

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

1. Introduction

EIA requirements derive from Council Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC) and as codified and replaced by Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and as amended in turn by Directive 2014/52/EU. The legislative requirements which deem whether an EIA is mandatory for a project are outlined in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020, as amended. All projects can be placed into one of the following two categories:

- Those that exceed the thresholds laid down and therefore have a mandatory requirement to prepare an EIAR; and
- Those projects that are sub-threshold and must be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Screening involves appraisal of impacts from the proposed development according to three main criteria: -

- Characteristics of the project
- Location of proposed project
- Characteristics of potential impacts.

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), outlines the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a proposed development. These are: human beings, flora and fauna, soil and geology, water, air & climate, landscape, material assets, cultural heritage and the inter-relationships between the range of environmental criteria.

The Newport Regeneration Scheme consists of 4 distinct elements funded for design development to Planning stage by the RRDF (Category 2). These 4 projects, identified in the draft Newport Town Design Statement, are as follows;

- Project 1: Medlicott Street Public realm Works
- Project 2: Main Street Public Realm Works
- Project 3: New Enterprise Centre and Tourist Office, Main Street and Barrack Hill/Blackoak Rise
- Project 4: New Town Centre greenway, car park and cyclist's hub on lands behind Georges Street

Projects 1 and 2 consist of creation of a quality attractive public realm incorporating cycle lanes, car parking and essential safe access and road crossings for cyclists and pedestrians (See Item A in Blue in Figure 1). Project 3 (referred to as Items B in red in Figure 1) consist of the creation of a new Enterprise Centre and Tourist office Building on existing derelict Main Street / Barrack Hill Site. ¹

¹ Project 4 does not form part of Part 8 application process and has not been assessed as part of this Report.

Screening Criteria	Project Specifics
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	
Is the size and design of the proposed development works significant?	No. The proposed local authority projects covering approximately 400m of streetscape and 0.925 hectare site within an urban setting is not considered to be significant in scale or size.
Is there potential for impacts from project in cumulation with other existing and/or approved project?	No. There are currently no projects of a significant nature in the vicinity of Newport that are expected to give rise to any cumulative effects.
Use of natural resources in particular land, soil water and biodiversity?	The natural resources requirements for the works including construction materials, paving stones, timber for street furniture will not be significant in nature.
Will wastes be produced during construction and operation?	Yes. Construction and demolition waste will be generated as part of the works. All waste materials will be minimised and disposed of via licensed or permitted waste sites. Waste generated via the demolition works required for Project 3 will be treated as Construction and Demolition waste and will be segregated and disposed of at an inert landfill facility or locally at Derrinnumera Civic Amenity Centre.
Will the works and operation create and significant amount of pollution or nuisance?	No. It is considered that the construction phase of the development will result in a temporary increase in pollution and noise due to increased vehicle movements associated with delivery of materials, excavations and construction activity. Given the urban setting, the disturbance effects will not be significantly above background levels, confined to day time and temporary in nature. Operational effects are not considered to be significant and the works will lead to improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities.
Risk of major accidents and or disasters relevant to the project including those caused by climate change in accordance with scientific knowledge?	None
Risks to human health (Water contamination, air pollution)	<p>No risk to human health is expected to occur. Dust arisings from use of machinery for cutting kerbing slabs for example will generate dust particles. Due consideration will be given to protecting pedestrians and residents and this should not lead to significant health impacts during construction. The relatively open nature of the sites will ensure that any emissions to air will be rapidly assimilated. When completed, increased safety for pedestrians and cyclist will be provided.</p> <p>Surface water or groundwater contamination is unlikely as a result of the development as long as due care is taken where any works are carried out in close proximity to Newport river and harbour.</p>

