

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Part XAB
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 8**

Proposed Active Travel Scheme at Captain's Hill, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Kildare County Council is proposing an active travel scheme which seeks to introduce high-quality active travel facilities along this corridor, with design solutions tailored to the local needs. Interventions will range from minor improvements, such as upgraded signage, road markings, raised crossing points, to more major interventions including carriageway realignment and junction reconfiguration to improve safety and efficiency.

Active travel facilities will include the following:

- Cycle lanes on the reconfigured River Forest & Newtown Glendale junctions
- Segregated cycle tracks separated from both the footpath and carriageway by kerbs or verges
- Shared active travel facilities at interfaces with the pedestrian crossing points, side roads, junctions and existing carriageway, and available to all active travel users.

Raised pedestrian crossing points will be incorporated to strengthen connectivity with the existing footpath network and any new active travel links. The scheme design has been developed to minimise impact, with the realignment and works confined as far as possible to existing public land. Active travel facilities along designated routes will be generally segregated, with the cycling and pedestrian facilities clearly identified, or shared facilities, to provide wide routes for all active travel users.

The proposed development will be aligned with the redevelopment of Cope Bridge. The redevelopment of Cope bridge will remove the existing single carriageway 'stop/go' arrangement of the bridge: removing the existing traffic signals, provide widened carriageways, in both directions, and provide dedicated active travel facilities over the Royal Canal and the railway line to the Confey Lands, further improving active travel facilities to Confey Lands Masterplan and enhancing local connectivity.

A detailed description of the proposed development, along with images of the site outline, location and general arrangement plans has been provided in Figures 1-9 of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, prepared by Altamar, Marine & Environmental Consultancy, on behalf of Kildare County Council and with drawings provided with the Part 8 application.

Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the guidance contained in the document entitled "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities*" (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009) and following an examination of the objective information provided in the *Appropriate Assessment Screening Report* by Altemar, Marine & Environmental Consultancy, on behalf of Kildare County Council, as the Competent Authority, determines that the proposed active travel scheme at Captains Hill, Confey, Leixlip. Co. Kildare, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, does not have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on European sites, their conservation objectives or integrity, and therefore does not require an Appropriate Assessment.

Key points in the determination –

- The nearest European site to the proposed development is the Rye Water Valley/Carton Valley SAC, located approximately 148 m to the southwest of the development boundary. The proposed development site is situated east of the SAC and its associated wooded areas.
- The proposed scheme involves upgrades to the existing surface water drainage network. Containment measures will ensure continuous containment and control of surface water within the defined works area during construction with no pathway for pollutants to migrate towards the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.
- The upgraded surface water drainage system will attenuate flows to pre-development levels, ensuring no increase in runoff volumes, however in the absence of these design changes no significant effects on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC are foreseen.
- No foul drainage connections are proposed as part of the development
- During operation surface water drainage along Captains Hill will be directed to an upgraded outfall through Avondale. This upgraded network will discharge surface water drainage to the Silleaseachain Stream.
- Surface water drainage along the junction at Captain's Hill & Main Street Leixlip will continue to outfall to the River Liffey at a point approximately 400m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. The network along Distillery Lane (disconnected from the proposed development site during construction) will remain disconnected from the site during operation. This will ensure that surface water drainage from the site will not outfall to the Rye Water River during operation. As a result, given the topographical flow direction of surface water drainage following upgrade works there is no direct or indirect hydrological pathway from the proposed development to the Rye Water Valley/carton SAC during operation.
- There are no SPAs in the vicinity of the site.

It is therefore highly improbable that a project of this nature and scale will have any measurable impact on the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites.

Therefore a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the project appraisal either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 sites and their Conservation Objectives.

Signed:


Elaine Donohoe
Executive Planner



Martin Ryan
Senior Executive Planner

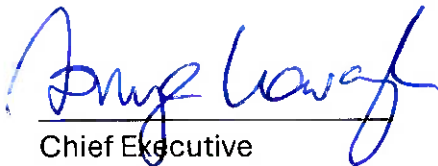


J. O'Reilly

A/Senior Planner

05/06/2026

ORDER: That Kildare County Council as the Competent Authority, having considered the AA Screening Report prepared by Altemar, Marine & Environmental Consultancy, on behalf of Kildare County Council, makes a determination that a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the Proposed Active Travel Scheme at Captain's Hill, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 sites and their Conservation Objectives.


Chief Executive

Date: 5/6/2026

Kildare County Council Appropriate Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination