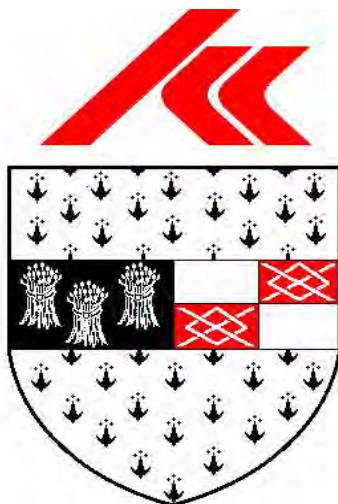


KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



PART 8 DISPLAY DOCUMENT
EXPLANATORY BOOKLET

Thomastown Village Renewal Scheme

September 2013

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PRINCIPLE FEATURES

1.0 Brief description of the proposed works

The proposal put forward provides for the following:-

- Environmental upgrading of the existing streetscape using high quality paving materials and street furniture.
- Removal of existing overhead service cables together with their relocation/replacement underground.
- Provision of new, decorative street lighting.
- Revisions to existing traffic management measures.
- Landscaping.

2.0 Background and reasons for scheme

Kilkenny County Council, as the Project Promoter, proposes to undertake village renewal works in Thomastown at Market St., Pipe St., Logan St. and Low St. The purpose of these works is to improve and enhance the town core environment and to promote business & tourism in the area.

The aim of the proposed works is twofold, namely:

- To improve and enhance the town environment through renewal and development, and,
- To conserve and upgrade the natural and built heritage of the area

This project is being undertaken in cooperation & consultation with Kilkenny Leader Partnership and Thomastown Tidy Towns Committee.

In recognition of the medieval legacy of Thomastown and noting that the proposed works are within the designated Zone of Archaeological Potential, as prescribed in the Thomastown Local Area Plan 2009, Kilkenny County Council will liaise with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in respect of this project.

The primary reasons for undertaking the project include:

- On completion the town improvements will promote a sense of place, a new pride within the local rural community, encourage tourism in the area and support local commercial enterprises by making the town a nicer place to visit & live.
- The substantially improved visual amenity offered by the scheme will make the area a more attractive place to visit & live, which will in turn support the local business & commercial enterprises & will also promote tourism in the area.

- Improved commercial environment within the town arising from increased foot traffic to local shops and businesses as a result of the new, safe & pedestrian orientated facilities, with attractive decorative street furniture & landscaping.
- Improved recreational facilities for walking through the provision of an attractive environment and public space with new street lighting and safe road crossing points.
- Improved road user safety arising from the provision of street lighting, signage & pedestrian focused works.
- Provision of additional landscaping & planting to improve the visual appearance of the area & assist with the goals.
- The existence of overhead service cables and utility poles along with old pole mounted street lighting provides for a poor visual amenity. The undergrounding of services and the introduction of an upgraded lighting design will greatly enhance the streetscape.

Project Benefits

The proposed works will offer substantial benefits to the local community, local businesses and will increase the potential for tourism in the area.

The benefits resulting from the completion of the project would include:

- The village improvements will promote a sense of place, pride in the local rural community, encourage tourism within the area and support local commercial enterprises by making the town a nicer place to visit & live.
- The complete scheme will provide the local rural community and local businesses with an improved town core with clear sky views unobstructed by unsightly wires and cables. The village will be a more attractive place to live, shop and visit which will in turn improve the quality of life for all those living in, and visiting, the area.
- The improvements arising from the scheme will in turn support the local business & commercial enterprises and will also promote tourism in the area.
- The new, safe & pedestrian orientated facilities, with attractive decorative street furniture & landscaping will promote an improved commercial environment arising from increased foot traffic to local shops and businesses.
- The provision of regulated parking and traffic calming as a result of the footpath improvements & new street lighting will ensure safer pedestrian movement through the village.

- The scheme will offer improved recreational facilities for walking through the provision of an attractive environment and public space with new street lighting and safe road crossing points.
- Provision of additional landscaping & planting to improve the visual appearance of the area.

