PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE BRIDGE, CELBRIDGE, CO. KILDARE

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report

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1 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY

1.1 Introduction

This report documents the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge in Celbridge, Co. Kildare. The objective of this assessment is the following:

- To describe the baseline landscape and visual amenity within a defined study area; and
- Assess the likely potential effects of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge on landscape elements, landscape character and visual amenity.

Note that the assessment is focussed on the built up area of Celbridge and hence the term 'landscape' is understood to refer to both landscape and townscape or urban landscape.

1.1.1 Scope

The scope of the landscape and visual impact assessment and structure of this report is as follows: -

- Assessment methodology;
- Planning policy of relevance to landscape and visual amenity;
- Receiving environment comprising a description of the landscape and visual baseline within a defined study area;
- Impact assessment comprising a description of the effects of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge on landscape elements, landscape character and visual amenity;
- Mitigation measures including a description of the measures incorporated into the site layout and design of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge to mitigate potential adverse effects; and
- Residual impact assessment documenting landscape and visual effects remaining with mitigation measures in place.

The assessment is informed by relevant policy contained in the following: -

- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 issues paper;
- Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017-2023;
- Ordnance survey maps at varying scales; and
- Aerial photography.

The assessment is also supported by a series of illustrated figures presented in this report as follows: -

- Figure 1 - Study Area and Baseline Landscape and Visual Amenity;
- Figure 2 - Baseline visual amenity at selected viewpoint locations.

Photomontages of the proposed development from selected view point locations as listed below are provided in Appendix A: -

- Figure 3a - Viewpoint 1 Centre of River Liffey Bridge (Protected View RL 3 Celbridge LAP) (Existing View and Photomontage);
- Figure 3b - Viewpoint 2 Newtown Road (Existing View and Photomontage);
- Figure 3c - Viewpoint 4 R403 English Row / R405 Main Street (Existing View and Photomontage);
- Figure 3d - Viewpoint 5 R405 Primrose Hill (Existing View and Photomontage);
- Figure 3e - Viewpoint 6 Pedestrian Bridge, Celbridge (Existing View and Photomontage); and
- Figure 3f - Viewpoint 7 Abbey Lodge, Celbridge (Existing View and Photomontage).

1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 Assessment Methodology

The methodology for the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) is set out below and is informed by published best practice guidance documents as follows:

- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, (2013), hereinafter referred to as GLVIA 3;
- TII, Landscape character assessment (LCA) and landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) of proposed national roads: Standard, PE-ENV-01102, December 2020;
- TII, Landscape character assessment (LCA) and landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) for Specified Infrastructure Projects: Overarching Technical Document, PE-ENV-01101, December 2020; and
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (The Landscape Institute, 2019).

The assessment of effects on landscape resources and visual amenity are separate but interconnected processes. Landscape is defined, in the European Landscape Convention (ELC, Ref. 6.), as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”.

A clear distinction is drawn between landscape and visual effects as follows:

- Landscape effects relate to the effects of a Proposed Development on the physical characteristics of the landscape and its resulting character and quality; and
- Visual effects relate to the effects on views experienced by visual receptors (e.g. residents, footpath users, tourists, etc.) and on the visual amenity experienced by those people.

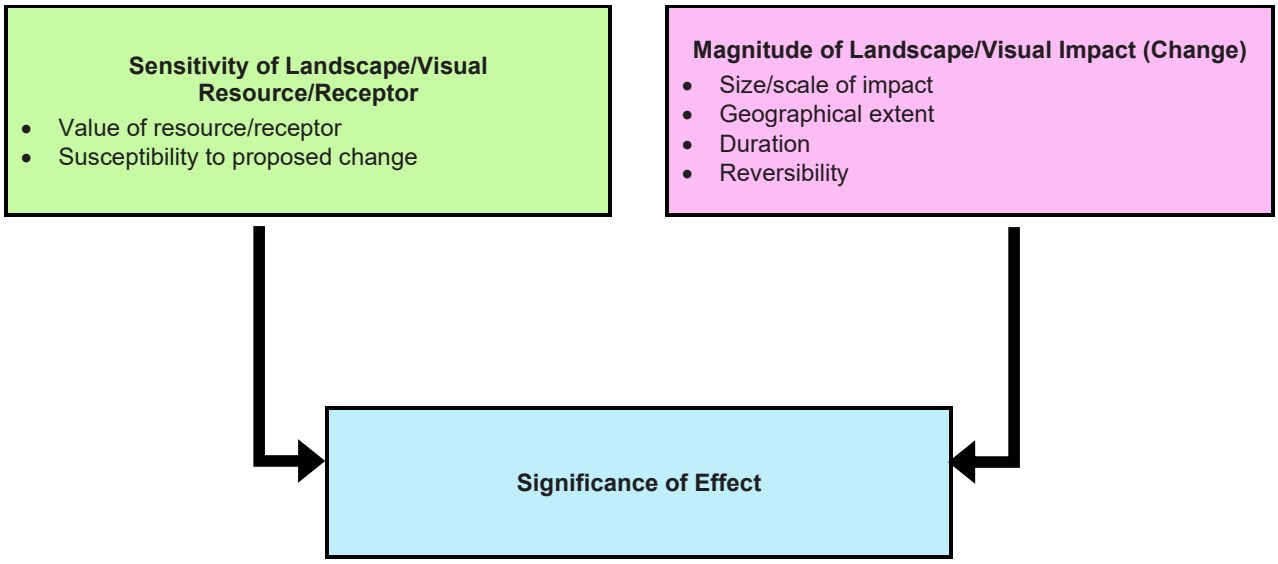
1.2.2 Impact Assessment Criteria

The criteria for determining the significance of effects is a two-stage process that involves defining the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of the impacts. This section describes the criteria applied in this chapter to assign levels of sensitivity of the receptors and levels of magnitude of potential impacts.

The likely landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed by considering the changes that would occur to the existing landscape and visual amenity as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects is arrived at by combining judgements concerning the sensitivity of the landscape or visual receptor (person) with judgements concerning the predicted magnitude of impact resulting from the proposed change. It is important to note that significance is determined on a case by case basis using professional judgement with the methodology below as a guide and this approach accords with the guidance in GLVIA 3.

The sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors is arrived at by combining judgements concerning susceptibility (ability to accommodate change) and value. The magnitude of impact is arrived at by combining judgements concerning size and scale of the change, the geographic extent of the change and its duration and reversibility. This methodology is summarised in the following diagram and is explained in detail below.

Figure 1.1: Summary of Assessment Methodology



1.2.2.1 Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

Sensitivity is determined by assessing both the value attached to a landscape receptor and its susceptibility to the change likely to result from the Proposed Development. The sensitivity of a landscape receptor is a combination of 'judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape' (GLVIA 3, para 5.39).

1.2.2.1.1 Value

The value of the landscape receptor is established as follows:

- *'the value of the Landscape Character Types or Areas that may be affected, based on review of any designations at both national and local levels, and, where there are no designations, judgements based on criteria that can be used to establish landscape value; and*
- *the value of individual contributors to landscape character, especially the key characteristics, which may include individual elements of the landscape, particularly landscape features, notable aesthetic, perceptual or experiential qualities, and combinations of these contributors' (GLVIA, para 5.44).*

The value of a landscape receptor will reflect relevant designations and their level of importance as referenced in GLVIA 3 (para 5.45). It is important to note that these designations are not the sole indicator of value or valued landscapes. Non-designated landscapes can be of value. An assessment of value is made by reference to clearly stated and recognised criteria, including perceptual qualities, such as those detailed in GLVIA 3 (Box 5.1 para 5.28).

Landscapes are valued at international, national, local authority or community level with examples as follows:

- Internationally valued landscapes such as World Heritage Sites;
- Nationally valued landscapes such as National Parks;
- Locally valued landscapes such as those covered by local authority landscape designation or, in the absence of such designation, landscapes assessed as being of equivalent value using clearly stated and recognised criteria; and
- Landscapes that are not nationally or locally designated or judged to be of equivalent value using clearly stated and recognised criteria but are valued at community level.

1.2.2.1.2 Susceptibility

Landscape susceptibility is defined as follows: *'the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies'* (GLVIA, para 5.40).

The levels of sensitivity for landscape receptors are broadly defined in accordance with **Table 1.1** below.

Table 1.1: Landscape Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Susceptibility	Value
Very High	Exceptional landscape quality, no or limited potential for substitution. Key elements/features well known to the wider public. The landscape receptor is of very high susceptibility to the Proposed Development and has little or no tolerance to change.	Nationally/internationally designated/valued landscape, or key elements or features of national/ internationally designated landscapes.
High	Strong/distinctive landscape character; absence of landscape detractors. The landscape receptor is of high susceptibility to the Proposed Development and has low tolerance to change.	Regionally/nationally designated/valued countryside and landscape features or landscapes judged to be of equivalent value using clearly stated and recognised criteria.
Medium	Some distinctive landscape characteristics; few landscape detractors. The landscape receptor is of medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development and has medium tolerance to change.	Locally or regionally designated/valued countryside and landscape features or landscapes judged to be of equivalent value using clearly stated and recognised criteria.
Low	Absence of distinctive landscape characteristics; presence of landscape detractors. The landscape receptor is of low susceptibility to the Proposed Development and has high tolerance to change.	Undesignated landscapes and landscape features which have little value to local communities.
Negligible	Absence of positive landscape characteristics. Significant presence of landscape detractors. The landscape receptor is of negligible susceptibility to the Proposed Development and has very high tolerance to change.	Undesignated landscapes and landscape features which have no particular scenic qualities or are in poor condition or altered by presence of intrusive manmade structures.

1.2.2.2 Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Receptors

The effect on landscape receptors and the overall judgement of the magnitude of landscape impact is based on combining judgements on 'size or scale, the geographic extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility' (GLVIA 3, paragraph 5.48).

The changes caused to landscape receptors as a result of the Proposed Development is evaluated in terms of their size or scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility. Duration is defined as short term lasting 0-5 years, medium term lasting 5-10 years, long term lasting 10-20 years and permanent lasting more than 20 years.

Levels of magnitude of impact on landscape receptors are defined in **Table 1.2** below.

Table 1.2: Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Receptors

Magnitude of Impact	Definition
Large	Total loss or addition or/very substantial loss or addition of key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e., pre-development landscape) and/or introduction of dominant elements which are uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape.
Medium	Partial loss or addition of or moderate alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape) and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent but may not necessarily be substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape.
Small	Minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape) and or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.
Negligible	Very minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape) and/or introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape approximating to a 'no-change' situation.
None	No loss, alteration or addition to the receiving landscape resource.

1.2.2.3 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Sensitivity of visual receptors (people) is arrived at by combining judgements concerning their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the particular views.

The susceptibility of different visual receptors (people) to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of:

- *'the occupation or activity of people experiencing views at the particular locations; and,*
- *the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.' (GLVIA 3, para 6.32).*

Judgements made about the value of views takes account of the following factors:

- *'recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and*
- *indicators of value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (such as parking places, sign boards or interpretive material) and references to them in literature or art' (GLVIA 3, para 6.37).*

The criteria for defining sensitivity of visual receptors (people) are provided in **Table 1.3** below. Sensitivity results from combining judgements on the susceptibility of the visual receptor (person) (for example resident, commuter, tourist, walker, recreationist or worker), and the numbers of viewers affected.

Table 1.3: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Susceptibility	Value
Very High	Visitors drawn to a particular view (usually promoted or in a designated landscape), including those who have travelled to experience the views. These viewers have very high susceptibility.	Views of internationally designated countryside/land or widely known/famous views.
High	Residents. People engaged in quiet outdoor recreation where landscape is an important part of the experience. These viewers have high susceptibility.	Views of nationally designated countryside/land.
Medium	Observers enjoying the countryside from vehicles on quiet/promoted routes. People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which may involve appreciation of views (e.g. cyclists, golfers). These viewers have medium susceptibility.	Views of designated countryside/land.
Low	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve appreciation of views. These viewers have low susceptibility.	Views of undesignated countryside/land.
Negligible	People at work where the setting is not important to the quality of working life. Road users (commuters) where the view is incidental to the journey. These viewers have negligible susceptibility.	Views of undesignated countryside/land with significant presence of landscape detractors.

1.2.2.4 Magnitude of Impact on Visual Receptors

The criteria for defining magnitude of impact on visual receptors are defined in **Table 1.4** below.

Table 1.4: Magnitude of Impact on Visual Receptors

Magnitude of Impact	Definition
Large	Complete or very substantial change in view. Change dominant involving complete or very substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of baseline, e.g., through removal of key elements.
Medium	Moderate change in view which may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of baseline (i.e. pre-development view) through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Change may be prominent but would not substantially alter scale and character of the surroundings and the wider setting. Composition of the view would alter. View character may be partially changed through the introduction of features which, though uncharacteristic, may not necessarily be visually discordant.
Small	Minor change in baseline (i.e. pre-development view). Change would be distinguishable from the surroundings whilst composition and character would be similar to the pre change circumstances.
Negligible	Very slight change in baseline (i.e. pre-development view). Change barely distinguishable from the surroundings. Composition and character of view substantially unaltered.
None	No alteration to the existing view.

