and new high quality paving;</li> <li>• Realignment of carriageways to improve traffic circulation and introduction of dedicated pedestrian crossings and raised tables at selected junctions;</li> <li>• The enhancement of Liberty Square/Parnell St/O'Donovan Rossa St and Friar St through hard and soft landscaping measures, the undergrounding of services and associated signage.</li> </ul>
<b>Is the application accompanied by EIS</b>	No
<b>(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITE(S):</b>	
<b>Natura 2000 site(s) within 15km and distance to same:</b>	Lower River Suir SAC
<b>Sites within the zone of influence:</b>	The site is within the drainage catchment of the Lower River Suir SAC 002137.
<b>Conservation objectives/qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the Natura 2000 site synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan: (all available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>) (ATTACH INFO if necessary)</b>	<p><b>Lower River Suir SAC</b> Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margaritifera margaritifera</li> <li>• Austropotamobius pallipes</li> <li>• Petromyzon marinus</li> <li>• Lampetra planeri</li> <li>• Lampetra fluviatilis</li> <li>• Alosa fallax</li> <li>• Salmo salar (only in fresh water)</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</li> <li>• Lutra lutra</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachionvegetation [3260]</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels</li> <li>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</li> </ul>
<b>Key Environmental conditions to support site integrity.</b>	Maintenance of water quality in habitat. Maintenance of integrity of habitat.

<b>(C) POSSIBLE IMPACTS ARISING FROM THE PROJECT:</b>		
<b>Consider the potential for direct impacts on habitats</b> <i>Consider proposed developments within 200m of the Natura 2000 site</i>		<b>Y/N and Comment</b>
1.1	Could the proposed project give rise to direct loss of habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is designated, or other habitats occurring within the Natura 2000 site?	No
1.2	Could the proposed project give rise to increased human usage/access to the site, which could potentially cause deterioration of certain habitat types eg woodlands, wetlands or riverbanks. Consider proposals for development of a large scale within 1km of sensitive woodlands eg large scale residential development or hotels. Consider proposals for the development of paths or cycleways along the river.	No
1.3	Does the proposed project involve development of drainage systems? If yes, could this cause drying out of wetland or woodland habitats within the Natura 2000 site?	No
<b>Consider the potential for impacts on water quality within the Natura 2000 site</b> <i>Consider all proposed developments within the catchment of the Natura 2000 site.</i>		<b>Y/N and Comment</b>
2.1	Are there any rivers, streams or drains connecting the proposed development site and the Natura 2000 site? If yes, consider whether there is potential for construction related impacts on water quality.	Yes. The Suir river is upstream of the Lower River Suir SAC. There is a decrease in hardstanding areas and any drainage network will connect into the existing combined Storm and Foul system which will not interfere with the Natura 2000 site..
2.2	Would the proposed project result in surface water or other discharges to rivers, streams or drains directly connected to the Natura 2000 site? If yes, consider	No.

	whether the discharges could give rise to increased eutrophication or other pollution risk within the Natura 2000 site. Consider whether increased surface water discharge could give rise to increased risk of downstream storm water surges.	
2.3	Would the proposed project require an industrial waste water discharge license? If yes, consider the potential impacts of the discharge on water quality in the Natura 2000 site.	No
2.4	Is the proposed project located within a flood zone? If yes, consider whether there is potential for construction or operational related impacts on water quality in the Natura 2000 site; consider whether the proposed project increases flood risk elsewhere in the catchment and particularly the Natura 2000 site; or increases the risk of stormwater surges downstream.	No
2.5	Are the proposals for waste water treatment in compliance with EPA requirements?	N/a
2.6	Could the proposed project contribute to cumulative negative impacts on water quality? Consider the current status of the freshwater system (see <a href="http://www.wfdireland.ie">www.wfdireland.ie</a> ).	No
2.7	Would the proposed project involve dredging (construction or ongoing maintenance related)?	No
<b>Consider potential for impact on species</b>		<b>Y/N and Comment</b>
<i>Freshwater Pearl Mussel</i>		
3.1	Protection of this species will be achieved by the protection of water quality (see section 2 above), by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above), and by the maintenance of free passage for fish.	No potential for impacts.
<i>Freshwater Crayfish</i>		
3.2	Protection of this species will be achieved by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above).	No potential for impacts.
<i>Fish species including Salmon, Lamprey spp. and Twaitte Shad</i>		
3.3	Protection of these species will be achieved by the protection of water quality (see section 2 above), by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above), and by the maintenance of free passage for fish.	No potential for impacts.
<i>Otter</i>		
3.4	Would the proposed project result in any interference with river banks within the Natura 2000 site?	No
3.5	Would the proposed project result in increased levels of disturbance to the habitat of the Otter?	No
<i>Bats</i>		
3.6	Would the proposed project involve the removal of trees, hedgerow or woodland?	No Urban Setting
3.7	Does the proposed project involve the repointing of old bridges or the restoration or demolition of old buildings or other structures?	No

**D) NPWS ADVICE:**

Summary of advice received from NPWS:	None
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<b>(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:</b>			
Screening concludes that : (Tick [✓] the appropriate box A, B or C)			
<b>A)</b>	<b>Appropriate Assessment is not required because the project is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.</b>		
<b>B)</b>	<b>No potential for significant effects therefore Appropriate Assessment is not required.</b>	✓	
<b>C)</b>	<b>Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging or inappropriate.</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	Thomas Duffy		
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Executive Engineer	<b>Date:</b>	01/05/24

Preliminary Examination		
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	<b>Liberty Square Phase 2, Thurles Co Tipperary</b>	
<b>Site location:</b>	Thurles Co Tipperary	
<b>Proposed Development:</b>	Liberty Square/Parnell St/O'Donovan Rossa St/Cuchulain Rd & Friar St: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widening of footpaths to provide a better pedestrian environment and new high quality paving;</li> <li>• Realignment of carriageways to improve traffic circulation and introduction of dedicated pedestrian crossings and raised tables at selected junctions;</li> <li>• The enhancement of Liberty Square/Parnell St/O'Donovan Rossa St./Cuchulain Rd. and Friar St. through hard and soft landscaping measures, the undergrounding of services and associated signage.</li> </ul>	
Examination		
	Yes / No/ Uncertain	Comment
Is the size of the development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?	No	Development small in scale relative to mandatory EIA threshold of 20 ha
Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining, or have the potential to impact on a sensitive site or location?	No	
Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in emissions or pollutants?	No	No significant construction or operational impacts anticipated to arise from the development
Conclusions		
Based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size or location of the development, is there a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment?		
There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment	EIAR not required	√
There is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment	Screening Determination Required	
	Schedule 7A information required?	
There is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment	EIAR is required	
<b>Name:</b>	Thomas Duffy	<b>Date:</b> 01/05/24
<b>Position</b>	Senior Executive Engineer	

