# AA: Screening Form

| STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics: | |
|---|---|
| **(a) File Reference No:** | Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended by the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46) |
| **(b) Brief description of the project or plan:** | Proposal by Kilkenny County Council to carry out works in Thomastown consisting of the following :<br>- New 2 bay half width side panel bus shelter,<br>- hard standing,<br>- kerbing etc |
| **(c) Brief description of site characteristics:** | The site is located along Market Street and Low Street within Thomastown. The designated area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC is located approx. 40mto the south of the site from Low Street Scheme and 110metres from Market Street scheme. The proposed development site is without a pathway between the proposed site and works and the Natura 2000 sites. |
| **(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted: e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW** | n/a |
| **(e) Response to consultation:** | n/a |

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

| Natura 2000 European Site | List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest[1] | Distance from proposed development[2] (km) | Connections (Source- Pathway-Receptor) | Considered further in screening Y/N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| See tables 2 and 3 below | See tables 2 and 3 below | See tables 2 and 3 below | No | No |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

[1] Short paraphrasing and/or cross reference to NPWS is acceptable – it is not necessary to reproduce the full text on the QI/SCI.
[2] If the site or part thereof is within the European site or adjacent to the European site, state here.

**Table 2: Identification of Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) which may be impacted by the proposed development**

Please answer the following five questions in order to determine whether there are any Natura 2000 sites which could potentially be impacted by the proposed development. If the answer to all of these questions is no, significant impacts can be ruled out for habitats and bird species. No further assessment is required. Please refer to tables 3 and 4 where the answer to any of these questions is yes.

| | *Using the Source – Pathway- Receptor model, please consider the following* | Y/N |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | **ONE- OFF HOUSE /SMALL EXTENSION/ ALTERATION TO EXISTING BUILDING** | |
| **1a** | Is the development a one- off house/small extension/alternation to existing building within an SAC/SPA or within 100m of an SAC/SPA and likely to discharge pollutants or nutrients of a significant nature and amount to surface water within catchments of and SAC/ SPA as part of its construction or operational phase (including the installation of waste water treatment systems; percolation areas; septic tanks within SAC/SPA or very close proximity)?.<br><br>**If the answer to the above question is:**<br>**- no, then no appropriate assessment required**<br>**- yes, then an appropriate assessment is required**<br>**- not sure, then an appropriate assessment is required in accordance with the precautionary principle** | N |
| **2** | **DEVELOPMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE DESCRIBED IN 1 ABOVE** | |
| **2a** | **Impacts On Freshwater Habitats**<br>*Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats, or in the catchment of same and does the development propose to discharge water to or abstract water from the habitat?*<br><br>**Sites to consider:** Lower River Suir, River Barrow, River Nore. (these sites also include many tributaries – check on NPWS website)<br><br>**Habitats to consider:**<br>Alluvial Wet Woodland, (Lower River Suir and Nore), Dry Heath (some steep slopes along River Barrow and its tributaries) Rivers, Streams, Lakes and Lagoons, Old Oak Woodland, floating river vegetation,<br><br>**Species to consider:**<br>River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearls Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Vertigo Moulinsiana, | N |
| **2b** | **Impacts On Wetland Habitats**<br>*Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats, or likely to discharge water to or abstract water from the wetland?*<br><br>**Sites to consider:** Hugginstown Fen, Galmoy Fen, The Loughans, Flood Plain wetlands<br><br>**Habitats to consider:**<br>Bogs, Alkaline Fens (Hugginstown and Galmoy), Turloughs (The Loughans), wet grassland and Marsh (river floodplains) | N |
| **2c** | **Impacts on Intertidal and Marine Habitats**<br>*Is the development located within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include intertidal and marine habitats and species, or within the catchment of same and likely to discharge water to or abstract water from the habitats.*<br><br>**Sites to consider:** Lower River Suir<br><br>**Habitats to consider:** *Atlantic Salt meadows, Mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh, estuary*<br><br>**Species to consider:** Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter. | N |
| **2d** | **Impacts On Woodlands And Grasslands**<br>*Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying habitats include terrestrial habitats, or in close proximity to same with a likely ecological impact?.*<br><br>**Sites to consider:** Spa hill and Clomantagh Hill, Cullahil Mountain, River Barrow, River Nore, Lower River Suir<br><br>**Habitats to consider:**<br>*Alluvial Wet Woodlands* (River Nore below Inistioge and River Suir at Fiddown Island and Carrick on Suir), Eutropic tall herb vegetation (River Suir at Fiddown Island and Carrick on Suir), and grasslands (Spa hill and Clomantagh Hill, Cullahil Mountain)<br><br>Oak Woodlands in old estates next to the Nore and Barrow<br><br>**Species to consider:** Greenwinged, Frog and Bee Orchids (Cullahill and Clomantagh Hill), Nettle Leaved Bellflower and Autumn Crocus | N |
| **2e** | **Impacts On Birds**<br>*Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or likely to discharge water to same or likely to have another significant impact on the habitats of Birds in same?.*<br><br>***Sites to consider:*** *River Nore* | N |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Using the Source – Pathway- Receptor model, please consider the following*** | **Y/N** |
| | **Species to consider:**<br>**River Nore:** Kingfisher (Alcedo Atthis**)** – Nesting in river banks | |

