



### **Sligo County Council**

### **EIA Screening Report**

**Rosses Point Public Realm Enhancement Project** 

**Project Number** 11466

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
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Landscape Design Strategic Planning & Assessment Urban Design & Masterplanning **Environmental Impact Assessment** Landscape Planning & Assessment Landscape Management Ecology Historic Environment GIS & Visualisation













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# **Chapter 1 Introduction**

#### Introduction

- **1.1** Land Use Consultants Limited (LUC) has prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report on behalf of Sligo County Council (SCC) to support a request for an EIA screening determination to be included in a Part 8 process associated with a SCC development proposal in Rosses Point, County Sligo.
- **1.2** SCC is proposing to enhance the village of Rosses Point, County Sligo (the 'Site') for residents, pedestrians, cyclists in a number of ways. A Site Location Plan is provided in **Appendix A** and a General Arrangement Plan is shown in **Appendix B**.
- **1.3** The purpose of this report is to provide information on whether the Proposed Development is likely to have any significant effects on the environment that should be assessed through the EIA process.

#### Requirement for EIA

- **1.4** EIA is required for developments which are listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.
- 1.5 The Proposed Development is considered to fall within Schedule 5 Part 2 Class 10(b)(iv) of the regulations:
  - 10(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.
- **1.6** The Site is in a built up area but not within an identified business district and covers an area of 7.2 ha. As such the Site is considered to be sub-threshold.
- **1.7** In accordance with Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the following information is to be provided by the Applicant for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for EIA:
  - 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, and
    - A description of the location of the Proposed Development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.
  - 2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.
- 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.
- 4. The compilation of the information in 1 to 3 above shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.
- **1.8** Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, stipulates the criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment:
  - Characteristics of proposed development
     The characteristics of proposed development, in particular:
    - the size of the proposed development,

#### Chapter 1 Introduction

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- the cumulation with other proposed development,
- the use of natural resources,
- the production of waste pollution and nuisances,
- the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used.

#### 2. Location of proposed development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to:

- the existing land use,
- the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area,
- the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
  - a. wetlands,
  - b. coastal zones,
  - c. mountains and forest areas,
  - d. nature reserves and parks,
  - e. areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC,
  - f. areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded,
  - g. densely populated areas,
  - h. landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

#### 3. Characteristics of potential impacts

The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:

- the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population),
- the transfrontier nature of the impact,
- the magnitude and complexity of the impact,
- the probability of the impact,
- the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

### **Chapter 2**

### **The Proposed Development**

#### **Site Location and Surroundings**

- **2.1** The Site is located on the north-west coast of Ireland in Co. Sligo. The Site is within the village of Rosses Point which forms the entrance to Sligo Harbour. A Site Location Plan is provided in **Appendix A**.
- **2.2** The Site occupies an area of 7.2 ha and comprises a section of the existing R291 road, which connects Rosses Point directly to Sligo town, and a section of the original village road (henceforth called the 'Old Village Road'). The Site also comprises existing parking bays, grassed areas and landscaped features located between the two roads.
- **2.3** Sligo Bay is located directly to the south of the Site. To the north of the Site is the residential area of Rosses Point with the County Sligo Golf Club located beyond to the north-west. Sligo Bay RNLI Lifeboat Station and Elsinore House, a historical landmark, are located to the west of the Site.

