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# **Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report**

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**(Containing Schedule 7A information)**

**for**

## **Proposed Ballaghaderreen Town Public Realm Enhancement Project**

**prepared for**



**on behalf of**

**BDP.**

**by FGE Consulting**



**June 2021**

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**Document Details**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening report has been prepared for the proposed Ballaghaderreen Town Public Realm Enhancement Project, Co. Roscommon. FGE Consulting was commissioned by BDP. to undertake a screening of the proposed development to establish whether or not it requires an EIA and as a result, if an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should be prepared in respect of it.

The screening process includes an assessment of the details of the proposal with reference to the relevant EIA legislation including the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended<sup>1</sup>), the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) and relevant EU Guidance including *Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive*, EU, 2015 and *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Screening*, EU, 2017.

This screening report includes:

- 1 A description of the proposed development, including in particular;
    - a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works.
  - 2 A description of the location of the proposed development;
    - with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.
  - 3 The legislative basis for EIA;
  - 4 A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development;
  - 5 Screening rationale - including a description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from;
    - the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and
    - the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.
- Where relevant, items 1 to 5 above take account of the criteria set out in Schedule 7. Schedule 7 sets out the criteria for determining whether 'sub-threshold' developments should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment; and
- 6 Conclusion.

## 2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal includes works to develop a Public Realm Enhancement Plan within the town centre to enhance the existing areas and streetscapes including (Figure 2.1):

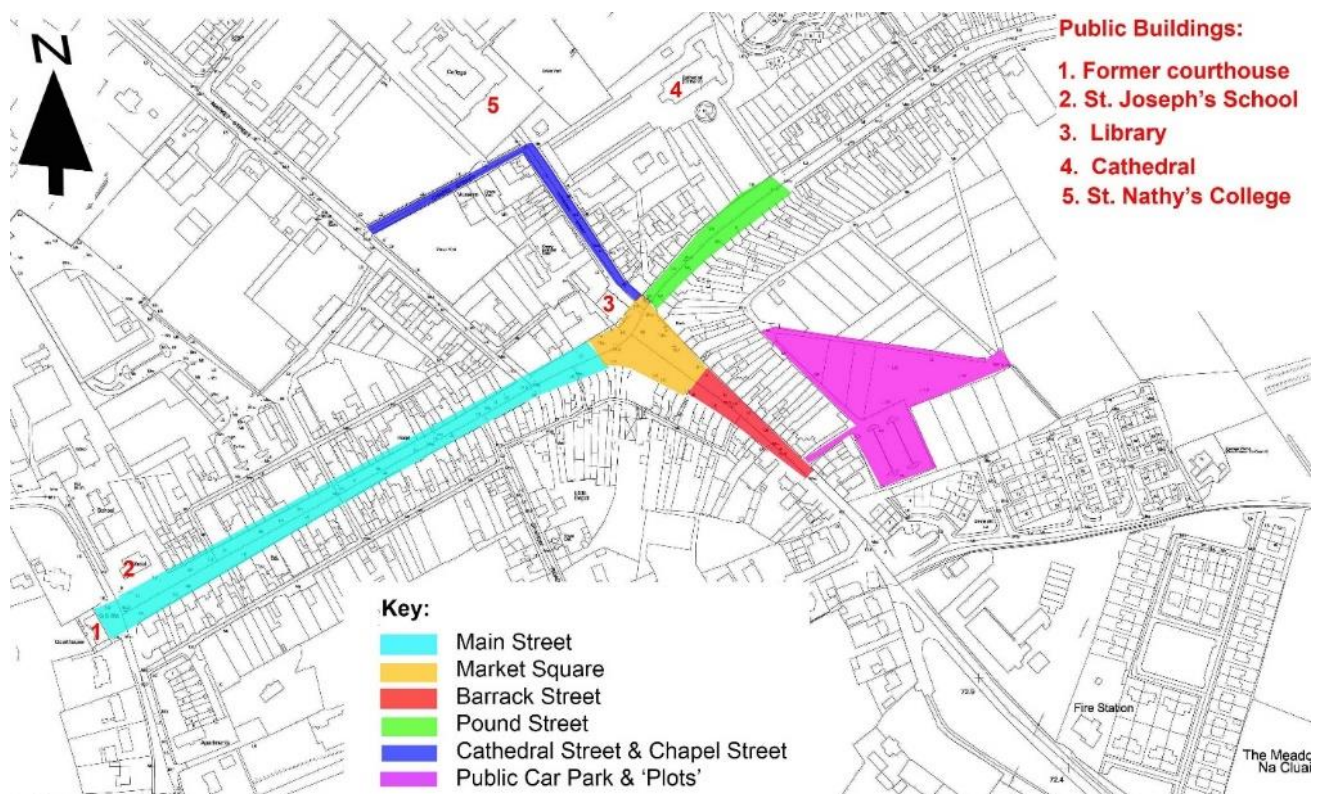
- Main Street – running from Market Square (at its east end) to the Courthouse (to the west; Figure 2.2):
  - Streetscaping works to facilitate footpaths and cycleway access on the Main Street.
  - Alteration to onsite carparking facilities.
- Market Square – where the street widens at the junction of Main Street, Barrack Street and Pound Street; site of the historic Market House (now demolished; Figure 2.3):
  - Public space amendments to facilitate clustering or gathering.
- Barrack Street – the southern approach to the town centre (from the access road to the public car park to Market Square; Figure 2.4):
  - Streetscaping works to facilitate footpaths and cycleway access on the Market Square; whilst also enhancing street furniture and street lighting.