1.2.2.5 Significance of the Effect

The significance of the effect upon landscape and visual receptors is arrived at by combining judgements concerning magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receptor. The particular method employed for this assessment is presented in **Table 1.5** and **Table 1.6**. Where a range of significance of effect is presented in **Table 1.6**, the final assessment for each effect is based upon expert judgement.

The purpose of the LVIA is to determine, in a transparent way, the likely significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development.

GLVIA3 identifies that *'There are no hard and fast rules about what effects should be deemed 'significant' but LVIAs should always distinguish clearly between what are considered to be the significant and non-significant effects.'* (GLVIA 3 Para 3.32).

Significance can only be defined in relation to each particular development and its specific location. The relationship between receptors and effects is not typically a linear one. It is for each LVIA to determine how judgements about receptors and effects should be combined to derive significance and to explain how this conclusion has been arrived at.

The identification of significant effects would not necessarily mean that the effect is unacceptable in planning terms. What is important is that the likely effects on the landscape and visibility are transparently assessed and understood.

The significance of effects on landscape, views and visual amenity have been judged according to a six-point scale: Profound, Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible or None as presented in **Table 1.5**, which contains a description of the significance of effect criteria.

Table 1.5: Significance of Effect Criteria

Significance of Effect	Landscape Receptor	Visual Receptor
Profound	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a landscape of exceptional landscape quality (e.g. internationally designated landscapes), or key elements known to the wider public of nationally designated landscapes (where there is no or limited potential for substitution nationally).	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a view of remarkable scenic quality, within internationally designated landscapes or key features or elements of nationally designated landscapes that are well known to the wider public.
Major	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued aspect of (or a high quality) landscape.	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued view or a view of high scenic quality.
Moderate	Where proposed changes would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the existing view.
Minor	Where proposed changes would be at slight variance with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views, although discernible, would only be at slight variance with the existing view.
Negligible	Where proposed changes would have an indiscernible effect on the character of an area.	Where proposed changes would have a barely noticeable effect on views/visual amenity.
None	Where the project would not alter the landscape character of the area.	Where the project would retain existing views.

For the purposes of this assessment, those effects indicated as being Profound or Major are regarded as being significant in terms of the LVIA methodology. This is a typical approach for landscape and visual impact assessments adapted from GLVIA 3, which may differ from other environmental disciplines. Effects of Moderate and lesser significance have been identified within the assessment, though are not considered significant in terms of the LVIA methodology.

Table 1.6: Matrix Used for the Assessment of the Significance of the Effect

Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of impact				
	No change	Negligible	Small	Medium	Large
Negligible	None	Negligible	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor
Low	None	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor	Minor or Moderate
Medium	None	Negligible or Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate or Major
High	None	Minor	Minor or Moderate	Moderate or Major	Major or Profound
Very High	None	Minor	Moderate or Major	Major or Profound	Profound

1.3 Baseline

The baseline landscape and visual amenity is presented in the following sections.

1.3.1 Planning Policy of Relevance to Landscape and Visual Amenity

1.3.1.1 Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2017-2023

Policy concerning landscape, designated landscapes and visual amenity is outlined in the following sections.

Policy LA 1 states *'Ensure that consideration of landscape sensitivity is an important factor in determining development uses. In areas of high landscape sensitivity, the design, type and the choice of location of proposed development in the landscape will also be critical considerations.'*

Policy LA 2 states *'Protect and enhance the county's landscape by ensuring that development retains, protects and, where necessary, enhances the appearance and character of the existing local landscape.'*

Areas of High Amenity are designated as such in the CDP because of their *'outstanding natural beauty and/or unique interest value and are generally sensitive to the impacts of development.'*

This designation applies to water corridors. **Policy WC3** relates to Water Corridors (Rivers and Canals) (Areas of High Amenity) and states *'Control development that will adversely affect the visual integrity of distinctive linear sections of water corridors and river valleys and open floodplains.'*

Policy in regard to **scenic routes and views** is set out in **Policy SR 1** which states *'Protect views and designated scenic routes by avoiding any development that could disrupt the vistas or disproportionately impact on the landscape character of the area, thereby affecting the scenic and amenity value of the views.'*

1.3.1.2 Draft Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023 – 2029 Issues paper

The issues paper refers to enhanced amenity, heritage, landscape and green infrastructure and the importance of these for the economy, tourism and wellbeing. The issues paper does not refer to landscape character and visual amenity in detail.

1.3.1.3 Celbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023

Section 10 of the LAP refers to built and natural heritage including landscape. Paragraph 10.3.2 Architectural and Landscape Conservation states the following, *'The LAP area encompasses a composite landscape that is connected by the River Liffey. This landscape is made up of a number of character areas that respond to both their river setting and one another. The value of this landscape is much greater than the sum of its individual parts and warrants protection and preservation. The character areas can broadly be categorised as areas being of either architectural or landscape value.*

The LAP refers to **Architectural Conservation Areas** and **Historic Landscape Areas** and policy is outlined as follows.

Policy BH3 which states *'It is the policy of the Council to preserve the historic character of proposed Architectural Conservation Areas and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of these areas.'*

Policy HLA1 relates to Historic Landscapes Areas and states *'It is the policy of the Council to preserve the special landscape character of historic landscapes within Celbridge as set out on Map 13.1 Land Use Zoning.'*

Objective HLAO1.1 states *'To protect the special landscape character of historic landscape areas and ensure that new development enhances the special character and visual setting of the historic landscapes outlined on Map 13.17 and to prevent development that would have a negative impact on the character of the lands within the Historic Landscape Areas'.*

The LAP refers to scenic routes and views and policy is outlined as follows.

Policy SRV1 states *'It is the policy of the Council to ensure that the proposed location, siting and design of buildings and structures and any mitigation measures identified in the LAP, protect the special character of the identified scenic routes and protected views.'*

The LAP outlines the following objectives in regard to scenic routes and views.

***Objective SRVO1.1**: 'To protect the visual amenity and character of scenic routes and views in Celbridge and Castletown as identified in the County Development Plan'.*

***Objective SRVO1.2**: 'To require a Visual Impact Assessment of proposals for development that may impact the special character and visual amenity of scenic routes and views as part of the planning application process.'*

1.3.2 Study Area

The site for the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge is located adjacent and immediately north of the existing road bridge in the town centre. The site is located within a built up area in the town centre featuring some mature trees and woody vegetation along the River Liffey. The built up nature of the baseline urban landscape and the presence of riverside vegetation is such that the proposed change would have limited influence over the surrounding area. On this basis, and for the purposes of identifying potential significant effects, a study area has been identified and this is illustrated below in **Figure 1.2 - Study Area and Baseline Landscape and Visual Amenity.**

The study area covers a part of the urban centre of Celbridge centred on the River Liffey and the existing road bridge crossing. The study area covers a part of the river corridor extending south as far as Celbridge Mill and north as far as the woodland edge associated with Donaghcumper immediately north of the existing bridge. The study area includes a part of Main Street (R405), Primrose Hill (R405) and Dublin Road (R403) where these streets meet the existing River Liffey Crossing.