#### **Proposed Development**

- **2.4** SCC is seeking to create a safe, friendly and well-connected village core with innovative public realm enhancements, strengthening connections with the promenade and sea, whilst protecting the valuable and unique environment of Rosses Point. The proposal involves the introduction of traffic management measures and public realm enhancements along both the New Road and the Old Village Road. The proposal is in line with the Rosses Point Mini-Plan Objectives<sup>1</sup>.
- **2.5** Several rounds of public consultation have taken place including online consultation and direct engagement. Feedback received from all the public consultation events has informed the layout and design of the final proposal.
- **2.6** The proposed public realm enhancement works include junction improvements with new crossing points and traffic calming, reconfiguration and enhanced parking areas, provision of a cycleway and all associated works as shown on the General Arrangement Plans provided in **Appendix B**. The Proposed Development can be summarised as follows:
- **Junction Improvements** narrowing of the junction to provide traffic calming and enhanced crossing points. In addition to enhanced pedestrian access and soft landscape improvements.
  - Narrowing and reconfiguration of the junction at the County Sligo Golf Club and the R291
  - Narrowing and reconfiguration of the junction at the Little Cottage Café and the R291
- The R291 Crossing Points at key locations along the New Road, new crossing points will be integrated using raised table traffic calming measures. These would be located at
  - Golf Course Junction Uncontrolled raised table crossing points
  - Austies Bar and Kitchen Controlled raised table crossing point
  - Opposite The Driftwood Uncontrolled raised table crossing point
  - Opposite Harrys Bar Controlled raised table crossing point
  - Opposite The Little Cottage Café Uncontrolled raised table crossing point
  - At the start of Sligo Bay (eastern point) Controlled raised table crossing point

#### ■ The New Road (R291)

Narrowing of the carriageway as part of traffic calming measures

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sligo County Council, 2017-2023. County Development Plan, Volume 2, Chapter 42 – Rosses Point Mini-Plan. [Online] Available at: https://www.sligococo.ie/cdp/. [Accessed 24 January 2022].

#### Chapter 2

The Proposed Development

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- Integration of a designated two-way cycleway at footway level along the promenade side of the carriageway.
- Demarcation of existing pedestrian footway
- Demarcation of parallel parking bays
- Signage and street furniture improvements including new seating

#### The L3309

- Narrowing the carriageway opposite The Driftwood and providing high quality public realm materials and street furniture as part of traffic calming measures. Wider footpaths here also create spill out space for additional seating.
- At level paving improvements outside Little Cottage Café improving pedestrian safety as part of traffic calming measures.

#### Existing car parks

- Reconfigured and enhanced car parking bays with enhanced soft landscaping and tree planting
- Demarcation of standard and disabled parking bays
- New accessible ramp access from the existing car park opposite The Driftwood connecting to the L3309.
- 2.7 The construction will be undertaken on existing developed land. This will require the breaking out of existing footpaths, carriageway and parking area surfacing with regrading prior to resurfacing. Existing street furnishings including bollards will also be removed and replaced with natural stone bollards and seating. Soft landscaping will also be undertaken with areas of grassland to be introduced along the scheme. In addition, ornamental planting and tree planting is proposed along the scheme south of The Driftwood, Harry's Bar and at the junction adjacent to The Little Cottage Cafe. The existing nature trail surfacing will be retained and protected with extensions in areas north of parking consisting of resin bound surfacing to tie into the existing nature trail.
- **2.8** To ensure the implementation of any required environmental activities that are identified as part of the consenting process, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced prior to the commencement of onsite activities and will be adopted by the Principal Contractor during the construction phase. This will document procedures on pollution, noise and dust controls, hours of construction activity, waste management procedures and construction mitigation measures.
- 2.9 Temporary construction compounds will be required for the duration of the construction works, however at present, the locations are not known.
- **2.10** The construction and demolition waste produced will be appropriately managed under a Site Waste Management Plan produced as part of the CEMP.
- **2.11** With the exception of routine landscape maintenance, no waste is anticipated to be produced during operation of the Proposed Development.
- **2.12** It is not expected that there will be a significant requirement for the use of natural resources as part of the Proposed Development. The works will comprise the reconfiguration and resurfacing of footpaths, carriageways, parking areas and the introduction of a new cycleway. Materials will include coloured asphalt for raised table crossings, cycleways and parking areas, permeable bound gravel (or similar) on new pedestrian walkways and selective areas of natural stone paving. Surface water run-off will continue to be managed as per existing drainage arrangements.

### **Chapter 3**

# **Environmental Baseline and Potential Effects**

#### Introduction

**3.1** A review of the environmental baseline of the Site and surrounding area has been undertaken using publicly available sources.

#### **Appropriate Assessment**

**3.2** An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report for the Proposed Development has been prepared separately as part of the Part 8 process which will be provided in support of the Part 8 application. The AA screening report is not discussed further in this report.