3.0 Design Criteria

The scheme shall be designed in accordance with the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and the DTTAS Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

4.0 Funding

The proposed works meet the requirements for funding under Axes 3 and 4 of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2012. Accordingly Kilkenny County Council is seeking funding for the project from the Kilkenny Leader Partnership under Axes 3 & 4 of the Programme.

5.0 Submissions

Representations and observations with respect to the proposed development may be made in writing to:

J. Mulholland
Director of Services
Kilkenny County Council
County Buildings
John Street
Kilkenny

The latest date for receipt of submissions on the above scheme is **4pm 1st November 2013**.

Thomastown Village Renewal Scheme

September 2013

COPY OF PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY

**Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council**



**Proposed development by a Local Authority
Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010
Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011**

Thomastown Village Renewal Scheme

In accordance with Part 8, Article 81 of the above Regulations, Kilkenny County Council hereby gives notice of proposals pertaining to the following development:

The provision of enhancements to the urban realm in Thomastown at Market Street, Pipe Street, Logan Street and Low Street, these works shall include the following:

- **Environmental upgrading of the existing streetscape using high quality paving materials and street furniture.**
- **Removal of existing overhead service cables together with their relocation/replacement underground.**
- **Provision of new, decorative street lighting.**
- **Revisions to existing traffic management measures.**
- **Landscaping.**

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection from Friday 6th September 2013 to Friday 18th October 2013 inclusive, at the following Kilkenny County Council offices:

**Kilkenny County Council,
County Buildings,
John Street, Kilkenny City.**

**From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5.00pm
Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)**

**Kilkenny County Council,
Thomastown Area Office,
Ladywell, Thomastown.**

**From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5.00pm
Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)**

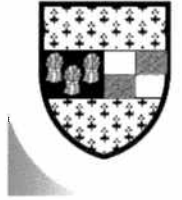
Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development will be carried out may be made in writing to the undersigned. The latest date for receipt of comments on the above scheme is Friday 1st November 2013. Submissions should be clearly marked Thomastown Village Renewal Scheme.

**J. Mulholland
Director of Services
Kilkenny County Council
County Buildings, John Street, Kilkenny**

Thomastown Village Renewal Scheme

September 2013

Habitats Directive
Project Screening Assessment



5th September 2013


Frank Stafford,
Senior Executive Engineer,
Kilkenny County Council,
Road Design Office,
Dean Street,
Kilkenny

Re: IR310 - Part 8 - Thomastown Village Renewal


A Chara

Further to the internal referral received 05/09/13, please find attached a Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment, which concludes that Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Mise le meas,

 05/09/13.
Deirdre Breen
Executive Planner

I agree with the attached report.


D. Malone,
Senior Planner

Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment

Table 1: Project Details

Development Consent Type	Part 8
Development Location	Market St., Pipe St., Logan St. and Low St, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny
Planning File Ref	IR 310
Description of the project	Environmental upgrading of the existing streetscape using high quality paving materials and street furniture, Removal of existing overhead service cables together with their relocation/replacement underground, Provision of new, decorative street lighting, Revisions to existing traffic management measures, Landscaping.

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.

		Y/N
1	ONE- OFF HOUSE /SMALL EXTENSION/ ALTERATION TO EXISTING BUILDING	
1a	<p>Is the development a one- off house/small extension/alteration 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)?</p> <p>If the answer to the above question is: - no, then no appropriate assessment required - yes, then an appropriate assessment is required - not sure, then an appropriate assessment is required in accordance with the precautionary principle</p>	N/A
2	DEVELOPMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE DESCRIBED IN 1 ABOVE	
2a	<p>Impacts On Freshwater Habitats <i>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?</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Lower River Suir, River Barrow, River Nore.</p> <p>Habitats to consider: Alluvial Wet Woodland, (Lower River Suir), Dry Heath (some steep slopes along River Barrow and its tributaries) Rivers, Streams, Lakes and Lagoons, Old Oak Woodland, floating river vegetation,</p> <p>Species to consider: River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearls Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Vertigo Moulinsiana,</p>	Y
2b	<p>Impacts On Wetland Habitats <i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland</i></p>	N

