

Cork City Council
**Cork Docklands to City Centre
Road Network Improvement
Scheme**
EIA Screening Checklist

Issue | 8 May 2019

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd

Arup
One Albert Quay
Cork
T12 X8N6
Ireland
www.arup.com

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			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by		
		Name	Debbie Flynn	Fiona Patterson	Daniel Garvey		
		Signature					
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		Name					
		Signature					
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		Name					
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1 Introduction

Arup has prepared an Environmental Screening Checklist on behalf of Cork City Council to aid in determining whether an EIA is required for the proposed Docklands to City Centre Road Network Improvement Scheme (hereafter referred to as '*the proposed development*') in Cork City.

The prescribed classes of development and thresholds that trigger a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment are set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended. A review of the project types listed in the aforementioned Schedule 5, as amended has been carried out. The proposed development is a type set out in Part 2 Class 10 (b)(iv) of Schedule 5 but it does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part. Therefore, it is a sub-threshold development.

An examination has been made as to whether the proposed development would or would not, individually and in combination with other developments, be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This report has been prepared with regard to Schedule 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

This EIA Screening Checklist summarises the various aspects of the proposed development and assesses whether there is likely to be significant negative effects on the environment.

2 Outline of Proposed Development

The proposed development will consist of the following:

- signalisation of the existing Victoria Road Roundabout;
- introduction of a northbound contraflow bus lane on Victoria Road North from the new signalised junction to Albert Quay, continuing west along Albert Quay through the Albert Quay/Albert Street Junction and terminating at the Eglinton Street/Albert Quay and Clontarf Bridge Junction;
- introduction of a 2-way cycle track starting at Terence MacSwiney Quay and running along Albert Quay and connecting into Victoria Road North which will continue for a short distance down Centre Park Road and Monahan Road to allow for future connectivity;
- improvement to Monahan Road/Victoria Road Junction;
- re-alignment of the Old Blackrock Road/Victoria Road Junction;
- public realm improvements to Albert Quay East – this quay will act as the 'gateway' to the South Docks from the city centre.

This will include a floating pontoon with floating garden on the river, (somewhat similar to the pontoon present on the opposite side of the river channel at Custom House Quay), a new cantilevered section at the corner of Eamon de Valera Bridge and Albert Quay East, public seating and walkways and a Coke Zero bike share kiosk;

- regrading of the existing wharf on Albert Quay East to a flood height of 3.4m;
- public realm improvements to Victoria Road, Albert Road, Marina Terrace including trees, planting, street furniture, etc; and
- creation of a new residential access link between Electric Terrace and Rosefield Terrace.

3 Screening Checklist

The EC Guidance on EIA Screening (EC, 2017) provides a checklist to help users decide whether EIA is required based on the characteristics of a project and its environment. This screening checklist is included in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Screening Checklist to determine if EIA is required based on the characteristics of a project and its environment

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
1. Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc.)?	Yes	No. There will be no change of land use within the development boundary with the exception of a small area of brownfield land (172m ²) which will be required to construct a new residential link between Rosefield Terrace and Electric Terrace.
2. Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes	No Services such as water and power will be required during the construction phase. Mobile generators will be used during the construction phase whilst a permanent power supply will be required during the operational phase of the proposed development. Construction materials will include natural stone, concrete, support structures, pipework, signage etc. It is not considered that there will be a significant use of these resources as part of the proposed development. A Report for Screening for Appropriate Assessment was prepared by Arup. It is the opinion of Arup that it is possible to rule out likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
3. Will the project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	Yes	No. Standard construction materials will be used and will not be harmful to human health or the environment. The contractor will ensure that the proposed works are carried out in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013). It is envisaged that the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used is very low and therefore will not result in significant environmental effects.
4. Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	No. Inert construction waste generated will be removed from the site areas and disposed of at a suitable licensed facility. The production of waste will be managed in accordance with the relevant waste legislation.
5. Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air or lead to exceeding Ambient Air Quality standards in Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC?	No	No. It is expected that dust will be emitted during the construction works. Emissions from construction plant and vehicles will arise during the construction phase, but these will be minimal. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that significant negative effects on the environment do not occur.
6. Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes	No. Standard construction noise is expected during construction activities. No significant rock breaking will likely be required. Vibration effects will be controlled by the implementation of best construction practice Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that significant negative effects on the environment do not occur as a result of noise and vibration.
7. Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes	No. The extent of the works on land are relative small, excavations are not significant with a maximum depth of 1,200mm required for the installation of storm drainage systems and a maximum of 100mm depth encountered when milling the road surface. Any construction run off will enter the existing surface water drainage system and will be diluted before entering the River Lee. Piling in the river will be carried out for approximately two days. Minor levels of sediment will be dispersed within the