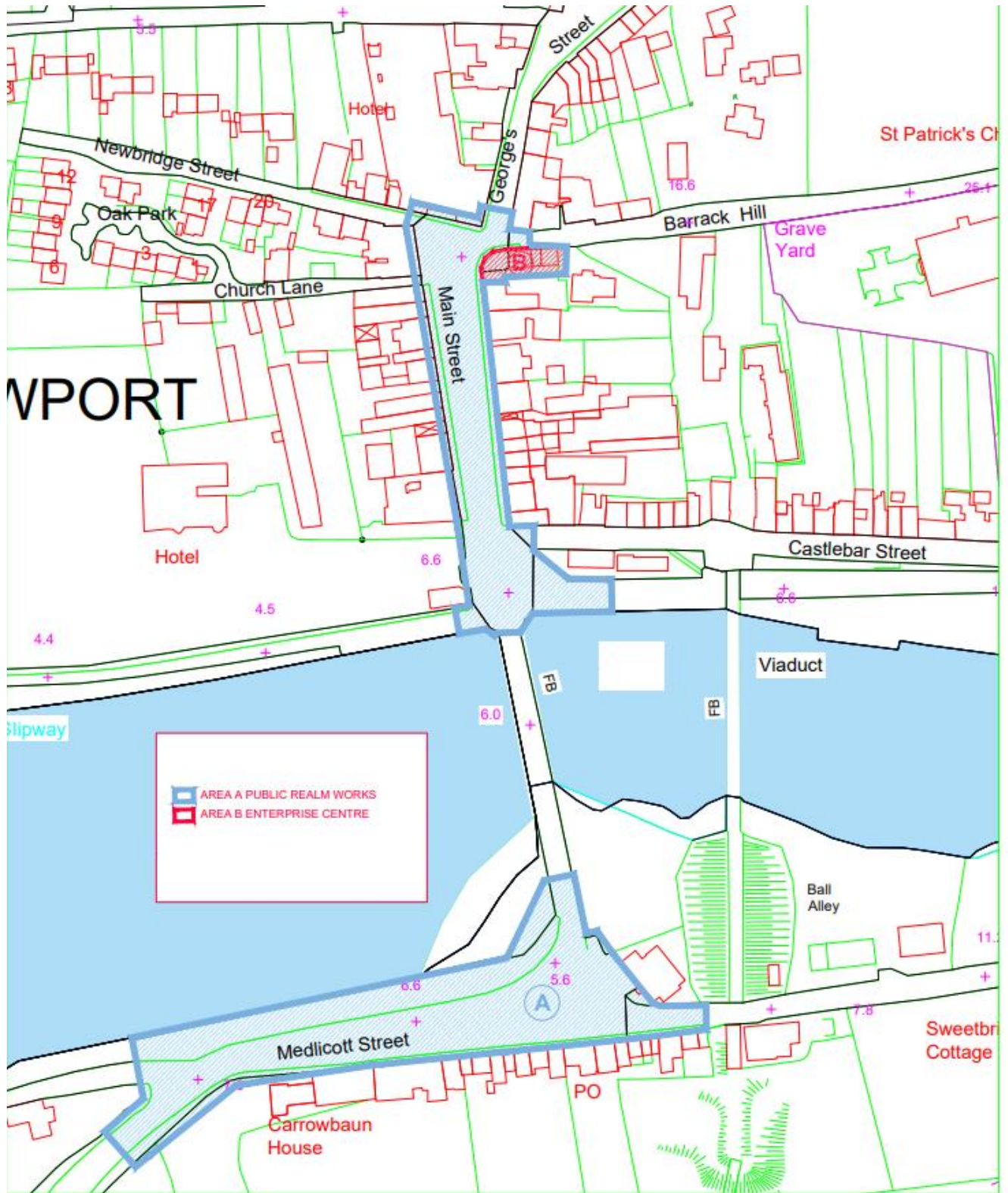
Screening Criteria	Project Specifics
LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	
Environmental Sensitivity of project in relation to existing and approved land use?	The proposed development works are all within existing hard standing in an urban setting (Newport town). Despite the proximity of the works on Medicott Street. to Clew Bay Complex SAC and Newport River SAC the project is not identified a having a high risk profile from an Environmental perspective.
Relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, air, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground?	<p>The project will not result in the disturbance to the current geological resources (soil, subsoil and bedrock) as excavations will be confined to areas already under hard standing with little or no loss of existing green space.</p> <p>It is proposed that there shall be no net change in flood storage volume in the proposed development. All drainage shall be designed in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage.</p>
Absorption capacity of the natural environment including wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths, coastal zones and the marine environment, mountain and forest areas	The project will not be out of character with the surrounding urban environment and the absorbing capacity of Newport River and Harbour will not be effected.
Potential for impacts directly and indirectly on Habitats and species listed in Annex I and II and IV of the Habitats Directive	The AA Screening Report (APEM Ltd) concluded that there will be no significant effect, either direct or in direct on the conservation objectives of the Habitats listed for the nearby Clew Bay Complex SAC and Newport River SAC.
Potential for impacts on breeding places for species protected under the Wildlife Act	The AA Screening report recorded no evidence during the ecological field visit of breeding places for species protected under the Wildlife Act.
Potential for impacts directly and indirectly on protected structures or recorded monuments and places of Archaeological Interest	The paving works will about protected structures, and designed to be compatible to these buildings and the setting in general.
Potential for impacts directly and indirectly on listed or scenic views or protected landscape in the County Development Plan	There will be no impact on the protected landscape.
Potential to impact on areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards and relevant to the project or in which it is considered that there is such a failure.	None arising. Both Newport Bay IE_WE_350_0200 and Newport(Mayo)_030 river (450m upstream of the works),are currently at High Ecological Status. Despite the indirect hydrological connection from the proposed projects to Newport Bay waterbody, due to the nature and scale of the works it is highly unlikely to have a negative impact on the status of this waterbody.
Potential to impact on densely populated areas	The project location consists of a medium density urban settlement pattern and this impact does not arise.
TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	
Human Beings	<p>The projects will in the operation phase;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility and safety within the town centre for all parties i.e. vehicles, walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the enjoyment of Newport as a place to live in, work in, invest in and visit. • Redress the imbalance that favours vehicular movement over that of cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. • Enhance the attractiveness and enjoyment of Newport for residents, visitors, and investors alike. <p>Any short term negative impacts associated with works such as noise and dust nuisance will be limited to day time and will be far outweighed by the positive effects.</p>
Flora and Fauna	Localised slightly negative impacts on avian fauna are expected to occur due to the construction works (mainly through noise). There is to be no loss of existing green space within the works area. As stated in the AA Screening Report prepared for these works, no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the Clew Bay Complex SAC or Newport River SAC are likely to occur.
Soils and Geology	There will be no impact on the soils and geology due to the urban location of the projects
Water	Sustainable Urban Drainage principles will apply in the design of these projects and it is proposed that there shall be no net changes to the either water quality in Newport Harbour or Newport River.
Air and Climate	There are likely to be slight temporary negative effects during construction activity. There are no anticipated long-term impacts on air and climate.
Noise and Vibration	Temporary increase in noise levels expected during daytime hours due to construction activity. No impact anticipated during operational phase of the development
Landscape	Due to the nature and scale of the housing development is not predicted to impact any scenic areas designated by Mayo County Council
Material Assets	<p>The works will have a positive impact on Newport and enhance its character in following manner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new widened attractive, safe, accessible footpaths • inviting user friendly public open spaces • safe off road cycle paths where possible • safe pedestrian crossings • directional and safety signage for cyclists and visitors. • soft landscaping that is inviting, user friendly, sustainable and enhancing to setting. • Traffic calming measures • Reconfigured road widths and car parking to ensure that traffic moves safely and efficiently through the town. • Biodiverse and pollinator friendly planting