Figure 1.2: Study Area and Baseline Landscape and Visual Amenity - Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence CYAL50173842

1.3.3 Landscape Character

Section 14 of the Kildare CDP refers to a Landscape Character Assessment for the County. It identifies nine landscape character areas (LCAs) and categorises them according to sensitivity on a 5 point scale. One of these, the River Liffey LCA, is relevant to the assessment. The study area lies entirely within the River Liffey LCA and published data is presented below.

1.3.3.1 River Liffey LCA, Kildare CDP

The site of the proposed development is located in the town of Celbridge within the River Liffey LCA. The River Liffey is identified as a distinct Landscape Character Area (LCA) and is categorised as Class 4 – Special Sensitivity in a scoring system ranging from 1 - Low Sensitivity to 5 – Unique Sensitivity in Tables 14.1 and 14.2 of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP). Class 4 states *'Areas with low capacity to accommodate uses without significant adverse effects on the appearance or character of the landscape having regard to special sensitivity factors.'* The River Liffey is also a designated Area of High Amenity. The landscape description for the Rivers Liffey and Barrow are set out below taken from the original published landscape character assessment.

'The River Liffey and River Barrow valleys are of significance in terms of landscape and amenity value and as such are sensitive to development. They are characterised by smooth terrain and low vegetation, with extensive upland views (i.e. the Chair of Kildare to the west and the Eastern Uplands to the east) and distant views including the neighbouring Wicklow Mountains. The topography is such that it allows vistas over long distances without disruption along the river corridor. As a result development on the banks of the rivers can have a disproportionate visual impact, due to an inherent inability to be visually absorbed. However, the undulating topography occurring within the river valleys provides physical shielding and has the potential to visually enclose the built form within the river valley, where it does not break the skyline. Shelter vegetation exists along some stretches of the valleys with the presence of natural and native woodland that grows on the floodplains of the rivers, as well as by conifer plantation in adjacent lands. This vegetation has a shielding and absorbing quality in landscape terms. It can provide a natural visual barrier as well as adding to the complexity of a vista, breaking it up to provide scale and containment for built forms.

Many views of the river valleys are available from local roads and from viewing points located along the valleys. While river valleys represent potentially vulnerable linear landscape features, as they are often highly distinctive in the context of the general landscape, in certain circumstances landscape sensitivities may be localised or site-specific.'

1.3.3.2 Castletown House, St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper, LCA, Celbridge LAP

The site of the proposed development is located adjacent to the designed landscape of Castletown House, St Wolstans and Donaghcumper LCA which is described as follows in the Celbridge LAP.

'In 2006, the first phase of a Historic Landscape Study of Castletown was undertaken by Dr. Finola O' Kane Crimmins and Dr. John Olley on behalf of Kildare County Council. This study identified the direct and indirect influence of the Conollys on the landscapes surrounding their demesne and the parklands of St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper in particular.

The siting of Castletown House was undoubtedly influenced by its elevated location overlooking the River Liffey and the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside including the Wicklow Mountains. Under the supervision of Katherine Conolly, the lands surrounding the house were landscaped in the Baroque style popular at the time. The designed landscape included extensive woodlands to the north of the house, open parkland to the south and east of the house and a number of formal and informal approaches from the Dublin Road, the Main Street of Celbridge, Leixlip (via Easton) and the Maynooth Road. Functional areas such as the kitchen gardens and enclosed fields were located to the west of the house and screened from view.

Visual connections between Castletown House and the wider landscape were established by developing vistas terminated by buildings and monuments. These vistas included views along defined axis between Castletown House and Conolly's Obelisk to the north-west and the Wonderful Barn to the north-east. The Collegiate College on the Clane Road, the construction of which was patronised by the Conollys, is located on a third undefined axis to the south west of the house.

William Conolly also encouraged the redevelopment of Celbridge's Main Street which was laid out as an extension of the formal avenue that leads to the house from the south west. A view towards the house from the Dublin Road was established, as defined by the tree line that separates the Donaghcumper and St. Wolstan's demesnes.

When Lady Louisa Conolly took her place in Castletown in 1759, she focussed her attention on the parkland to the south of the house. A Gothic walk was developed along the banks of the River Liffey which was landscaped in the natural style that had become fashionable. Buildings and structures such as the gate lodge, a temple, a bath house, an ice house and a number of bridges were incorporated to add visual interest. Streams were manipulated and rapids created in the River Liffey to enhance the picturesque quality and atmosphere of the walk.

This style of landscaping was also applied to the parklands at St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper on the opposite side of the Liffey. Paths were laid on circuitous routes that incorporated tree lines, woodlands, streams and existing and new structures such as the ruins of St. Wolstan's Abbey and the walled gardens. As such, the success of the Gothic walk on the Castletown Estate relies heavily on the parklands and associated river walks on the adjoining demesnes of St. Wolstan's and Donaghcumper.'

1.3.3.3 Historic Town Centre, Architectural Character Area, Celbridge LAP

The Celbridge LAP also refers to the Historic Town Centre which is described as follows:

***'Main Street** - The Main Street of Celbridge underwent significant change in the eighteenth century when William Conolly acquired the Dongan estate. In an effort to improve the character of the town, Conolly granted new leases on lands in Celbridge on the condition that 'substantial stone houses with gable ends and two chimneys be built'. A number of fine houses were built in the area of Castletown Gate. Of note is the manner in which houses on the south side of the street, and Kildrought House in particular, respond to their setting on the banks of the River Liffey. These buildings were designed to address both the Main Street and their formal gardens, which slope down to the River Liffey. Their contribution to the landscape setting of the River Liffey is as important as their relationship with the main street. The former Town Hall, the Round House and Jasamine House contribute to the eighteenth century character of the north end of the Main Street whilst Christ Church reinforces its identity as the less commercial end of the street. Development is more densely concentrated on both sides of the street between St. Patrick's Church and Celbridge Mill. This end of the town historically comprised more commercial uses than the north end of the street and is more typical of nineteenth century Irish streetscapes.*

***Celbridge Mill and Surrounds** - The Celbridge Mill, the adjoining road bridge and the buildings concentrated at the junction of the Dublin Road, Newtown Road and Primrose Hill define a gateway to the town centre focussed on the crossing of the River Liffey. The siting of the mill buildings on the River Liffey are of particular note, terminating views from the Dublin Road and signalling the entry point to the town centre.*

***English Row** - English Row, which is an extension of the Main Street, originally provided accommodation for the mill workers that arrived from Yorkshire in the early nineteenth century. These buildings have since been adapted to retail and commercial uses and now contribute to the commercial function of the town centre.*

***Tea Lane and Big Lane** - Tea Lane or Church Lane is of both archaeological and architectural interest. In early medieval times, this section of the road would have linked St. Mochua's monastic site to the ford crossing the River Liffey and St. Mochua's well. Like English Row, the north side of Tea Lane once comprised a terrace of houses built to accommodate the Celbridge Mill workers. The majority of these houses were cleared in the twentieth century to make way for local authority cottages. The character of Tea Lane is now defined by the following buildings and features:*

- *Tea Lane graveyard and St. Mochua's Church;*
- *Demesne wall of Oakley Park;*
- *Entrance gate and gate lodge associated with 'The Lodge' house;*
- *Surviving nineteenth and twentieth century cottages and their front gardens; and*
- *Mature trees along the southern boundary of Oakley Park and the northern boundary of The Lodge.*

***Big Lane** - Big Lane comprises the section of the Maynooth Road that extends from Elm Park to the Celbridge workhouse. It has a character similar to Tea Lane that is defined by nine pairs of early twentieth century local authority cottages on its southern boundary and the set back and landscaped areas to the front of buildings along its northern boundary.'*

1.3.4 Designated Landscapes

The landscape character areas outlined above are also designated as follows.

- The River Liffey Landscape Character Area is also a designated Area of High Amenity (AHA);
- The Historic Town Centre Architectural Character Area includes the historic core of Celbridge. This includes Main Street, Celbridge Mill and surrounds, English Row, Tea Lane and Big Lane. Almost all of this area falls within the proposed Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). An ACA is defined in the LAP as a *'place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.'*; and

- Castletown House, St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper, Landscape Character Area is also a designated Historic Landscape Area.

An assessment of the sensitivity (combining value and susceptibility) of the landscape receptors in the study area has been undertaken for the purpose of this project and is tabulated below.

Table 1.7: Landscape Receptors - Assessment of Sensitivity (combining value and susceptibility)

Landscape Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
River Liffey LCA (Kildare CDP) and designated Area of High Amenity (AHA)	This LCA is a designated Area of High Amenity and is valued regionally and nationally for its scenic quality and as a recreational asset. The value is considered to be **very high**.	**Very high** due to its exceptional landscape quality with little or no potential for substitution.	The sensitivity (combining value and susceptibility) is considered to be **very high**.
Historic Town Centre Architectural Character Area (Celbridge LAP).	Almost all of this area falls within a proposed Architectural Conservation Area and is valued regionally and nationally as a heritage asset. The value is considered to be **very high**.	**Very high** due to its exceptional landscape quality and unique character with little or no potential for substitution.	The sensitivity (combining value and susceptibility) is considered to be **very high**.
Castletown House, St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper Landscape Character Area (Celbridge LAP) and designated Historic Landscape Area (Kildare CDP).	This is a designated Historic Landscape Area and is promoted as a valued landscape both nationally and internationally. The value is considered to be **very high**.	**Very high** due to its exceptional landscape quality and unique character with little or no potential for substitution.	The sensitivity (combining value and susceptibility) is considered to be **very high**.

1.3.5 Visual Amenity

1.3.5.1 Designated Scenic Routes and Views

The Kildare CDP refers to designated scenic routes, views and prospects. Only one protected view occurs within the study area, this being **Protected view RL 3** View of the River Liffey from Celbridge Bridge, Celbridge. This is indicated in **Figure 1** above.

1.3.5.2 Baseline Visual Amenity within the Study Area

The visibility of the site of the proposed development was initially assessed with reference to desk based study of OS Maps and available aerial photography. This was followed by a field survey to inform the assessment of effects.

Visibility of the site of the proposed development is limited due to the screening afforded by buildings within Celbridge Town Centre and mature vegetation along the River Liffey. The site of the proposed development is visible from a small section of the river including the existing pedestrian bridge to the south (upstream). It is also visible from adjacent streets and road junctions approaching the existing road bridge including that at the R405 Primrose Hill, R403 Dublin Road, Newtown Road and R405 Main Street. The site of the proposed development is also visible from the car park of the Abbey Lodge.

1.3.5.3 Visual Receptors at selected viewpoint locations

The visual receptors with existing views of the site of the proposed development and / or potential views of the proposed development comprise pedestrians and road users. These include recreational visitors to Celbridge Town Centre. A description of existing views at 7 viewpoint locations, chosen for the assessment, is presented in **Table 1.8** below. The table lists the viewer types at each viewpoint and describes the existing views. An assessment of the value has been undertaken for the purpose of this project in line with the methodology above and is outlined in column 3 below.

Table 1.8: Existing Visual Amenity at Selected Viewpoint Locations

ID	Location	Viewer Types	Description of Existing View	Value
Vp1	Centre of River Liffey Bridge (Protected View RL 3 Celbridge LAP)	Pedestrians Road Users	Views are available downstream of the River Liffey with mature vegetation and trees along the banks framing either side of the view. The Abbey Lodge is partially visible filtered through a line of Silver Birch trees on the river bank.	**Very High** - Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA).
Vp2	Newtown Road	Pedestrians Road Users	Views are available of part of the existing road bridge with a road junction (carrying busy traffic intermittently) in the foreground. The Abbey Lodge is also clearly visible in the right hand part of the view. Street signs are clearly visible in the foreground. Glimpse views of some of the buildings on the Main Street are available in the background along with mature woody vegetation along the River Liffey.	**Very High** - Views of historic town centre including areas within the proposed ACA.
Vp 3	Pedestrian Bridge Celbridge	Pedestrians	Views are available of The River Liffey and the existing stone arch bridge in the foreground. In the background, mature woody riverside vegetation is clearly visible. The rooflines of the Abbey Lodge and other buildings close by are clearly visible to the right of the viewer.	**Very High** - Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA).
Vp4	R403 English Row / R405 Main Street.	Pedestrians Road Users	Views are available of the existing bridge crossing including road surface, stone parapets, railings and intermittent traffic with the Abbey Lodge in the background. Overhead lines cross the view in the foreground which is framed by buildings on the Main Street including the former Bank of Ireland. The heavily pruned Lime tree in the car park of the bank site is clearly visible along with a similar tree on the opposite side of the car park entrance.	**Very High** - Views of historic town centre including areas within the proposed ACA.
Vp5	R405 Primrose Hill	Pedestrians Road Users	Views are available of the existing road bridge. The view is centred on the existing bridge including road surface and parapets with the road junction (R403, R405 and Newtown Road) in the foreground. The Abbey Lodge is clearly visible to the right of the viewer in the foreground. Overhead lines, a lighting column and street signs are visible.	**Very High** - Views of historic town centre including areas within the proposed ACA.
Vp6	Pedestrian Bridge, Celbridge	Pedestrians	Views are available of The River Liffey and the existing stone arch bridge in the foreground. In the background, riverside vegetation is clearly visible. The rooflines of some of the buildings on Celbridge Main Street are partially visible behind existing vegetation in the distance. The Abbey Lodge is clearly visible in the right hand part of the view behind the existing road bridge.	**Very High** - Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA).
Vp7	Abbey Lodge	Pedestrians	Views are available of the River Liffey from the rear of the hotel. Views are attained of the river and mature woodland along the riverbank. Celbridge Mill is partially visible in the distance behind the stone bridge along with other buildings in Celbridge town centre.	**Very High** - Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA).

