

**Preliminary
Environmental Impact Assessment
Screening Report**

for proposed

**Urban Improvement Works Rock Road,
Killarney, Co. Kerry**



**Environmental Assessment Unit
Kerry County Council**

1.1 Introduction

The Environmental Assessment Unit (Planning and Sustainable Development Department) has been requested by the Operations Department, Kerry County Council to assist in forming an opinion as to whether or not the proposed road project, which would consist of urban improvement works along Rock Road, Killarney, should be subject to EIA Screening or EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment). This report comprises a Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report and is based on objective professional judgement and expertise.

1.2 Legislative context

EIA legislation sets down the types of projects that may require an EIA. Annex I of Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU' defines mandatory projects that require an EIAR / EIS and Annex II lists projects which can be subject to case by case analysis or thresholds to be determined by member states. The relevant threshold summaries of legislative requirements for EIA Screening for road type developments (in Ireland) are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Summary of Legislative Requirements for EIA Screening – From the Roads Act (1993–2016); based on the original format in the NRA Guidelines on EIA (2008).

Mandatory		Regulatory Reference
(1) Construction of a motorway		S. 50.—(1) (a)(i) of the Roads Act, 1993-2016.
(2) Construction of a busway		S. 50.—(1) (a)(ii) of the Roads Act, 1993-2016.
(3) Construction of a service area		S. 50.—(1) (a)(iii) of the Roads Act, 1993-2016.
(4) Any prescribed type of proposed road development consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road, namely:	<p>The construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or the realignment or widening of an existing road so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new, realigned or widened road would be eight kilometres or more in length in a rural area, or 500m or more in length in an urban area;</p> <p>The construction of a new bridge or tunnel which would be 100 metres or more in length.</p>	<p>Article 8 of the Roads Regulations, 1994 (Part V Environmental Impact Assessment)</p> <p>Article 8 of the Roads Regulations, 1994 (Part V Environmental Impact Assessment)</p>

Sub-Threshold	Regulatory Reference
<p>(4) Where An Bord Pleanála considers that any proposed road development (other than development to which mandatory requirement applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he shall direct the road authority to prepare an environmental impact statement in respect of such proposed road development and the authority shall comply with such direction.</p>	<p>S. 50.—(1) (b) of the Roads Act, 1993 - 2016.</p>
<p>(5) Where a road authority considers that any proposed road development (other than development to which mandatory requirement applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, it shall inform the Board in writing and where the Board concurs with the road authority he shall give a direction to the road authority (as above).</p>	<p>S. 50.—(1) (c) of the Roads Act, 1993 - 2016.</p>
<p>(6) Where a proposed road development (other than development to which mandatory requirement applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be located on certain environmental sites, the road authority concerned shall decide whether the proposed road development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The sites concerned are:</p>	<p>S. 50.—(1) (d) of the Roads Act, 1993 – 2016.</p>
<p>(i) a European Site, meaning (I) a candidate site of Community importance, (II) a site of Community importance, (III) a candidate special area of conservation, (IV) a special area of conservation, (V) a candidate special protection area, or (VI) a special protection area</p>	
<p>(v) Land established or recognised as a nature reserve within the meaning of section 15 or 16 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (No. 39 of 1976)</p>	
<p>(vi) Land designated as a refuge for fauna under section 17 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (No. 39 of 1976)</p>	

If the authority decides that the proposed road development would be likely to have significant effects, it shall inform An Bord Pleanála in writing (as outlined in (6) above).

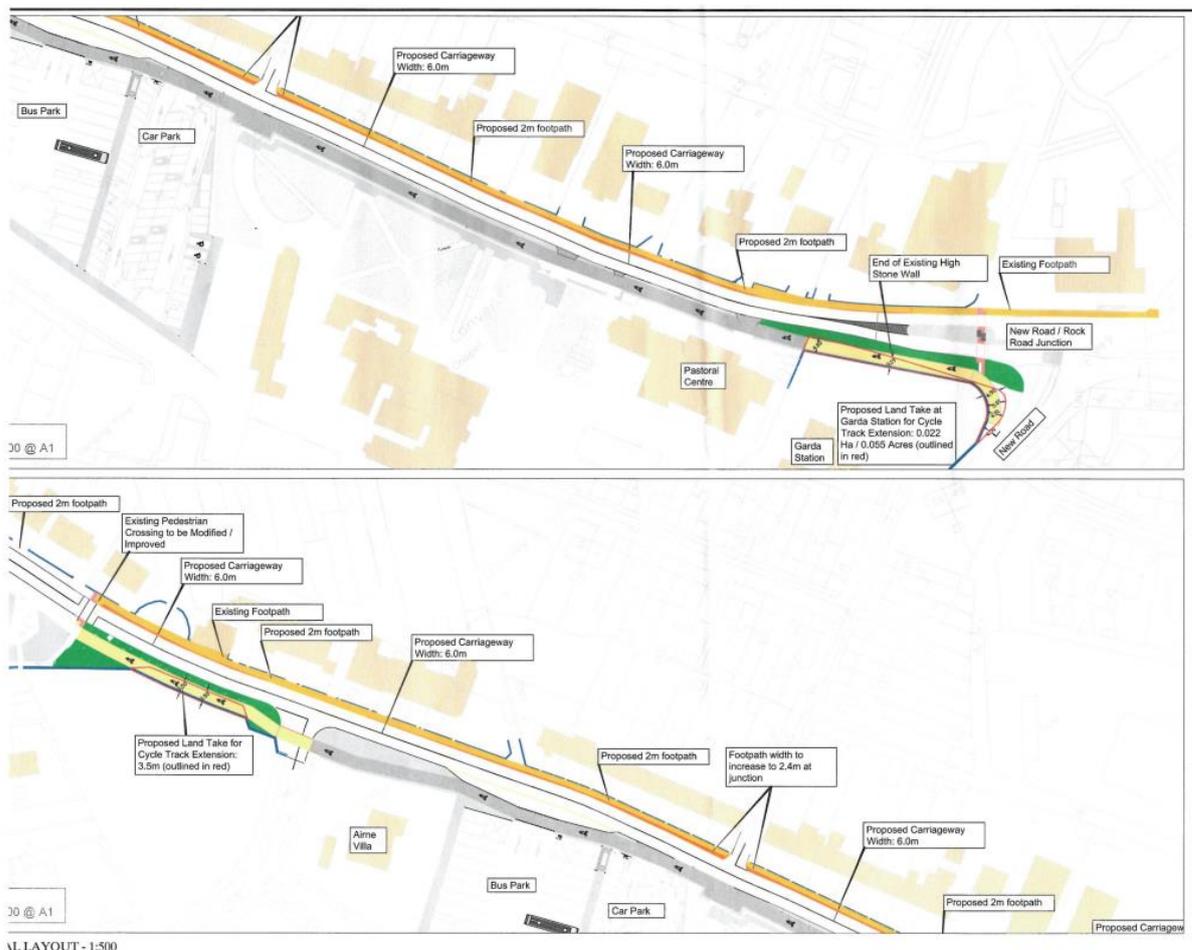
1.3 Methodology

Following on from an outline of a project as described in Section 2 of this report, the preliminary screening exercise will be outlined in Section 3. Section 4 outlines the conclusion.

2. Project Description

The proposed development seeks to provide urban improvement works along the Rock Road, Killarney. As part of this the following would be provided:-

- Upgrading 484m of the Public Footpath to a width of 2ms
- Cycle track extension to that permitted on the southern side of the road (in both directions)
- Undergrounding of ESB Overhead Networks
- Provision of Decorative Public Lights



The proposed works would link in with the permitted Rock Road bus / carpark proposal bus/car park new footpath / cycle lane along the southern side of Rock road

– which is currently under construction. As part of this the footpath on the northern side of the Rock Road will be increased to 2m in width and the permitted footpath and cycleway on the southern side will be extended in both directions.

Rock Road is a busy approach road to Killarney Town. Kerry County Council also has (separate) plans for a small-scale infill Housing project (10no. 1& 2 bed apartments) on lands adjoining the proposed works to the northwest. The proposal would support more sustainable travel movements / active travel.

3. Preliminary Screening Exercise

The proposed scheme has been assessed in terms of the mandatory requirement for an EIA based on the nature or scale of the development, as addressed in the EU Directive 2014/52/EU and also the Roads Act 1993 - 2016. It is considered that the proposed road scheme is not one which falls within the scope of this category. As part of this the requirements laid out in Table 1 have been taken into account.

In particular, it is noted that a roadway of 4 or more lanes is not proposed as part of this proposal. It should be noted that mandatory EIA requirements for non-road type development have also been considered and discounted in this instance. As part of this infrastructure type projects listed in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as amended were taken into account.

In consideration of the requirement for significant effects on the environment, the Source-Pathway-Receptor model is used to review the characteristics of proposed development, location of the proposed development and the characteristic of the potential impacts. As outlined under Section 2. above, the characteristics of proposed development include standard road project works within and adjoining an existing urban road corridor. The project is located within Killarney Town and is not adjacent to nature reserves or other sensitive features.

These are small scale works, which do not involve the creation of significant pollution or waste, risk of major accidents or risk to human health. No invasive species are located along the works area. The characteristics of the impacts include construction noise from the movement of machinery, negligible fugitive air emissions from use of machinery and negligible risk from the machinery's fuel and oil.

The proposal is a natural extension to the road works currently under construction on the Rock Road. It is noted that there are further proposals for a small infill housing project on the Rock Road. No significant cumulative impacts are likely to arise in view of the small scale and contained nature of the works. No Archaeological issues arise. Therefore, in consideration of the nature, scale and location of the development, there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.

Development Features	Preliminary Examination
Annex I Project	No
Annex II Project	No
Sub-threshold Project	Yes
Characteristics	Small scale, straightforward works. Not a complex construction.
Location	Not highly sensitive – works located within an urban setting, within and adjoining the existing road corridor
Impacts	Minor – temporary and manageable. No adverse operational stage impacts
Potential for significant effects	No
EIA or EIA Screening required	No

Conclusion

In consideration of the nature, scale and location of the development, it is concluded that there is no significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. EIA Screening nor EIA are required in this instance.

Reasons for conclusion

- The proposal is substantially below relevant mandatory EIA thresholds.
- There are no potential cumulative or in combination effects likely to arise.
- There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development.

Influential measures incorporated into the project envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment

None required