#### **Environmental Baseline**

**3.3 Table 3.1** presents a summary of the environmental baseline of the Site and surrounding area together with the potential effects associated with the Proposed Development.

**Table 3.1: Environmental Baseline Summary** 

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
Air Quality (AQ)	There are no Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) identified in Rosses Point. The nearest AQMS is in Sligo Town 8km east of Rosses Point. The station is offline and there is currently no data for 2022, however, the last data available from 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 indicated that NO <sub>2</sub> , PM10 and PM2.5 readings were below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limit values <sup>2</sup> .  EPA online maps <sup>3</sup> show Rosses Point is in the Rural West Air Quality Index Region and has an Air Quality Index of 3 which is "Good".  Given the location of the Site and in the broader context of the closest monitored areas not indicating any widespread issues, air quality is expected to be good with low levels of pollution.	Any emissions (dust and particulate matter) associated with construction and demolition activities will be temporary in duration.  It is considered that the number of vehicle movements anticipated with the construction of the Proposed Development will not be at a level likely to result in any exceedance of air quality standards either at the Proposed Development or within the wider area.  Control measures to reduce emissions and limit dispersion will be in place during construction work which will be outlined in the CEMP. The CEMP would also outline measures such as requirements for servicing and maintenance of vehicles and plant, and measures to ensure that vehicle and plant engines are turned off when not in use.  The purpose of the Proposed Development is to encourage pedestrian and cyclist use and to improve safety, traffic flow and parking.  Air quality is not anticipated to change significantly from existing conditions as a result of the proposals.	It is considered that the effect of the Proposed Development on air quality is not significant.
Cultural heritage and archaeology	The Site has been subject to a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment conducted by Moore Group in January 2022 <sup>4</sup> . The conclusion of the report was as follows:  The Proposed Development is adjacent to several recorded monuments but will not directly impact the Zones of Notification of two archaeological sites or monuments, SL008-174 Enclosure and SL008-214 Midden. There will be	The Proposed Development takes account of the cultural heritage setting and the baseline has informed the design development.  All archaeology and cultural heritage features recorded are located outside of the Site and therefore, will not be impacted by the Proposed Development.	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage and archaeology is <b>not significant</b> .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, 2022. *AirQuality.ie*. [Online] Available at: https://airquality.ie/information/air-quality-standards [Accessed 8 February 2023]. <sup>3</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. *EPA Unified GIS Application*. [Online] Available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/. [Accessed 8 February 2023].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Moore Group (23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022) *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Public Realm Enhancement Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill, Co. Sligo.* (Document Reference: 21107).

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
	no residual impact either physical or visual to any known and recorded archaeological or architectural sites by the Proposed Development.  Given the archaeological nature of the surrounding environment it is possible that archaeological deposits, material, and artefacts may survive below ground at the following locations:  along the old village road at the former gated entrance to Elsinore House;  at the road to the east of Elsinore House;  adjacent to the entrance to County Sligo Golf Club  outside Driftwood Restaurant, Harry's Bar and the Little Cottage Café; and  at the entrance to the village.  To mitigate for the above possibility, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with provision being made for full recording, preservation in situ or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed during the course of future development work at the site.	During construction, the potential to uncover archaeological deposits of high importance within the Site is considered to be low as the Site has already been developed and is situated in an urban context. However, to ensure the protection of any features, procedures will be outlined in the CEMP, to avoid any potential impacts from construction.  In addition, during groundworks, it is recommended that any archaeological monitoring be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with provision being made for full recording, preservation in situ or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed during the course of future development work at the site.	
Geology and soils	No natural resources have been identified within or near to the Site.	The area of the Proposed Development is already developed and consists of existing carriageways, footpaths, parking areas and some undeveloped green space.  With the exception of existing landscaped green space to be enhanced with landscaping, planting and the nature trail, virgin ground is not to be excavated or developed as part of the proposals.	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on geology and soils is <b>not significant</b> .