1.3.5.3.1 Viewer Sensitivity

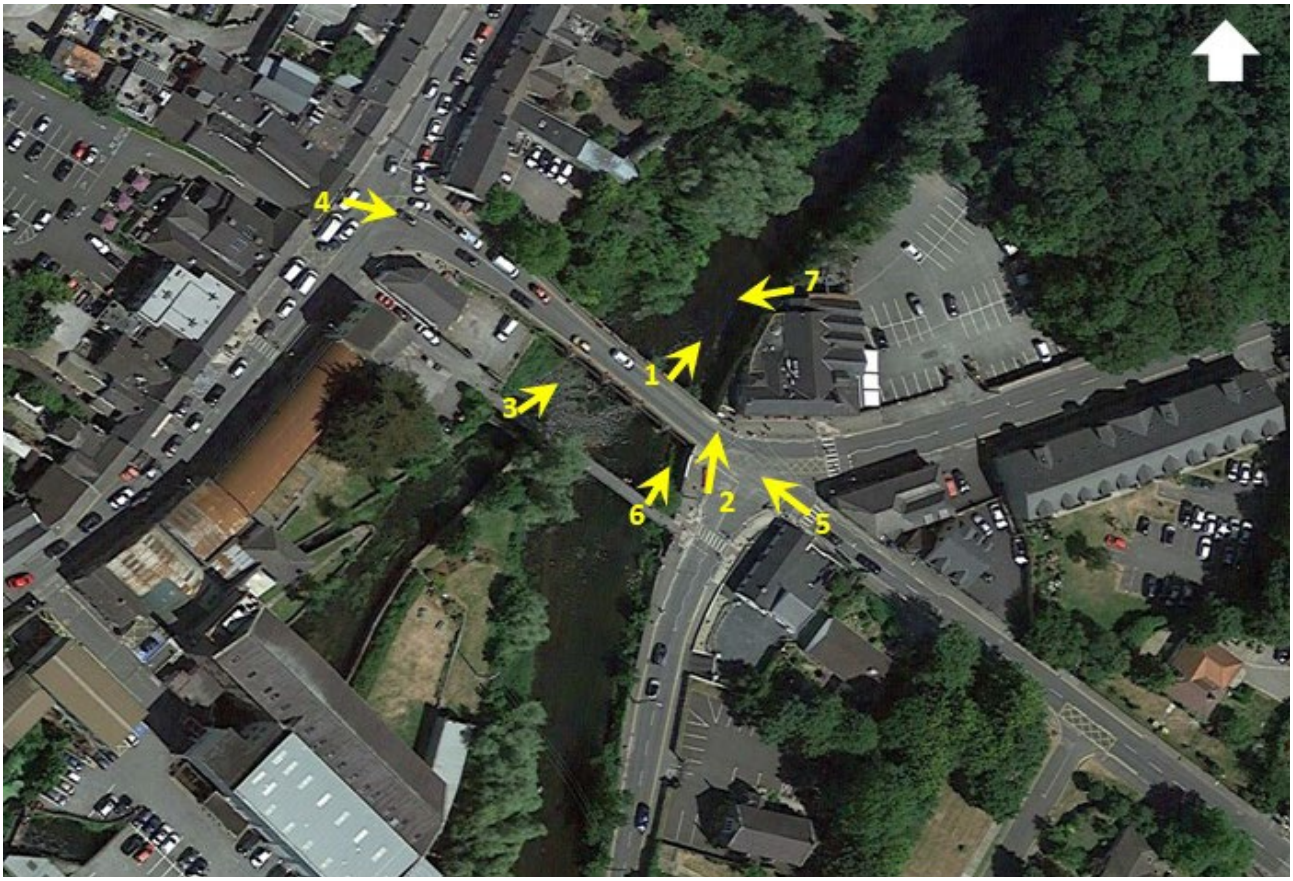
Viewer types at each of the viewpoints comprise pedestrians and, in some cases, road users. Pedestrians may include locals at work or indeed recreational visitors to the town of Celbridge which is promoted as a visitor attraction. Pedestrians as recreational visitors to Celbridge are considered to be of very high susceptibility. Road users include commuters travelling by car and also recreational visitors travelling by car and enjoying their surroundings in a more leisurely way. Road users travelling by car with an interest in their surroundings are considered to be of medium susceptibility. The sensitivity (value and susceptibility combined) of viewers at each viewpoint is tabulated below.

Table 1.9: Viewer Sensitivity

ID	Viewer Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Vp1	Pedestrians	Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA) of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in this promoted and protected view.	Very High
Vp 1	Road Users	Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA) of **very high** value.	**Medium** susceptibility due to passing interest in the promoted and protected view whilst travelling by car.	High
Vp2	Pedestrians	Views of historic town centre and proposed ACA of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in the urban landscape including the proposed ACA.	Very High
Vp2	Road Users	Views of historic town centre and proposed ACA of **very high** value.	**Medium** susceptibility due to passing interest in the urban landscape including the proposed ACA.	High
Vp 3	Pedestrians	Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA) of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in the River Liffey designated as AHA.	Very High
Vp4	Pedestrians	Views of historic town centre and proposed ACA of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in the urban landscape including the proposed ACA.	Very High
Vp4	Road Users	Views of historic town centre and proposed ACA of **very high** value.	**Medium** susceptibility due to passing interest in the urban landscape including the proposed ACA.	High
Vp5	Pedestrians	Views of historic town centre and proposed ACA of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in the urban landscape including the proposed ACA.	Very High
Vp5	Road Users	Views of historic town centre and proposed ACA of **very high** value.	**Medium** susceptibility due to passing interest in the urban landscape including the proposed ACA.	High
Vp6	Pedestrians	Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA) of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in the River Liffey designated as AHA.	Very High
Vp7	Pedestrians	Views of designated landscape (River Liffey AHA) of **very high** value.	**Very high** susceptibility due to their interest in the River Liffey designated as AHA.	Very High

The location of each of the viewpoints is indicated on **Figure 1.3** - **Baseline Visual Amenity at Selected Viewpoint Locations** presented below.

Figure 1.3: Baseline Visual Amenity at Selected Viewpoint Locations - Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence CYAL50173842



1.4 Impact Assessment

The proposed change comprises the introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge.