Cultural Heritage	Will impart a positive effect by allowing greater space and time to explore Newport's heritage. The design will be visually enhancing to the setting.
Interaction of the Foregoing	The proposed project will confer a positive impact on human beings and a slight negative impact on flora and fauna and air & climate, noise and vibration, neutral impact on soils and geology and water and a positive impact on Landscape, Material Assets and Cultural Heritage.
DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	
Will a large geographical area be impacted as a result of the proposed works	No. Works will be restricted to a small area.
Will a large population be impacted as a result of the proposed works	No. Any disturbance experienced during the construction works will be short in duration.
Are there any trans frontier impacts likely to arise from the proposed works	None expected
Is the intensity and the complexity of the impacts associate with the proposed works considered to be significant	No
Is there a high probability that the impact will occur?	Low probability of significant impacts to occur
What is the expected onset, duration frequency and reversibility of the impact	Construction work will be completed in 1 years during normal working hours. The completed works will be present for the future generations to utilise.
Cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects	Not expected to be any other major projects in the general area likely to give rise to cumulative impacts.
Will it be difficult to avoid or reduce or repair or compensate for the effects	No significant impacts expected to occur



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**MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
WORKS IN NEWPORT TOWN SITE MAP NTS**

Figure 1 Part 8 Planning Works Newport Co Mayo