

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

**Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended by the Public
Transport Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46)**

**The Rower Traffic Management
Scheme**

EXPLANATORY BOOKLET

March 2018



**An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PRINCIPLE FEATURES

1.0 Introduction

This document has been prepared in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended by the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46), refer to Appendix 1 of this document for copy of Public Notice.

Kilkenny County Council, as the Project Promoter, proposes to introduce a traffic management scheme along the R705 Regional Road on the southern side of The Rower village in the vicinity of Ard Mhuire National School and the Church of the Assumption. At present the existing parking arrangement in the vicinity of the school and church is haphazard and disorganised, particularly at school drop-off / collection and mass times. There are no footways on the eastern side of the carriageway and no designated facility for pedestrians or vulnerable road users to cross the road.

The existing carriageway cross-section is very wide along the southern approach to the village at in excess of 12m. The carriageway alignment, the wide cross-section and set-back low building lines, fail to adequately alert drivers that they have entered into an urban / semi-urban space. This is particularly an issue at the school and church that adjoin the Regional Road. Recent speed surveys indicate that the 85th percentile speed is 73kph within the 30kph and 50kph speed limit zone illustrating a significant non compliance with the posted speed limits.

The average annual daily traffic travelling along this section of road is in the order of 2,400 vehicles with 7% heavy goods vehicles. The road provides an important strategic route linking the south-eastern part of the county with the connecting Regional and National Road network and the larger urban areas in adjoining counties.

The proposal put forward contains measures to address the above issues and offers substantial benefits to the local community.

2.0 Brief description of the proposed works

The Scheme for consultation is to be funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS), under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Programme. The works proposed were designed to address the safety issues that exist at present and include the following:

- Standardisation of R705 Regional Road carriageway width to 6.0m through southern section of village;
- Provision of designated car and bus parking facilities in the vicinity of Ard Mhuire National School and the Church of the Assumption;
- Introduction of a one-way traffic management regime at the school and church
- Provision of new footpaths;
- Provision of new controlled and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facilities;
- Provision of driver feedback signage to alert roadusers of actual speeds;
- Installation of signing and lining;
- Landscaping.

Refer to Appendix 2 of this document to see preliminary plan layout drawing.

3.0 Scheme Benefits

The proposed works will offer substantial benefits to the local community, namely:-

- Standardising the R705 carriageway width to 6.0m, through the southern section of the village, will greatly enhance driver awareness of the urban semi-urban area which in turn will alter driving behaviour, reduce traffic speeds and provide for the accommodation and comfort of pedestrians.
- The introduction of Speed Detection driver feedback signs will compliment the existing traffic calming signage, increase driver awareness of the urban realm and reduce the 85th percentile traffic speed through the village.

- Where the cross-section permits footpaths will be widened or constructed to a minimum width of 1.8m.. This new and safer pedestrian orientated streetscape with enhanced connectivity will provide safe access for users of all ages and degrees of personal mobility.
- The provision of regularised parking and set-down areas at Ard Mhuire National School and the Church of the Assumption will greatly improve safety for all road users, but in particular school children and other venerable road users. (Kilkenny County Council acknowledges the co-operation of the school and church in facilitating and supporting the proposed measures to be introduced).
- The proposed improvements will promote a sense of place, pride in the local rural community.
- The provision of additional landscaping & planting will improve the visual appearance of the area and enhance the urban realm.

4.0 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.

5.0 Funding

Kilkenny County has secured funding of €60,000 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the 2018 Non-national Road Low Cost Safety Improvement Programme. The funding secured will allow for Phase One of the works to be undertaken in the summer of 2018. Completion of Phase Two works will be dependent on future funding.

6.0 Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken by the Local Authority and a copy of this report is available in Appendix 3 of this booklet.

7.0 Submissions

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

Tim Butler

Director of Services

Kilkenny County Council

County Buildings

John Street

Kilkenny

Submissions should be clearly marked ***The Rower Traffic Management Scheme*** and the latest date for receipt of submissions is 4pm Friday 20th April 2018.

Appendix 1

Copy of Public Notice



Public Notice in Compliance with the Road Traffic Act, 1994 (Section 38) as amended by the Public Transportation Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46).

The Rower Traffic Management Scheme

Kilkenny County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 as amended by the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46), hereby gives notice of proposals pertaining to the following development:

The provision of enhancements to the urban realm in The Rower, Co. Kilkenny, these works shall include the following:

- Standardisation of R705 Regional Road carriageway width to 6.0m through southern section of village;
- Provision of designated car and bus parking facilities in the vicinity of Ard Mhuire National School and the Church of the Assumption;
- Introduction of a one-way traffic management regime at the school and church
- Provision of new footpaths;
- Provision of new controlled and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facilities;
- Provision of driver feedback signage to alert roadusers of actual speeds;
- Installation of signing and lining;
- Landscaping.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection from Friday 9th March 2018 to Friday 6th April 2018 inclusive, at the following Kilkenny County Council offices:

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

From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm
Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)

Kilkenny County Council,
Thomastown Area Office,
Kilkenny Road, Thomastown.