1.4.1 Construction Phase

Construction activities are expected to last for 4 months along with an additional 6 weeks for advance works including site investigation and maintenance works to the existing road bridge. A sequence of activities would arise during construction, including site clearance, demolition of existing structures along with the loss of 1 tree and the pruning of a small amount of woody vegetation along the River Liffey. These site clearance and demolition works would be followed by the gradual introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge structure. The construction activities would directly affect the River Liffey LCA and designated AHA. These activities would also directly affect parts of the surrounding built fabric within the town centre of Celbridge most of which occurs within the proposed ACA. These effects would be derived from the temporary presence of machinery, construction traffic including tall cranes which would be present over the short term. These are presented in the tables below.

Table 1.10: Landscape Receptors – Construction Phase Assessment of Effects

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
River Liffey LCA (Kildare CDP) and designated Area of High Amenity (AHA)	Very High	Construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be present in this landscape on a short term basis. Short term effects would arise from the visibility of plant and machinery along a short section of the river corridor. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Historic Town Centre Architectural Character Area (Celbridge LAP).	Very High	Construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be present in this landscape on a short term basis. Tall plant and machinery would be partially apparent from the surrounding historic town centre in the vicinity of the existing road bridge. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Castletown House, St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper Landscape Character Area (Celbridge LAP) and designated Historic Landscape Area (Kildare CDP).	Very High	Construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be scarcely visible at all from this landscape apart from a tall crane which would be apparent for a limited time. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.

Table 1.11: Visual Receptors - Construction Phase Assessment of Effects

ID	Viewer Type	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
Vp1	Pedestrians	Very High	Advance works at the existing road bridge along with the construction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be visible at short range. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp 1	Road Users	High	As above	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp2	Pedestrians	Very High	Road works along the existing road bridge would be visible in the foreground along with the construction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge in the background. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor and Not Significant.
Vp2	Road Users	High	As above	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp 3	Pedestrians	Very High	Views would be attained of the construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge with the existing road bridge in the foreground. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp4	Pedestrians	Very High	Road works along the existing road bridge and at the junction with Main Street would be visible in the foreground. The construction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be partially visible to the left of the viewer. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp4	Road Users	High	As above	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp5	Pedestrians	Very High	Road works along the existing road bridge and the junction with the R405 would be visible in the foreground. Construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be partially visible in the background to the right of the existing road bridge. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp5	Road Users	High	As above	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp6	Pedestrians	Very High	Views would be attained of the construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge with the existing road bridge in the foreground. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor adverse and Not Significant.
Vp7	Pedestrians	Very High	Construction activities associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be clearly visible in the foreground in front of the existing road bridge. Due to the short term nature of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be Negligible.	Minor and Not Significant

Towards the end of the construction phase, as the proposed development is approaching completion, impacts and effects associated with the long term operational phase would begin to take effect and these are considered further under operation phase below.

1.4.2 Operation Phase

1.4.2.1 Landscape Elements, Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes

Effects on landscape are discussed in terms of direct changes to the landscape arising from the permanent loss or change to elements and features and the introduction of permanent new structures.

The main permanent built elements and vegetation which would be removed from the landscape and visual baseline are as follows:

- Part of the parapet wall of the existing road bridge measuring 6m length adjacent to the Abbey Lodge;
- The existing footpath crossing over the existing road bridge;
- A boundary wall at the Abbey Lodge;
- A section of boundary wall and railing at the former Bank of Ireland site;
- One mature London Plane tree (heavily pruned) and an area of ornamental planting measuring 15 sqm.

The main permanent structures which would be introduced into the landscape and visual baseline are as follows:

- Realigned boundary wall and railing to replace that lost at the former Bank of Ireland site;
- Reinstated boundary at the Abbey Lodge, set back from the road by approximately 1 metre;
- Rubbing strips on either side of the road crossing over the existing road bridge;
- Realigned road kerbs at the junctions on either side of the existing road bridge;
- Zebra crossing and belisha beacons and flashing amber signals at the junction of the existing road bridge and Main Street; and
- Pedestrian and cycle bridge along with piled abutments on either side of the River Liffey and lighting incorporated into the handrail.

An assessment is made of the long term or permanent effects of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge on landscape character. This is arrived at by combining landscape sensitivity (value and susceptibility), in line with the methodology above, along with the magnitude of impact (size and scale, geographical extent and duration/reversibility of the proposed change) to arrive at a significance of effect in line with **Table 1.5** and **Table 1.6** in the methodology above.

1.4.2.1.1 River Liffey LCA and Designated AHA

Direct changes would arise to the site of the proposed development within the River Liffey LCA as a result of the introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge. A permanent loss of a part of the parapet wall of the existing road bridge along with built elements at the Abbey Lodge and the Bank of Ireland site would arise as outlined above.

Indirect changes to the character of the surrounding landscape of the River Liffey, within the study area, would arise as a result of the visibility of the proposed changes, in particular the introduction of the pedestrian and cycle bridge.

The sinuous course of the river together with mature wooded vegetation and extent of adjacent built up areas is such that the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would have limited influence on the River Liffey LCA and designated AHA. In this regard, the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be apparent along the river and adjacent river banks extending from Celbridge Mill on the south western side (upstream) to the boundary of the Abbey Lodge on the north eastern side.

A **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise. This is derived from the minor addition or alteration of one or more key elements, features and patterns of the baseline. The introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge will bring about a change to the character of the river landscape setting, in particular on the downstream side of the existing road bridge. The existing road bridge will remain as the dominant focal point and feature within the river landscape. The proposed elements will be clearly apparent especially on the downstream side but would not necessarily be uncharacteristic with the attributes of the surrounding river landscape which will continue to be clearly legible.

Taking into account the scale of the change and the extent of landscape over which this change will have influence, a **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to the River Liffey LCA and designated AHA which is considered to be of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate** and **not significant** effect during operation. The effect is considered to be **positive** reflecting a proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge design which was developed having regard for aesthetic considerations and the site location in mind.

1.4.2.1.2 Castletown House, St. Wolstans and Donaghcumper LCA and Designated Historic Landscape Area.

No direct changes would arise to this landscape as a result of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge.

Indirect changes to the character of this landscape, within the study area, are not expected to arise. This is due to the visual screening provided by existing mature woodland at the western boundary of this landscape adjacent to the car park of the Abbey Lodge and the visual screening provided by intervening built structures generally.

A **no change** magnitude of impact is considered to arise. This is due to the fact that the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would not be apparent from within this designated landscape due to the screening afforded by boundary vegetation (even in wintertime) and also intervening buildings and structures as reported above.

Thus, a **no change** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to Castletown House, St Wolstans and Donaghcumper LCA and designated Historic Landscape Area which is considered to be of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **none** and **not significant** effect during operation.