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<sup>1</sup> by the Planning and Development Regulations 2015 and the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018)

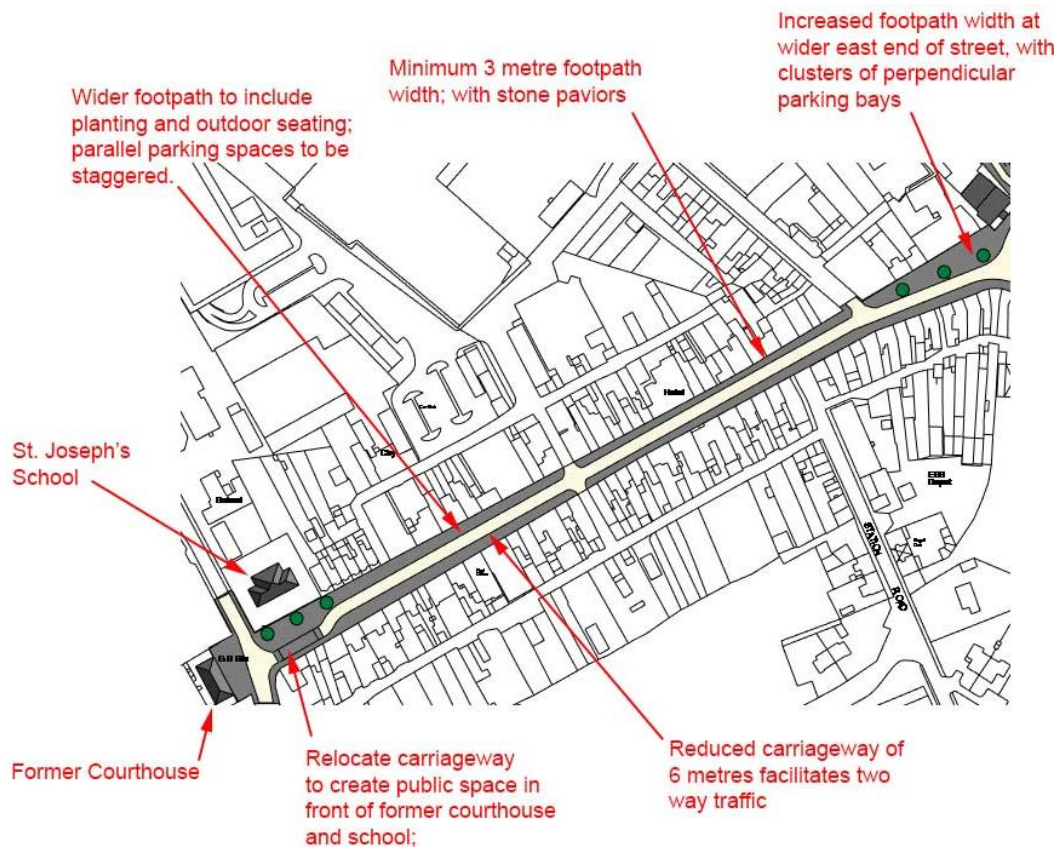
- Alteration to onsite carparking facilities, giving greater consideration for pedestrian access.
- Pound Street – the eastern approach to the town centre (from the Cathedral of the Annunciation and St. Nathy's College to Market Square (Figure 2.5):
  - Streetscaping works to facilitate greater pedestrian access, alternative carparking facilities, and new trees along the street.
- Cathedral Street and Chapel Street – leading to the Cathedral and St. Nathy's College (Figure 2.6):
  - Streetscaping works to facilitate greater pedestrian access, alternative carparking facilities, and new trees along the street.
- The Public Carpark (to south of town centre) and the 'Plots' (a back-land area to the south of Pound Street (Figure 2.7):
  - Aesthetically enhance the area.