**Table 3: Determination of possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites.**
Where it has been identified in table 2 that there is a Natura 2000 site within the potential impact zone of the proposed development, it is necessary to try to determine the nature of the possible impacts. Please answer the following questions as appropriate.

| | ***Using the Source – Pathway- Receptor model, please consider the following- notwithstanding distance any direct link needs consideration*** | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **Impacts on designated freshwater habitats (rivers, lakes streams and lagoons).**<br><br>*Please answer the following if the answer to question 2a in table 2 was yes.*<br><br>*Does the development involve any of the following:* | |
| 1.1 | Impacts on watercourses (tributaries, streams, drains) which are remote from the SAC/SPA but may still impact on the SAC/SPA by reason of the nature or quantity of the discharge | N |
| 1.2 | Abstraction from surfacewater or groundwater within 1km of SAC/SPA. | N |
| 1.3 | Removal of topsoil within 100 m of watercourses with potential for surface water runoff. | N |
| 1.4 | Infilling or raising of ground levels within 100m of watercourses with potential for surface water runoff. | N |
| 1.5 | Construction of drainage ditches within 1km of SAC/SPA. | N |
| 1.6 | Construction within a floodplain or within an area liable to flood. | N |
| 1.7 | Crossing or culverting of rivers or streams within 1km of SAC/SPA. | N |
| 1.8 | Storage of chemicals hydrocarbons or organic wastes within 100 m of a watercourse. | N |
| 1.9 | Development of a large scale which involves the production of an EIS. | N |
| 1.10 | Development of quarries, particularly where abstraction is below water table.<br>Provision of process water silt management systems | N |
| 1.11 | Development of windfarms within 1km of an SAC or with the risk of runoff to an SAC/SPA, particularly during construction. | N |
| 1.12 | Development of pumped hydro electric stations. | N |
| **2** | **Impacts on designated wetland habitats (bog, heath, marsh, fen).**<br><br>*Please answer the following if the answer to question 2b in table 2 was yes.*<br><br>*Does the development involve any of the following:* | |
| 2.1 | Impacts on watercourses (tributaries, streams, drains) which are remote from the SAC/SPA but may still impact on the SAC/SPA by reason of the nature or quantity of the discharge. | N |
| 2.2 | Construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of a Natura 2000 site of which qualifying interests include peat, fen or marsh. (Only Peat habitat at Bruckana – consider Galmoy fen – impact unlikely | N |
| 2.3 | Development of a large scale within 1km within a Natura 2000 site, whose qualifying features include fen or marsh, which involves the production of an EIS. | N |
| *3* | **Impacts on designated intertidal and marine habitats (mudflats, sandflats, estuaries, reefs and sea cliffs).**<br><br>*Please answer the following if the answer to question 2c in table 2 was yes.*<br><br>*Does the development involve any of the following:* | |
| 3.1 | Impacts on intertidal and marine habitats from potential development which are remote from the SAC/SPA but may still impact on the SAC/SPA by reason of the nature or quantity of the discharge | N |
| 3.2 | Development of piers, slipways, marinas, pontoons or any other infrastructure within 5km of a Natura 2000 site whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats. | N |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3.3 | Dredging within 5km of a Natura 2000 site whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats. | N |
| 3.4 | Impacts on watercourses (tributaries, streams, drains) which are remote from the SAC/SPA but may still impact on the SAC/SPA by reason of the nature or quantity of the discharge. | N |
| 3.5 | Removal of topsoil or infilling within 100m of Natura 2000 sites whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats where potential for surface water runoff exists. | N |
| 3.6 | Development of a large scale within 1km of Natura 2000 sites whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats, which involves the production of an EIS. | N |
| **4** | **Impacts on other designated woodlands and grasslands** (woodland, upland grassland, lowland grassland, coastal grassland including dunes).<br><br>*Please answer the following if the answer to question 2d in table 2 was yes.*<br><br>*Does the development involve any of the following:* | N |
| 4.1 | Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodland or grassland habitat types. | N |
| 4.2 | Development within 200m of Natura 2000 site with woodland or grassland habitats. | N |
| 4.3 | Development of a large scale within 1km of Natura 2000 site with woodland, grassland or coastal habitats which involves the production of an EIS. | N |
| **5** | **Impacts on birds in SPAs**<br><br>*Please answer the following if the answer to question 2e in table 2 was yes.*<br><br>*Does the development involve any of the following:* | |
| | | |
| 5.2 | Erection of wind turbines within 1km of an SPA. | N |
| 5.3 | All construction works within 100m of SPA (River Nore), including the development of cycle ways or walking routes | N |
| 5.4 | Infilling of coastal habitats within 500m of intertidal SPA. | N |
| 5.5 | Works within 1km of coastal SPA which will result in discharges to rivers or streams that are directly connected to designated sites. | N |
| | . | |