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
	Publicly available geology information and maps <sup>3,5</sup> indicate that the prevailing ground conditions consist of Lower Carboniferous limestone.  Online EPA maps <sup>3</sup> indicate that the soil composition has been classed as urban due to the influence of human activities within the area.  There is a fuel station located at Bayview Stores on the Old Village Road comprising 2 fuel pumps.	Construction will result in limited disturbance to the current geological resources (soil & subsoil) as it will mainly be limited to the areas of carriageways, footpaths and parking areas anticipated to comprise made ground and asphalt.  Construction is expected to comprise the breaking out of existing road and footpath surfacing to create a new regraded platform suitable for re-surfacing. Any construction and demolition waste will be appropriately managed and re-used where possible on Site or disposed of appropriately and in accordance with a Site Waste Management Plan.	
		The risk of disturbing in-situ ground contamination is considered to be low. Standard mitigation measures and good construction practice will be adhered to on Site under guidance of the CEMP to minimise any potential impact of this occurring. Additional consideration will be required in the vicinity of the fuel station, although it is noted that the area around the fuel station is to be surface dressed with no excavation anticipated.	
		The CEMP will also outline control measures to reduce the risk of any contamination into the underlying environment during construction.	
Townscape and visual	Rosses Point is an established coastal picturesque village which sits on the north-west coast of Ireland on the Wild Atlantic Way tourism trail.  The Rosses Point Mini Plan states that "Rosses Point is situated in a "Rural Area under Urban Influence". Whilst the existing built-up area is on lands classified as normal rural landscape, the surrounding coastal landscape is extremely sensitive, with large	The Proposed Development seeks to enhance the existing public realm. The proposals have considered the visual aspects and traditional characteristic setting in its design development.  Due to the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, it is not predicted to impact any existing	It is considered that the effect of the Proposed Development on townscape and visual amenity is not significant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> McAteer, C. & Parkes, M. 2004. *The Geological Heritage of Sligo. An audit of County Geological Sites in Sligo.* Geological Survey of Ireland. Unpublished Report. [Online]. Available at: https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/The-Geological-Heritage-of-Sligo.aspx [Accessed 8 February 2023]

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
	areas classified as sensitive rural landscape and visually vulnerable. The village is identified as a Principal Gateway Satellite in the Settlement Structure" <sup>6</sup> .	scenic areas and any visual effects are anticipated to be positive.	
Transport and movement	The main road along the coast within the Site is the R291 which forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way tourism trail.  The area is primarily rural in nature.  The R291 is used as a cycle route from Rosses Point to Sligo.  There is dedicated parking at Rosses Point Pier, adjacent to Crescent Lodge and at Harry's bar along with smaller areas for parking in the village. Larger dedicated parking is available at Yeats Country Hotel.  While there are no bus stops within the Site itself, to the east of the Site there is a bus stop outside the Rosses Point Church of Ireland with local bus links (numbers 472 and S2) to Strandhill.	The Proposed Development is expected to deliver a positive impact in terms of accessibility and vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist amenity.  There is no change to the existing alignment or route of the existing R291 or other roads. The proposals which seek to improve traffic flow, access and safety will comply with transportation requirements.  Construction traffic will be managed to minimise any potential disruption during construction activities.  Traffic management measures during construction will be outlined in a Construction Traffic Management Plan which will form part of the CEMP.	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on transport and movement is <b>not significant</b> .
Water resource and flood risk	A review of the Office of Public Works (OPW) flood information portal <sup>7</sup> has shown there are no areas within Rosses Point with either a river or coastal flood risk.  There are no watercourses present within the Site. Garvogue River is the main watercourse in the area which flows from Lough Gill through Sligo into Sligo Bay. The Site is adjacent to Sligo Bay. Rosses Point Beach was classified as having the highest rating of "Excellent" Water Quality in September 2021 <sup>3</sup> .	There are no negative impacts predicted on water quality or flood risk as a result of the Proposed Development.  Surface water runoff would be managed during both construction and operation of the Proposed Development so as to not increase runoff rates and volumes leaving the Site in comparison to existing conditions.  There is a potential risk of contamination migrating into the nearby environment during the construction phase, however, pollution prevention measures for runoff and to minimise any impact on the receiving water environment will be outlined in the CEMP.	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on water resource and flood risk is not significant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Sligo Council, 2017. Rosses Point Mini-Plan. [Online] Available at: https://www.sligococo.ie/media/SligoCountyCouncil2015/Services/Planning/Downloads/SCDP2011-2017/MiniPlans/Rosses%20Point.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Office of Public Works, 2018. Floodinfo.ie. [Online] Available at: https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/ [Accessed 7 February 2023].