		Y/N
	<p><i>habitats, or likely to discharge water to or abstract water from the wetland?</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Hugginstown Fen, Galmoy Fen, The Loughans, Flood Plain wetlands</p> <p>Habitats to consider: Bogs, Alkaline Fens (Hugginstown and Galmoy), Turloughs (The Loughans)</p>	
2c	<p>Impacts on Intertidal and Marine Habitats <i>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.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Lower River Suir</p> <p>Habitats to consider: <i>Atlantic Salt meadows, Mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh, estuary</i></p> <p>Species to consider: Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter.</p>	Y
2d	<p>Impacts On Woodlands And Grasslands <i>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?.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Spa hill and Clomantagh Hill, Cullahil Mountain, River Barrow, River Nore, Lower River Suir</p> <p>Habitats to consider: <i>Alluvial Wet Woodlands</i> (River Nore below Inistioge and River Suir at Fiddown Island and Carrick on Suir), <i>Eutropic tall herb vegetation</i> (River Suir at Fiddown Island and Carrick on Suir), and <i>grasslands</i> (Spa hill and Clomantagh Hill, Cullahil Mountain)</p> <p>Oak Woodlands in old estates next to the Nore and Barrow</p> <p>Species to consider: Greenwinged, Frog and Bee Orchids (Cullahill and Clomantagh Hill), Nettle Leaved Bellflower and Autumn Crocus</p>	N
2e	<p>Impacts On Birds <i>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?.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: <i>River Nore</i></p> <p>Species to consider: River Nore: Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo Atthis</i>) – Nesting in river banks</p>	Y

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.

1.	<p>Impacts on designated freshwater habitats (rivers, lakes streams and lagoons).</p> <p><i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2a in table 2 was yes.</i></p> <p><i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i></p>	
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.	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). <i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2b in table 2 was yes.</i> <i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i>	
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/A
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/A
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/A
3	Impacts on designated intertidal and marine habitats (mudflats, sandflats, estuaries, reefs and sea cliffs). <i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2c in table 2 was yes.</i> <i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i>	
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). <i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2d in table 2 was yes.</i>	

	<i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i>	
4.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodland or grassland habitat types.	N/A
4.2	Development within 200m of Natura 2000 site with woodland or grassland habitats.	N/A
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/A
5	Impacts on birds in SPAs <i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2e in table 2 was yes.</i> <i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i>	
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
5.6	.	

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

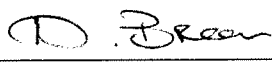
Many of our Special Areas of Conservation are designated for species as well as for habitats. These are listed below, alongside the sites for which they are designated. Included is a short list of the types of activities which could have an impact on these species. Please tick if you are concerned that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

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
Otter	River Nore River Barrow Lower River Suir 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
Atlantic Salmon	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	N

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
River Lamprey	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	N
Brook Lamprey	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	N
Sea Lamprey	River Barrow River Nore 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 River Nore 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.

Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement

Development Type	Part 8
Development Location	Market St., Pipe St., Logan St. and Low St, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny
Natura 2000 sites within impact zone	Between 40m and 140m approx from the River Nore, which is Natura 2000 site.
Planning File Ref	IR
Description of the project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental upgrading of the existing streetscape using high quality paving materials and street furniture. • Removal of existing overhead service cables together with their relocation/replacement underground. • Provision of new, decorative street lighting. • Revisions to existing traffic management measures. • Landscaping. 	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 site(s).	
Surface water run off during construction and operational phases.	
If there are potential impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant.	
Given the nature of the development which is an upgrade of the existing streetscape which will not create an increase in surface water run-off, it is considered that potential impacts are not likely to be significant.	
Conclusion of assessment Having regard to the precautionary principle, it is considered that:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant impacts can be ruled out or AA not required (if project is directly connected or necessary to Management of Natura 2000 site (determined in consultation with NPWS)).	
or	
<input type="checkbox"/> Significant impacts are certain, likely or uncertain (cannot be ruled out), Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required. Project must be subject to appropriate assessment.	
Documentation reviewed for making of this statement.	
AA Guidelines, GIS and Part 8 referral documents	
Completed By	D. Breen  05/09/13.
Date	05/09/2013