Overall, it is intended that the Ballaghaderreen will be reimagined as a more urban amenity-based destination where a greater balance is struck between pedestrian and vehicular movement, in what is currently a vehicle dominated environment. Public realm improvements will be delivered through the above-mentioned hardscaping, landscaping and lighting. New surfaces will be provided and the scheme will provide for the scope to have increased pedestrian space which will have the potential to act as a communal urban space for staging events, festivals, homecomings etc.

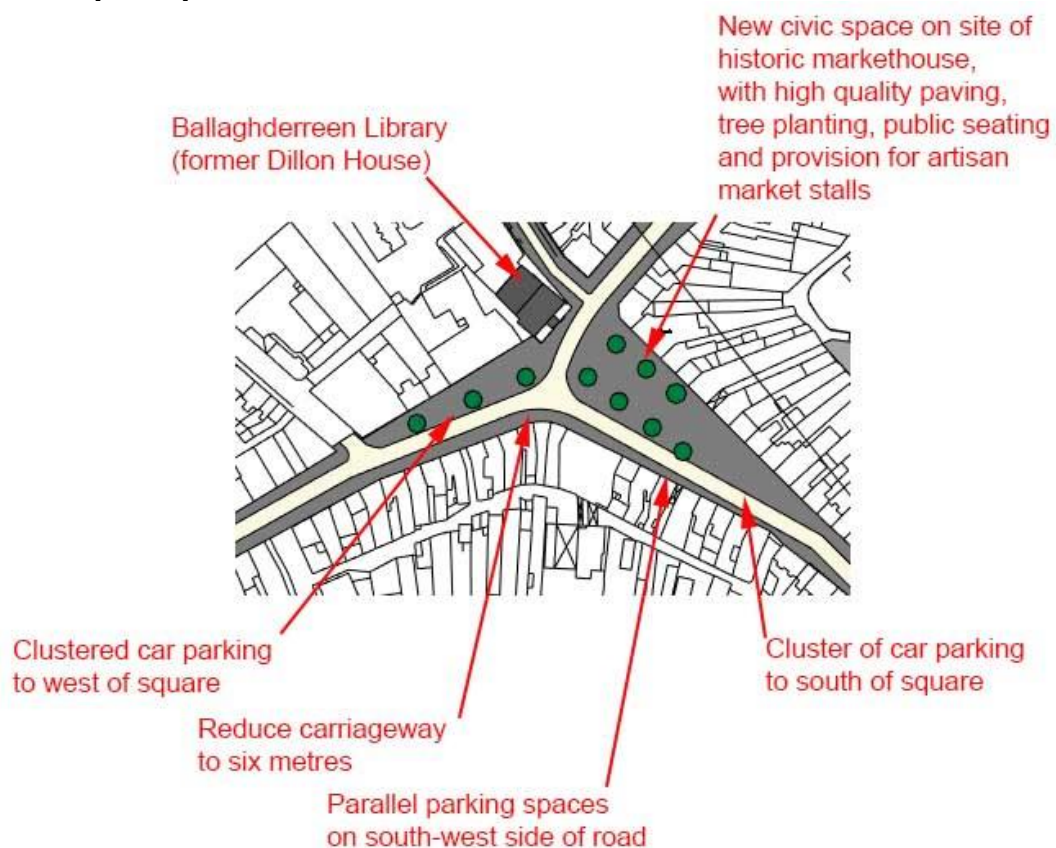


**Figure 2.1 Overview of locations of each of the six areas for public enhancement as part of the proposed Ballaghaderreen Public Realm Plan.**

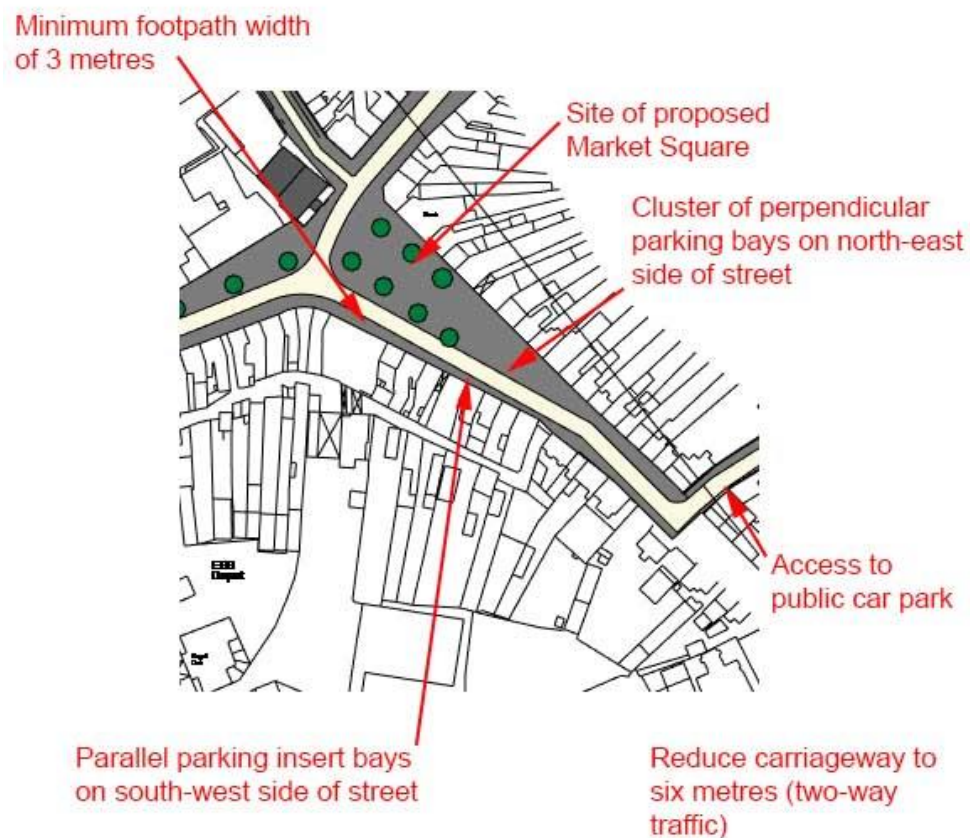




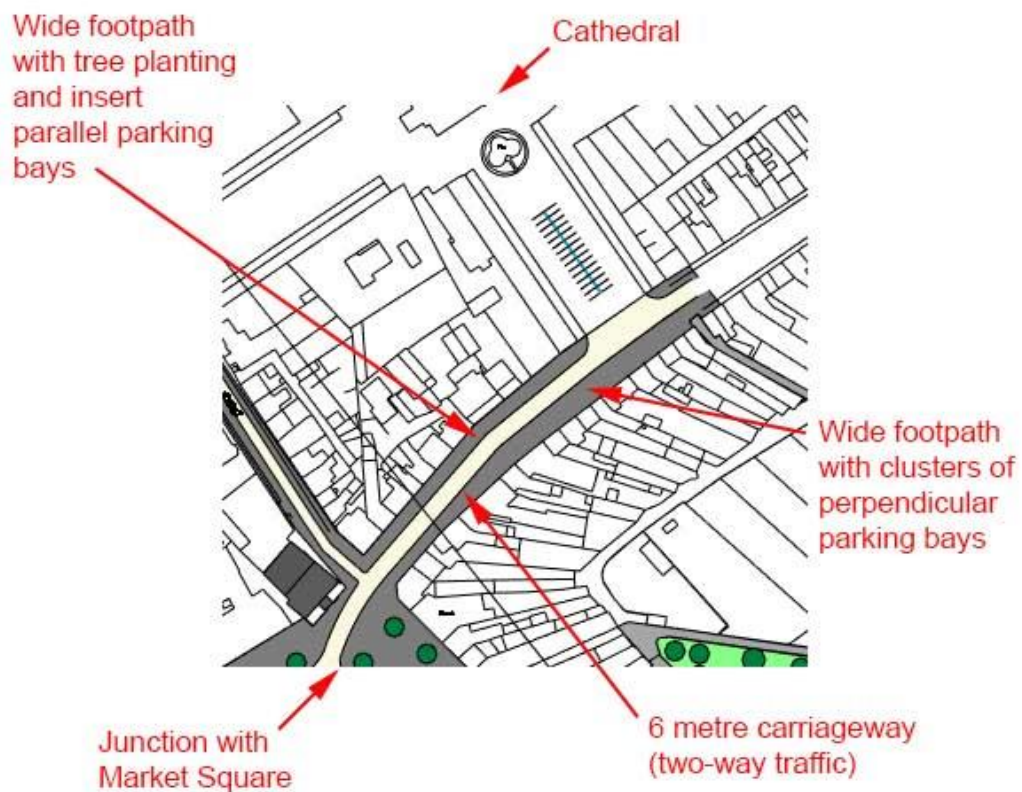
**Figure 2.2 Proposed public realm works to Main Street.**



