


EIA Pre-Screening Establishing if the proposal is a 'sub-threshold development':	
Planning Register Reference:	
Development Summary:	Improvement works and active travel measures on the R498 and adjoining local roads L4132 and L4131 at The Ragg, Thurles.
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 Part A
A. Schedule 5 Part 1 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 1 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify class ___[insert here]_____	EIA is mandatory No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Proceed to Part B
B. Schedule 5 Part 2 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and 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	No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 and meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): ___[specify class & threshold here]___	EIA is mandatory No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is of a type listed but is <i>sub-threshold</i> :	Proceed to Part C
C. If Yes , has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant	Screening Determination required
<input type="checkbox"/> No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant	Preliminary Examination required
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:  18/07/23	

STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:

(a) File Reference No:

R498 and adjoining local roads at The Ragg, Thurles

(b) Brief description of the project or plan:

The main elements of the proposed development are:

- rural fringe signs and roadmarkings in accordance with TII CC -SCD-05116 on R498 approaches;
- realignment of the R498 from The Ragg pub to immediately north of the crossroads;
- kerbing to define the realigned R498 carriageway edge;
- defined bus-stops for northbound and southbound buses north of the crossroads;
- upgraded public lighting to provide lighting consistent with an urban environment;
- footways on both sides of the realigned R498 to reflect primary pedestrian demand lines;
- regularising the geometry of the crossroads to be consistent with an urban environment;
- set-back the R498 boundary of the field immediately south of the L4131 to improve visibility to the driver's left for traffic entering the R498 from the L4131;
- a shared surface on the north side of the L4131 between the R498 and the school access;
- a footway from the school access to the cemetery;
- uncontrolled crossings of the R498 north and south of the crossroads and on the L4131 at the access to the school. Subject to appropriate traffic speeds after construction of the Scheme, the northern crossing could be upgraded to a Zebra crossing;
- realignment of the Ballychaill Road approach to its junction with the R498;
- set-back of the roadside boundary on the east side of the R198 to improve visibility for southbound traffic on the R498.

(c) Brief description of site characteristics:

The development site is centred on a crossroads junction of the R498 Regional Road and two local roads, the L4132 and L4131. All roads are typical of rural unimproved roads; facilities for pedestrians are minimal and non-existent for cyclists. The alignment of the R498 is relatively straight in both the horizontal and vertical senses and this encourages higher speeds through the village. A footway of varying width runs along the north side of the L4132 and west side of the R498, thus providing a continuous pedestrian link from Laurence O'Toole Church off the L4132 to the GAA Club off the R498. There are no other continuous pedestrian facilities in the village and there are no cycle facilities at all.

**(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted:
e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW**

none

(e) Response to consultation:

No report to date

STEP 2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.

European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest ¹	Distance from proposed development ² (km)	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
Lower River Suir SAC, 002137	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002137	Approximately 1.7km	No	No
Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA, Site Code. 004165	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004165	Approximately 13.5km	No	No
Anglesey Road, SAC. Site Code 002125	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002125	Approximately 13.8km	No	No

Devilsbit Mountain SAC, Site Code000934	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000934	Approximately 10.5km	No	No.
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STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:

Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/magnitude etc.)
Construction phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation clearance • Demolition • Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) • Dust, noise, vibration • Lighting disturbance • Impact on groundwater/dewatering • Storage of excavated/construction materials • Access to site • Pests 	The scale and nature of the proposed development are not considered to result in a significant impact on the environment by virtue of their construction activities. Development relates signs and road-markings, road realignment, provision of kerbing and bus-stop, public lighting and provision of footways. The development also includes the provision of an uncontrolled crossing and set back the roadside boundary. It is considered that the loss of vegetation will be minimal. All construction works will be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines in order to minimise the probability of impacts on the surrounding environment.
Operational phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct emission to air and water • Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment • Lighting disturbance • Noise/vibration • Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction • Presence of people, vehicles and activities • Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) • Potential for accidents or incidents 	The characteristics of the proposed development are not considered to result in a significant impact on the environment by virtue of their size, nature, or operational activities. The works entail realignment and improvement of existing roadway and the provision of lighting, footpaths etc to provide a safer urban space for pedestrians and cyclists.
In-combination/Other	

(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:

Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area • Disturbance to QI species • Habitat or species fragmentation 	The application site at a significant distance from the closest Natura 2000 site and is therefore unlikely to impact on same.
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- Reduction or fragmentation in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.)
- Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI
- Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site

(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?

Yes No

STEP 4. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significance of effects:

Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is **not likely** to have **significant** effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

On the basis of the information on file and having regard to the proximity of the proposed development, it is concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will not have an impact on the above listed European sites

Conclusion:

	Tick as Appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on a European site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate assessment not required.
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request further information to complete screening <input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
(iii) Significant effects are likely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:



Date:

18/03/23