From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm
Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)

Post Office
The Rower
Co. Kilkenny

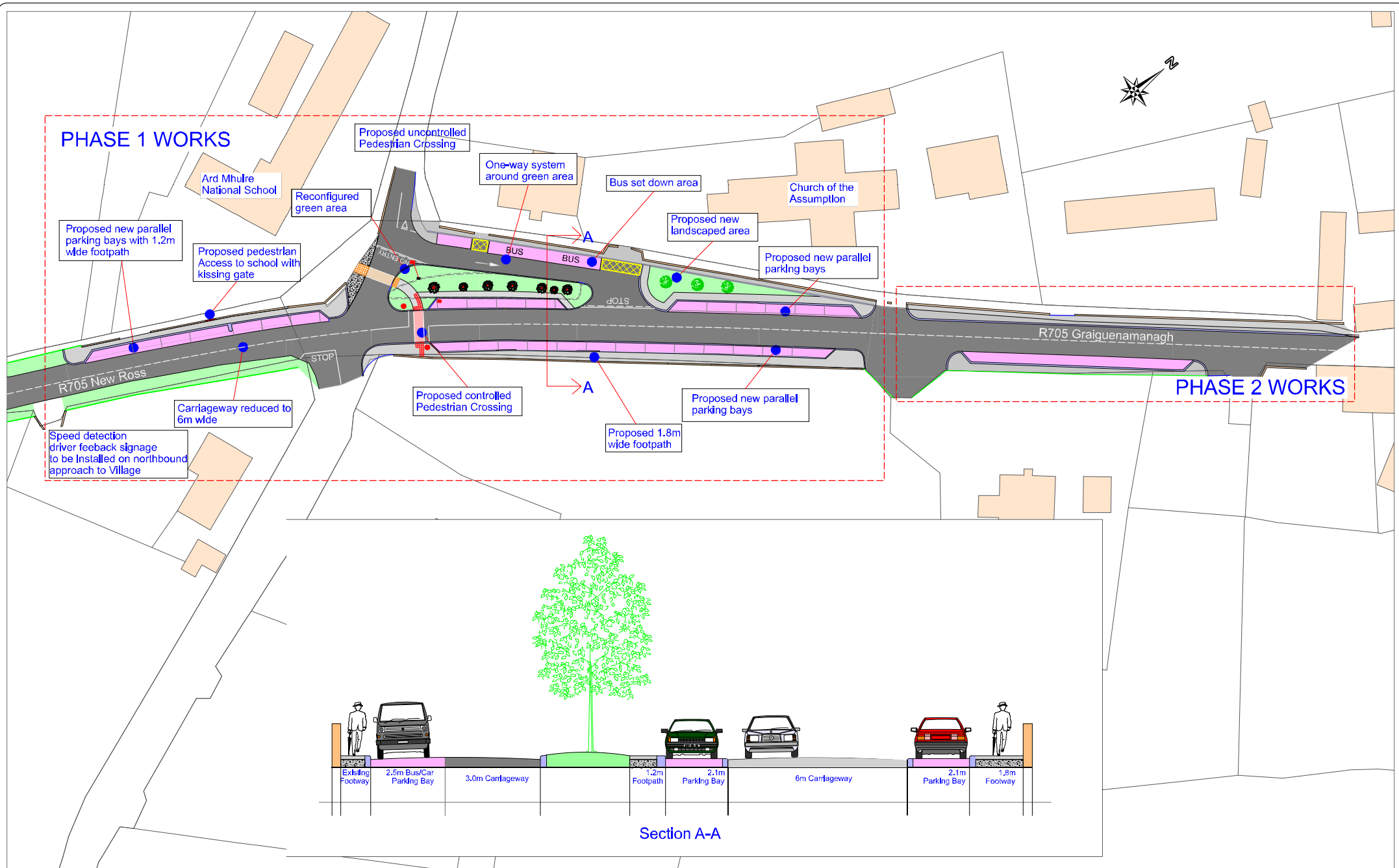
From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5.30pm
Monday to Friday (Except Public Holiday)
Saturdays 9am to 1pm (Except Public Holidays)

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 4pm Friday 20th April 2018. Submissions should be clearly marked The Rower Traffic Management Scheme.