**Figure 2.3 Proposed public realm works for Market Square**

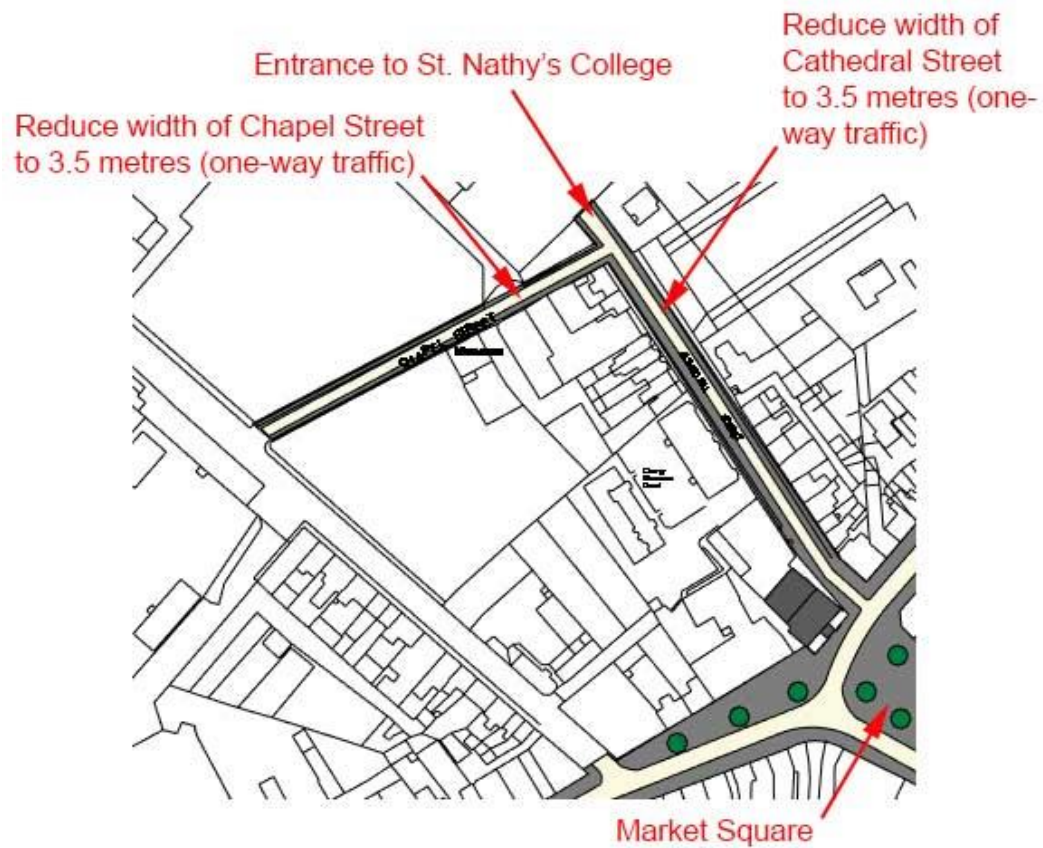


**Figure 2.4 Proposed public realm works for Barrack Street**





**Figure 2.5 Proposed public realm works to Pound Street**



**Figure 2.6 Proposed public realm works to Cathedral Street and Chapel Street**





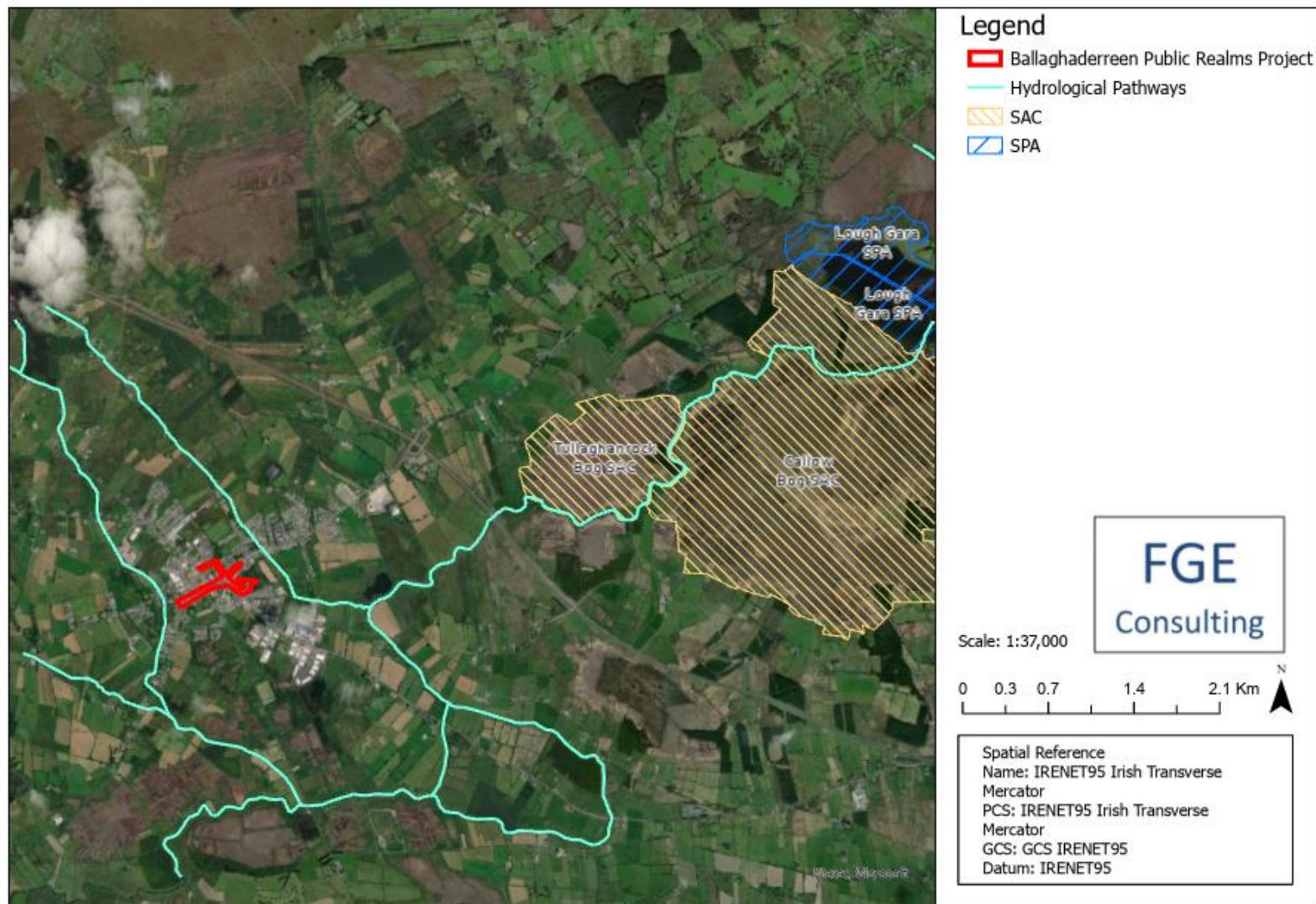
**Figure 2.7 Proposed public realm works to Public Car**

### 3 THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The town of Ballaghaderreen is located at the convergence of a number of regional and local roads – L1244 (formerly the N5 National Primary route) and R293 regional road. The historic core of the town comprises the area around the Market Square, Main Street, Barrack Street and Pound Street area. These traditional core retailing areas remain relatively unchanged since the mid-twentieth century, with some expansion to the north-west to accommodate a SuperValu supermarket. The town centre remains the primary retail area in Ballaghaderreen. The majority of residential development has taken place outside the town core along the approach roads with smaller infill developments within the centre itself.

Ballaghaderreen itself is a semi-urban settlement surrounded by agriculture on all sides. To the west of it lies the Gleann Ard stream and to the east of it lies the Ballaghaderreen stream. These both flow into the River Lung, before eventually flowing out into the sea at the mouth of the River Shannon (Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2). Along the Ballaghaderreen stream near the centre of Ballaghaderreen village the EPA monitoring station has recorded a poor-quality status (Q1) while further downstream this score increases Q5.

Within the plan boundary area, the majority of the site comprises of buildings and artificial surfaces with very few trees present in the town. The carparking area to the extreme east of the scheme area is bounded by a disused excavation area which is surrounded by a woodland area (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The woodland is outside of the redline boundary. The area within the redline boundary has negligible ecological value as it is so intensively built up.



**Figure 3.1 Map of River systems surrounding the proposed site taken from the national EPA database<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Proposed development displayed in the map is indicative of redline boundary





**Figure 3.2 Map of River systems, at a national scale, of the proposed site taken from the national EPA database<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> Proposed development displayed in the map is indicative of redline boundary



**Figure 3.3 Habitats present on and surrounding the Site<sup>4,5</sup>**

<sup>4</sup> As of May 2021

<sup>5</sup> Proposed development displayed in the map is indicative of redline boundary



## 4 LEGISLATIVE BASIS FOR EIA

EIA requirements derive from the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended)). These requirements have been transposed into domestic planning legislation in Part X of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2019 and Part 10 and Schedules 5, 6 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended<sup>6</sup>. Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations lists project types included in the Directive which require EIA. Schedule 5 contains two parts. Projects listed in Part 1 are the same as included in Annex I of the Directive and these automatically require EIA. Part 2 lists project types included in Annex II. Corresponding developments automatically require EIA if no threshold is given or if they exceed a given threshold. Developments which correspond to Part 2 project types but are below the given threshold are termed *sub-threshold* and must be screened to determine whether they require EIA or not. This is done by consideration of criteria set out in Schedule 7.