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
Ecology	Using National Parks and Wildlife Service Habitats and Species data maps <sup>8</sup> and Biodiversity Maps <sup>9</sup> the following ecological baseline has been identified.  While the Proposed Development isn't within any protected sites, it is adjoining the following areas which are protected under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):  Ballysadare Bay SAC (site code 000622);  Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (site code 000627); and  Cummeen Strand SPA (site code 004035).  The Site is not in proximity to any ancient and long established woodland or forestry. There is limited vegetation present within the Site, consisting of grassy verges between the R291 and The Old Road.  There are records of otter and badger which are protected terrestrial mammals within the wider environment surrounding the Site including Sligo Harbour, Garavogue River and Ballysadare Bay.	Overall, within the Site boundary there is a limited ecological resource due to the urban context. As a result, the Site has limited potential to support any of the protected species which were identified in the wider environment. However, the Site does adjoin designated areas and there is a risk that pollution may arise during construction.  The CEMP will be implemented to ensure best practice pollution prevention measures such as bunding of fuel and oils. Additionally, due to the potential for pollution resulting from operational surface water run-off it is recommended that appropriate drainage is incorporated into the design. The CEMP will include Species Protection Plans (SPPs) which will outline any preventative and protective measures required for specific species.  In addition, planting is proposed which will include grassland, ornamental planting and tree planting which could provide a foraging and habitat resource to certain species (e.g. Invertebrates including pollinators) which may in turn enhance the biodiversity of the Site.	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on ecology is not significant.
Noise and vibration	The Site is located within a mixed-use area comprising mainly residential housing and some commercial businesses.  There are no dominant noise sources in the area. The existing baseline noise environment is likely to be dominated by noise associated with traffic on the road.	Noise and potentially localised vibration disturbance is expected during construction on existing noise sensitive receptors. However due to the temporary nature of these works and given that construction best practice and control measures will be in place during construction work, significant effects are not anticipated. Control measures will be outlined in the CEMP.	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on noise and vibration is <b>not significant</b> .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> National Parks and Wildlife Service (no date). *Habitat and Species Data*. [Online] Available at: https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data. [Accessed 8 February 2023].

<sup>9</sup> National Biodiversity Data Centre (2022). *Biodiversity Maps*. [Online] Available at: https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/. [Accessed 8 February 2023].

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
		During both construction and operation of the Proposed Development there may be an increase in traffic levels. Any increase in vehicle numbers has the potential to increase noise levels, however, these increases are not anticipated to lead to significant noise impacts.  Noise levels are not anticipated to rise significantly during the operational phase given the nature of the proposals.	
Socio- economics, tourism, recreational access and land use	Rosses Point is a well-known tourist destination located on the Wild Atlantic Way <sup>6</sup> .  Tourism attractions located within the Site include Dead Man's Point statue, which is a local attraction located on the R291. The area is also known for its kite surfing and lessons.  Local hospitality business is limited, however there is a hospitality venue located within the Site.  Commercial activities in the village are related to its significant tourism role with attractions such as:  County Sligo Golf Club  Rosses Point caravan park  Sea Fishing Sligo and Sligo Yacht Club  These businesses are located outside of the Proposed Development area.	The Proposed Development takes account of the social, environmental and historic sensitivities of the Site which have informed the design development.  The Proposed Development seeks to enhance the infrastructure and facilities for local residents, businesses and tourists in line with the local plan.  There will be a limited amount temporary employment generated during construction, which may be realised from the local area and may include a limited local spend rate from these workers. No operational employment is anticipated.  Construction traffic is anticipated to be low and temporary disturbance to local access may discourage tourists from visiting the local area during the construction phase.  Local access may be temporarily restricted to local attractions, business and residents located on the R291 and the old village road during construction. An Access Management Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented to mitigate potential effects from route diversions and closures, however with measures in place and given the short duration, this is not expected to be significant.  The effects arising the from the operation of the Proposed Development will be positive providing	It is considered that with standard protective measures in place, the effect of the Proposed Development on socioeconomics, tourism, recreational access and land use is not significant.