**Conclusion:** If the answer to question 1 and 2a-e are no or n/a, significant impacts on habitats within Natura 2000 sites and on SPAs can be ruled out. No further assessment is required in relation to habitats or birds. If the answer to any question in table 2 is yes, you may require further information, unless you are satisfied that the project proponents have incorporated adequate mitigation into their design to avoid impacts on the Natura 2000 site (eg water pollution protection measures). Such information should be provided in the form of a Natura Impact Statement which should address the particular issues of concern as identified through the above.

**Table 4: Consideration of potential impacts on protected species**

Many of our Special Areas of Conservation are designated for species as well as for habitats. These are listed below, alongside the sites for which they are designated. Included is a short list of the types of activities which could have an impact on these species. Please tick if you are concerned that the proposed development could have an impact on these species.

| **Species** | **Relevant Sites** | **Activites which could have impacts on species** | **Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Otter | River Nore<br>River Barrow<br>Lower River Suir<br><br>Note: Otters are a strictly protected species. All breeding sites and resting places are protected regardless of whether or not they are within or external to Special Areas of Conservation. | Activities that interfere with river banks. | N |

| Species | Relevant Sites | Activites which could have impacts on species | Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N |
|---|---|---|---|
| Atlantic Salmon | River Barrow<br>River Nore<br>Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed; | N |
| River Lamprey | River Barrow<br>River Nore<br>Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed; | N |
| Brook Lamprey | River Barrow<br>River Nore<br>Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed; | N |
| Sea Lamprey | River Barrow<br>River Nore<br>Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed – estuarine areas; | N |
| Twaite Shad | Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed – estuarine areas; | N |
| Crayfish | Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed; | N |
| Freshwater Pearl Mussel | River Barrow<br>River Nore<br>Lower River Suir | Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed ; | N |
| Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel | River Nore | Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed ; | N |

**Conclusion:** If the answer to all of the above is no, significant impacts on species can be ruled out. If the answer to any of the above is yes, then further information is likely to be required in relation to potential for impact on that particular species. Where potential impacts are identified on Otters or on Bats outside designated sites, then further information should be sought in the form of a species specific survey. In these cases, appropriate assessment is not required.

## 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.<br>• Vegetation clearance<br>• Demolition<br>• Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits)<br>• Dust, noise, vibration<br>• Lighting disturbance<br>• Impact on groundwater/dewatering<br>• Storage of excavated/construction materials<br>• Access to site<br>• Pests | Not anticipated to |
| Operational phase e.g.<br>• Direct emission to air and water<br>• Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment<br>• Lighting disturbance<br>• Noise/vibration<br>• Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction<br>• Presence of people, vehicles and activities<br>• Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks)<br>• Potential for accidents or incidents | None anticipated |
| In-combination/Other | None anticipated |

| **(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:** | |
|---|---|
| Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:<br>• Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area<br>• Disturbance to QI species<br>• Habitat or species fragmentation<br>• Reduction or fragmentation in species density<br>• Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.)<br>• Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI<br>• Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site | None anticipated |

| **(c) Are *'mitigation'* measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?** | |
|---|---|
| **No** | |

## Step 4: Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement

**Conclusion:**

| | **Tick as Appropriate:** | **Recommendation:** |
|---|---|---|
| (i) It is clear that there is **no likelihood** of significant effects on a European site. | √ | 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. | ☐ | ☐ Request further information to complete screening<br>☐ Request NIS<br>☐ Refuse planning permission |
| (iii) **Significant effects** are likely. | ☐ | ☐ Request NIS<br>☐ Refuse planning permission |
| **Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:** | 2nd March 2026 | |