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
		water column during this process. The volume of sediment which will be displaced is small because it will be relative to the area of the pile. The pile will be sealed, therefore there will be no concrete seepage at the base. There is a possibility of minor spillages when the chute is being removed from the pile and during the regrading of the wharf. However, due to the extent of the River Lee and tidal flows, any minor spillage will be diluted quickly.
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the project which could affect human health or the environment?	Yes	No. A “Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage” will be appointed to manage safety issues during construction.
9. Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	Yes	No. The proposed development will have a positive effect on people living, working and visiting the area as there will be improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and improved access between the South Docks and Cork City Centre.
10. Are there any other factors which should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	Yes	No. Navigation Square – Planning Reference No. 1636773) has been identified and which has the potential to result in cumulative effects with the proposed development. However, the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) implemented by the Contractor will be required to take into account the Navigation Square construction schedule. Therefore, significant negative effects are not envisaged.
11. Is the project located within or close to any areas which are protected under international, EU, or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	No. The proposed development is partially located within the River Lee which is designated as a salmonid watercourse under S.I. No. 293/1988 – European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988. As there will be no significant effects on water quality during the proposed development, there will be no significant negative effects on salmon species within the river. It is also located upstream of both Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC. A Report for Screening for Appropriate Assessment was prepared by Arup. It is the opinion of Arup that it is possible to rule out likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	No	No
13. Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the project?	No	No
14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters (or features of the marine environment) on or around the location that could be affected by the project?	Yes	No. Construction works take place in the River Lee, however there will be no effect on water quality as a result of the proposed development due to the minor nature, extent and duration of the proposed works.
15. Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	No
16. Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	No A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented for the duration of the construction works in order to minimise any disruption to traffic flow on the road network at and surrounding the proposed development areas.

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
17. Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	No A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented for the duration of the construction works in order to minimise any disruption to traffic flow on the road network at and surrounding the proposed development areas.
18. Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes	No The proposed development is concerned with the reconfiguration of a road and therefore there will be no structures of significant height and therefore will not be visible. The only above ground structures to be installed are new traffic lights, street lighting columns and benches. The floating pontoon, floating garden and cantilever will also be visible.
19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes	No. There are two protected structures listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) within the development boundary – inscribed mooring posts on Albert Quay and a limestone quay wall and timber wharf extension. Neither of these structures are listed under the List of Protected Structures in the <i>Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021</i> . The mooring posts will be carefully removed and stored during the construction phase and appropriately reinstated following completion of the works. The protected limestone quay wall/wharf in question has already been reconstructed in 1986 and therefore will not be affected in any way by the proposed development works.
20. Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	Yes	No There will be no change of land use within the development boundary with the exception of a small area of brownfield land (172m ²) which will be required to construct a new residential access link between Rosefield Terrace and Electric Terrace.
21. Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open	Yes	No. There are a number of facilities in close proximity to the proposed development including One Albert Quay, Navigation Square and a number of residential dwellings. Access to these facilities will be maintained during the construction phase.

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying which could be affected by the project?		Air emissions will be generated during the construction phase however these will be minimal and appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place. The proposed development is already located in a built – up busy environment and therefore, noise emissions are not expected to be significant.
22. Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	No
23. Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	No There are a number of facilities in close proximity to the proposed development including One Albert Quay, Navigation Square and a number of residential dwellings. Access to these facilities will be maintained during the construction phase. Air emissions will be generated during the construction phase however these will be minimal and appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place. The proposed development is already located in a built – up busy environment and therefore, noise emissions are not expected to be significant.
24. Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No	No
25. Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	No Construction works take place in the River Lee, however these works will be short term in nature (two days) and there will be no significant negative effects on water quality due to the nature and extent of the works to be carried out.
26. Are there any areas on or around the	No	No

Brief Project Description	Yes/No	Is this likely to result in a significant impact Yes/No - Why
location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?		
27. Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	Yes	No The River Lee upstream of the proposed development area has been subject to flooding in the past. The proposed development is being protected to a flood height of 3.4m. The flood height will mitigate against current flood events and will be future proofed to allow the flood level to be raised to allow for climate change and rising sea levels in the future.

4 Overall Conclusions

The proposed development is a type set out in Part 2 Class 10 (b)(iv) of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended but it does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part. Therefore, it is a sub-threshold development. and has been screened for EIA. This report has been prepared with regard to Schedule 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

Based on the information provided in this report, it is the opinion of Arup that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an EIA is not required.

The final determination on whether an EIA is required will be made by Cork City Council.