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
		improved safety and access for local residents, businesses and tourists.	
Cumulative impact	The area is currently zoned for mixed uses, open space and transport node/ car parking.  There are currently no major planning applications within or close to the Site. The upgrading works to the Rosses Point waste water infrastructure is largely complete at time of writing	There are no committed developments in the surrounding area that will give rise to cumulative impacts.	It is considered that the effect of the Proposed Development on cumulative impact is <b>not significant</b> .
Major accidents and/or disasters	The Site is not located in an area with a history of natural disasters such as extreme weather events. The Proposed Development is not of a type with potential to give rise to risk of a major accident or disaster.	The proposals seek to improve pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow through the village.  Construction works will be undertaken in accordance with good site management practice and control measures will be outlined in a CEMP.  The construction and operation of the Proposed Development would be managed within the requirements of health and safety and construction related regulations.	It is considered that the effect of the Proposed Development on major accidents and disasters is <b>not significant</b> .
Climate change	<ul> <li>EPA research<sup>10</sup> predicts that by the middle of this century (2041-2060):</li> <li>temperatures are projected to increase;</li> <li>warming will be enhanced at the extremes (i.e. hot days and cold nights);</li> <li>substantial decreases of approximately 50% are projected in the number of frost and ice days;</li> </ul>	The Proposed Development currently has limited areas of grassland and trees, however, the design includes for new areas of soft landscape that will accept surface water run-off acting as SuDS. The Site therefore has the potential to be more climate resilient as a result of the Proposed Development compared to the existing conditions.  In addition, including cycle lanes and improving active travel routes could encourage people to choose more sustainable transport methods.	It is considered that the effect of the Proposed Development on climate change is <b>not significant</b> .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Irish Centre for High-end Computing (EPA Research) *High-Resolution Climate Projections for Ireland – a Multi-Model Ensemble Approach*. Available [Online] at: <a href="https://www.ichec.ie/partnerships/state-supported/high-resolution-climate-projections-for-Ireland">https://www.ichec.ie/partnerships/state-supported/high-resolution-climate-projections-for-Ireland</a>. [Accessed 8 February 2023].

Topic	Environmental baseline	Potential effects	Significance of effects
	summer heatwave events are expected to occur more frequently, with the largest increases in the south;		
	precipitation will become more variable, with drier summers and more rain in the winter;		
	reduced snowfall;		
	the energy content of the 120m (a typical wind turbine height) wind is projected to decrease for all seasons;		
	the length of the growing season is projected to increase; and		
	substantial changes in storm tracks, increases in mean sea level pressure, surface evapotranspiration, specific humidity and cooling demand, along with decreases in 10m wind speed, heating demand and solar energy resources are also projected by mid-century.		

# Chapter 4 Conclusion

#### **Conclusion on EIA Screening**

- **4.1** The Proposed Development at Rosses Point has been reviewed in the context of EIA screening criteria as set out in the Planning Regulations<sup>11</sup>. These criteria include:
  - The characteristics of the Proposed Development (including scale, demolition, use of natural resources, waste production, pollution and risk of major accidents);
  - The location proposed (including environmental sensitivity and absorption capacity); and
- The type and characteristics of potential impacts (including the size of the area affected, the scale of the impact, how likely the impact is to occur and the duration of any impact).
- **4.2** From the assessment undertaken and presented herein, it is considered that given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development that there will be no significant effects on the environment and that EIA is not required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended

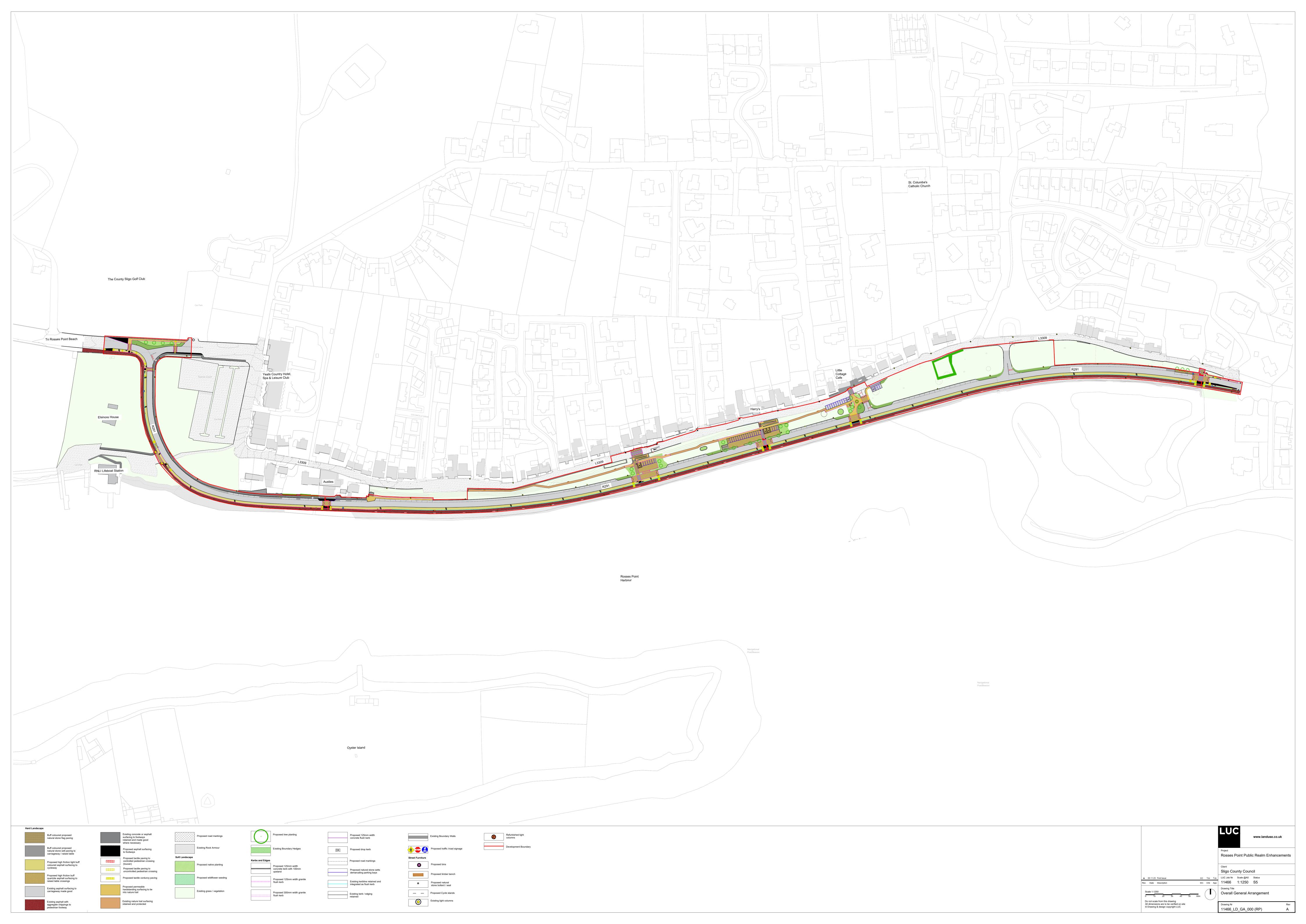
## Appendix A

**Site Location Plan** 



## Appendix B

# **General Arrangement Plans**





Notes

Do not scale from this drawing.
All dimensions are drawn in millimetres.
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Status For Planning

Issue B