T. Butler
Director of Services
Kilkenny County Council
County Buildings, John Street, Kilkenny.

Appendix 2

Preliminary Plan Layout Drawing



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
ROAD DESIGN SECTION,
1 DEAN STREET
KILKENNY.

Rev	By	Date	Description

Project: The Rower Traffic Management Scheme		Drawing No. R705-RW/R-01	
Component: Section 38		Title: Plan Layout	
Designed By: HS	File Name:	Scale: NTS	Date: March 2019
Drawn By: HS	Scale:	NTS	
Checked By: FS	Date:	March 2019	

Appendix 3

Habitats Directive **Project Screening Assessment**

Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment

Table 1: Project Details

Development Consent Type	Section 38 of Road Traffic Act 1988	roadworks
Development Location	The Rowan Village	
Planning File Ref		
Road Works Scheme		
Description of the project	Car/bus parking, new footpaths, pedestrian signage, signing, landscaping.	crossing

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/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)?</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.
2	DEVELOPMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE DESCRIBED IN 1 ABOVE	
2a	<p>Impacts On Freshwater Habitats 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?</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, Twait Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Vertigo Moulinsiana,</p>	N/A
2b	<p>Impacts On Wetland Habitats 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?</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>	N/A

		Y/N
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: Atlantic Salt meadows, Mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh, estuary</p> <p>Species to consider: Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter.</p>	N/A
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), Eutropic tall herb vegetation (River Suir at Fiddown Island and Carrick on Suir), and grasslands (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 (Cullahil and Clomantagh Hill), Nettle Leaved Bellflower and Autumn Crocus</p>	N/A
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: River Nore</p> <p>Species to consider: River Nore: Kingfisher (Alcedo Atthis) – Nesting in river banks</p>	N/A

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.	Impacts on designated freshwater habitats (rivers, lakes streams and lagoons).	
	<p>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2a in table 2 was yes.</p> <p>Does the development involve any of the following:</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/A
1.2	Abstraction from surfacewater or groundwater within 1km of SAC/SPA.	N/A
1.3	Removal of topsoil within 100 m of watercourses with potential for surface water runoff.	N/A
1.4	Infilling or raising of ground levels within 100m of watercourses with potential for surface water runoff.	N/A
1.5	Construction of drainage ditches within 1km of SAC/SPA.	N/A
1.6	Construction within a floodplain or within an area liable to flood.	N/A

1.7	Crossing or culverting of rivers or streams within 1km of SAC/SPA.	N/A
1.8	Storage of chemicals hydrocarbons or organic wastes within 100 m of a watercourse.	N/A
1.9	Development of a large scale which involves the production of an EIS.	N/A
1.10	Development of quarries, particularly where abstraction is below water table.	N/A
1.11	Development of windfarms within 1km of an SAC or with the risk of runoff to an SAC/SPA, particularly during construction.	N/A
1.12	Development of pumped hydro electric stations.	N/A
2	Impacts on designated wetland habitats (bog, heath, marsh, fen). Please answer the following if the answer to question 2b in table 2 was yes. 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/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). Please answer the following if the answer to question 2c in table 2 was yes. 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/A
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/A
3.3	Dredging within 5km of a Natura 2000 site whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats.	N/A
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/A
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/A
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/A
4	Impacts on other designated woodlands and grasslands (woodland, upland grassland, lowland grassland, coastal grassland including dunes). Please answer the following if the answer to question 2d in table 2 was yes. Does the development involve any of the following:	
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 Please answer the following if the answer to question 2e in table 2 was yes. Does the development involve any of the following:	
5.2	Erection of wind turbines within 1km of an SPA.	n/a
5.3	All construction works within 100m of SPA (River Nore), including the development of cycle ways or walking routes	n/a
5.4	Infilling of coastal habitats within 500m of intertidal SPA.	n/a
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/a
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/a
Atlantic Salmon	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	n/a
River Lamprey	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	n/a
Brook Lamprey	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	n/a
Sea Lamprey	River Barrow River Nore	Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed – estuarine areas;	n/a

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
	Lower River Suir		
Twaite Shad	Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed – estuarine areas;	WIA
Crayfish	Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed;	WIA
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	River Barrow River Nore Lower River Suir	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed ;	WIA
Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel	River Nore	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed ;	WIA.

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	Section 38 of Road Traffic Act 1994	
Development Location	The Rower.	
Natura 2000 sites within impact zone	none - see map.	
Planning File Ref	Road works Scheme.	
Description of the project	Car/Bus parking, One way traffic management, new footpath new pedestrian access, signage signing & lining, landscaping.	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 site(s).		
none anticipated		
If there are potential impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant.		
none anticipated		
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, Documents & drawings of Section 38 scheme		
Completed By	C. Bambriel. Exec Planner	
Date	23/2/18.	