## 5 ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

This screening has considered the environmental factors set out in Schedule 6 and the criteria for determining whether a proposed development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment set out in Schedule 7 (see Tables (a) to (h) below). It finds that no aspects of the environment are likely to be significantly affected.

## 6 SCREENING RATIONALE

### 6.1 CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT (SCHEDULE 5)

In the first instance it is necessary to determine whether the project is of a type (or 'class') that requires an EIAR. The project does not align with any of the descriptions found in Schedule 5. A specific focus was placed on Schedule 5 Part 2 under sub section 7 'infrastructure projects' due to the nature of the proposed works.

Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 includes this project type:

#### *10. Infrastructure projects*

*(b) (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.)*

*The EU Guidance on 'Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex I and II of the EIA Directive' (2015) interprets 'urban development' as taking 'account of, Inter alia, the following:*

- i. Projects with similar characteristics to car parks and shopping centres could be considered to fall under Annex II (IO}(b). This could be the case, for example, of bus garages or train depots, which are not explicitly mentioned in the EIA Directive, but have similar characteristics to car parks.*
- ii. Construction projects such as housing developments, hospitals, universities, sports stadiums, cinemas, theatres, concert halls and other cultural centres could also be assumed to fall within this category. The underlying principle is that all these project categories are of an urban nature and that they may cause similar types of environmental impact.*
- iii. Projects to which the terms 'urban' and 'infrastructure' can relate, such as the construction of sewerage and water supply networks, could also be included in this category.*

<sup>6</sup> Including SI 296 of 2018, the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018

In relation to the other elements of the project there are no direct project comparisons present in schedule 5. Given that the project in its entirety does not correspond to any prescribed project type, and is sub threshold where the corresponding descriptions match, and considering its scale and the site location, it is reasonable to consider that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment and that EIA is not required. However, in order to provide a comprehensive assessment, this screening proceeds to consider it against the Schedule 7 criteria nonetheless.

## **6.2 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD OR WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT (SCHEDULE 7)**

Out of an abundance of caution this screening nonetheless includes a review of the proposal against the Schedule 7 'Criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment'. This review is documented in Tables (a) to (h) below.

The schedule 7 criteria are set out under three headings:

1. Characteristics of proposed development.  
Eight characteristics are specified, (a) to (h).
2. Location of proposed development  
Three different sensitivity categories are specified, (a) to (c).
3. Types and characteristics of potential impacts  
Eight impact significance considerations are provided, (a) to (h)

A separate table is provided below for each characteristic, (a) to (h).

The location sensitivity categories are set out across the top rows of each table.

The impact significance rating provided in the bottom rows of each table take account of the considerations set out in part 3 of the Schedule. Impacts are rated as:

<b>Impact Significance Rating</b>	
<b>0</b>	No impact / insignificant impact
<b>1</b>	Impact(s) of low significance
<b>2</b>	Significant impact(s)
<b>?</b>	Unknown know

Table (a) Size & Design		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED	Annex III Criteria  Notes	LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
				wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths	coastal zones and the marine environment	mountain and forest areas	nature reserves and parks	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive	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	densely populated areas	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
				Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	Could any such areas be affected by the project?
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	(a) the size and design of the whole of the proposed development  Including all significant elements during construction, and decommissioning, as relevant. 'Whole project' also includes any significant secondary elements which are integral to the project, e.g. infrastructural connections.	The operational phase elements of the project will be consistent with existing land use. Therefore, there will be no change in this regard.	The proposed development does not include the extensive use of natural resources.	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
		Impact Significance									
		0 ✓	0 ✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Table (b) Cumulative Effects		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED  Annex III Criteria  Notes		LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
		Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?  Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	coastal zones and the marine environment  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	mountain and forest areas  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	nature reserves and parks  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive  Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	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  Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	densely populated areas  Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	(b) cumulation with other existing development  and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172 (1A) (b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the EIA Directive by or under any other enactment	There are no significant works taking place in the vicinity of the proposed project. Any works proposed as part of the public realm improvement scheme, taken in conjunction with any recent surrounding works, would result in the accumulative impacts being anticipated as negligible given the nature and scale of the proposed public realm improvement development.	The potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
	Impact Significance										
	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓	0 ✓
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?



ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
		LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
				the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
				wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths	coastal zones and the marine environment	mountain and forest areas	nature reserves and parks	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive	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	densely populated areas	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
Annex III Criteria	Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Could any such areas be affected by the project?	Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?		
Notes	Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?					In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?				
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS	(c) the nature of any associated demolition works	Demolition works are associated with small scale extensions to existing buildings during construction. There will be no demolition phase of the proposed development once complete.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nature of any demolition works		As there is no demolition phase of the proposed development and all demolition works are associated with construction phase extension works, there is no potential for significant effects on the listed characteristics of the existing environment due to demolition works.								

Table (d) Natural Resources		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED	Annex III Criteria Notes	LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
		Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?  Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	coastal zones and the marine environment  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	mountain and forest areas  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	nature reserves and parks  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive  Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	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  Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	densely populated areas  Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	(d) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity,  What natural resources will be used by the construction and operation of the project?	The proposed development is in line with existing urban land use and an extension to existing facilities on site and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas	All development works will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, the potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
		Impact Significance									
		0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Table (e) Wastes		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED  Annex III Criteria  Notes		LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
				wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths	coastal zones and the marine environment	mountain and forest areas	nature reserves and parks	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive	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	densely populated areas	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
		Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?  Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	the abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground  Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	e) the production of waste  What wastes will arise from the construction and operation of the project?	The potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development and the existing land use of the site.	All development works will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, the potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
	Impact Significance										
	0	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓
	1✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Table (f) Pollution & Nuisances		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED	Annex III Criteria  Notes	LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
		Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?  Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	coastal zones and the marine environment  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	mountain and forest areas  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	nature reserves and parks  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive  Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	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  Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	densely populated areas  Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	(f) pollution and nuisances  What emissions will the construction and operation of the project cause?	All development works will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, the potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.  Air quality, light, noise and water pollution impacts associated with the proposed works are anticipated to be negligible given the existing condition of the site as well as the scale and nature of the proposed development.	All development works will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, the potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
		Impact Significance									
		0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?



Table (g) Accidents/ Disasters		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED	OF ANNEX III CRITERIA	LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
		Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?  Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	coastal zones and the marine environment  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	mountain and forest areas  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	nature reserves and parks  Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive  Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	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  Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	densely populated areas  Are there densely populated or built-up areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	(g) 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  Will there be risk of accidents and/or disasters during construction or operation of the project, including risks due to climate change effects such as flooding of chemical storage areas, which could significantly affect the environment?	The potential impacts due to risk of accidents and/or disasters are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development and the existing land use activities on site.	All development works will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, the potential impacts are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
		Impact Significance									
		0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Table (h) Human Health		WILL THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT?									
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED	Annex III Criteria Notes	LANDUSES	NATURAL RESOURCES	NATURAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY							
		the existing and approved land use	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas							
		Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths	coastal zones and the marine environment	mountain and forest areas	nature reserves and parks	areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive	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	densely populated areas	landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance
		Will construction or the operation of the project use or affect natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or other beneficial uses such as water supply, assimilative capacity, landscape or amenity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, amenity value or commercial forestry activity that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology or amenity value that could be affected by the project?	Could any such areas be affected by the project?  In the case of European Sites, will such effects be addressed by assessment carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive?	Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the Project?	Are there densely populated areas around the location which could be affected by the project?	Are there any such areas of that could be affected by the project?  These areas include areas within or visible from protected views or landscapes, sites of particular cultural significance and archaeological sites and their settings.
PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS Annex III Criteria / Notes	(h) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	The risks to human health are anticipated to be negligible given the nature of the proposed development.	-	-	-	-	-	The AA Screening report submitted as part of the planning application concludes that the proposed development will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.	-	-	The proposed development is an extension to an existing facility and all development will be contained within existing hard surfaced areas. Therefore, there are no interactions with any landscape or archaeological features.
	Are there elements of the project that have potential to affect human health through the environmental pathways through which it could be affected, such as effects on water quality, air quality (including odours) or noise?										
Impact Significance											
0✓		0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓	0✓
1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
?		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

## **7 CONCLUSION**

It is considered that the proposal does not come within the scope of any class of project prescribed in Schedule 5 of the Regulations (SI 600 of 2001 as amended).

Having considered the nature, scale and location of the proposal, having regard to the characteristics and location of the proposed development and having regard to the characteristics of potential impacts it is considered that the project is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental impacts.

It is concluded that there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out for the proposed Ballaghaderreen Town Public Realm Enhancement Project. Therefore, there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be prepared.