



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING DETERMINATION

West Clare Railway Greenway

Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee

Having regard to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU ("the EIA Directive") requiring that certain public and private projects be assessed for likely effects on the environment, as transposed in the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) and on the basis of the EU and national legislative requirements and the description of the proposed development, it has been determined that the proposed West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee project does not fall within a mandatory category for EIA.

Roughan and O'Donovan (ROD) Consulting Engineers on behalf of Clare County Council has undertaken a sub-threshold Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening, and a conclusion has been made in relation to the proposed development, in accordance with the criteria for determining whether a sub-threshold development should be subject to an EIA, as set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive and transposed into national legislation in Schedule 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), under the following headings:

- (i) Characteristics of the proposed development,
- (ii) Location of the proposed development, and
- (iii) Characteristics of potential impacts.

Clare County Council considers that the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report prepared by Roughan and O'Donovan (ROD) Consulting Engineers on its behalf, includes a fair and reasonable assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Scheme on the environment.

In reaching this EIA Screening determination, the Clare County Council has adopted and agrees with the assessments and conclusions provided in the EIA Screening Report prepared by Roughan and O'Donovan (ROD) Consulting Engineers, entitled; *West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee, EIA Screening Report*.

In accordance with the above listed legislation, Clare County Council has made this EIA screening determination, based on the precautionary principle, and has concluded that likely significant effects on the receiving environment, cannot be excluded at this stage. Environmental Impact Assessment is required to be undertaken in respect of the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report be prepared for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála as part of the application for development consent.

Reasons for Determination

The EIA Screening Report provides an assessment of whether the proposed development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment by addressing the criteria and information set out in Annex III and II.A of the EIA Directive, as transposed by the Roads Act and the Planning & Development Regulations.

The AA Screening report has concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to give rise to impacts which would constitute significant effects on four European sites, the Lower Shannon SAC, the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA, the Illaunonearaun SPA and the Mid-Clare Coast SPA in view of their Conservation Objectives.

Having regard to the characteristics of the proposed development and its location, and the current level of design detail, the proposed works are likely to give rise to significant effects and/or impacts on the receiving environment.

Following the sub-threshold assessment outlined in the EIA Screening Report including the reasoning contained in the assessment, and the further reasons set out above, the assessment concluded that significant effects on the environment are considered likely to arise such that EIA is required and that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report be prepared for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála as part of the application for development consent.

Signed



Alan Farrell, Director of Service,

Housing Delivery, Infrastructure Provision & Land Activation
Clare County Council

Date 15th April 2026