1.4.2.1.3 Historic Town Centre Architectural Character Area

Direct changes would arise to this landscape as a result of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge. These include loss of part of the parapet wall of the existing road bridge and narrow footpath, modifications at the Bank of Ireland site and at the Abbey Lodge together with the introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge. Other small scale direct changes would arise from the introduction of the zebra crossing on Main Street along with beacons. Apart from the section of parapet wall on the existing road bridge, which is a protected structure, the elements which would be permanently removed are considered to bring about small scale changes to the wider townscape. These direct losses would not significantly undermine the baseline urban landscape character.

Indirect changes to the character of this landscape, within the study area, would arise largely due to the introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge.

A **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise. This is derived from the minor addition or alteration of one or more key elements, features and patterns of the baseline. The introduction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge comprises a new element which would be partially apparent as a small but noticeable element from the surrounding urban landscape in the study area. As a result, changes to the character of this landscape would arise. The existing road bridge would continue to be a more dominant focal point. The proposed elements, mainly the glazed parapet would bring about a subtle and small scale change to urban landscape character due to the transparent nature of the glazing. The change would not necessarily be substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving urban landscape due to the aesthetic design which took account of the setting in which it would be located.

Taking into account the scale of the change and the extent over which this change would have influence, a **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to the Historic Town Centre which is considered to be of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate** and **not significant** effect during operation. The effect is

considered to be **positive** reflecting a proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge design which was developed having regard for aesthetic considerations and the site location in mind.

1.4.2.2 Visual Amenity

An assessment of the effects of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge on visual amenity during operation is presented below for seven viewpoint locations. **Table 1.12** below provides details of the viewer types at each viewpoint along with distances in metres to the nearest point of the proposed bridge. A description of the proposed view at each viewpoint location is also presented. The viewpoint assessment is supported by photomontages at 6 locations as indicated in the table below. Note that the photomontages also illustrate (approximately) the proposed changes in the Abbey Lodge which is the subject of a separate planning application.

Table 1.12: Visual Effects During Operation at Selected Viewpoint Locations

	Location	Distance (m) from Proposed Development	Viewer Types	Description of Proposed View During Operation	Viewpoint & Photomontage Reference
Vp1	Vp 1 Centre of River Liffey Bridge (Protected View RL 3 Celbridge LAP)	1m	Pedestrians Road Users	The protected views downstream of the River Liffey would continue to be enjoyed from the existing road bridge with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge, specifically the glazed parapet and deck in the foreground. The glazed parapet will, due to its transparent nature, result in minimal obstruction of downstream views along the river. The eye may be drawn to the deck and the handrail. The scale of these elements and the extent to which these intrude upon existing views is limited.	Figure 3a
Vp2	Vp 2 Newtown Road	13m	Pedestrians Road Users	Views would be attained of the glazed parapet associated with the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge which will be partially visible in the background behind and above the line of the existing road bridge parapet. The access to the new pedestrian and cycle bridge would be clearly visible along with the Abbey Lodge. The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would bring about a subtle change in view due to the transparent nature of the glazing. The scale of the change to the existing view is relatively small. The glazed parapet is favourable due to the transparency of the material which would not obstruct existing views beyond.	Figure 3b
Vp 3	Vp 3 Pedestrian Bridge Celbridge	23m	Pedestrians	The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be screened from view by the existing road bridge apart from a very small part of the proposed web truss structure which will be partly visible through one of the arches of the existing road bridge against the backdrop of the river.	n/a
Vp4	Vp 4 R403 English Row / R405 Main Street.	40m	Pedestrians Road Users	The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge, including glazed parapet and bridge deck would be partially visible behind and adjacent to the parapet of the existing road bridge. The modifications to the boundary at the Bank of Ireland site including the absence of the heavily pruned London Plane tree would be visible in the foreground. The modifications to the existing road crossing over the stone bridge, including rubbing strip and absence of footpath would be visible as small scale changes. The glazed parapet would be seen as a light structure in the view. The glazed parapet railing is favourable	Figure 3c

	Location	Distance (m) from Proposed Development	Viewer Types	Description of Proposed View During Operation	Viewpoint & Photomontage Reference
				due to the transparency of the material which would not obstruct existing views beyond. The glazed parapet railing, however, is at an angle and in contrast with the existing road bridge parapet.	
Vp5	Vp 5 R405 Primrose Hill	23m	Pedestrians Road Users	The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge, including glazed parapet and bridge deck would be partly visible to the right of the viewer adjacent to the parapet of the existing road bridge. The modifications to the existing road crossing over the stone bridge, including rubbing strip and absence of footpath would be visible as small scale changes. The glazed parapet would be seen as a light structure in the view. The glazed parapet railing is favourable due to the transparency of the material which would not obstruct existing views beyond. The glazed parapet railing, however, is at an angle and in contrast with the existing road bridge parapet.	Figure 3d
Vp6	Vp 6 Pedestrian Bridge, Celbridge	19m	Pedestrians	A very small part of the glazed parapet would be barely visible above the line of the existing road bridge parapet. No structures will be visible between the arches of the existing road bridge against the backdrop of the river. The glazed parapet would be barely visible in part, due to the transparent nature of the glazing. The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would result in very limited and a barely noticeable change to existing views.	Figure 3e
Vp7	Vp 7 Abbey Lodge	22m	Pedestrians	The proposed web truss structure would be visible in front of the existing road bridge and will partly obstruct views of the stone bridge arches from this particular viewpoint. The glazed parapet and handrail would also be visible although, due to its transparent nature, would not obstruct existing views of the parapet of the stone bridge. The bridge deck and seating would also be visible through the glazed parapet. These views would be attained with the River Liffey in the foreground.	Figure 3f

An assessment of the significance of the visual effects at each viewpoint is presented in the following sections of this report. This is arrived at by combining visual sensitivity (value and susceptibility), in accordance with the methodology above, along with the magnitude of impact (size and scale, geographical extent and duration/reversibility of the proposed change) to arrive at a significance of effect.

1.4.2.2.1 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Visual Effect

The magnitude of impact and significance of effect is presented below for each viewpoint. Effects are considered to be beneficial and that is due to the quality of the bridge design developed to have regard for its location.

1.4.2.2.1.1 Viewpoint 1 (Vp1) Centre of River Liffey Bridge (Protected View RL 3 Celbridge LAP)

At viewpoint 1, the proposed glazed parapet would bring about a partial change to the character and composition of the existing view. The glazed parapet may be seen by the viewer as prominent but would not substantially alter the scale and character of the wider setting of the river landscape.

A **medium** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **major beneficial and significant** visual effect. Road users of **high** sensitivity would experience a **medium** magnitude of impact resulting in a **moderate beneficial and not significant** visual effect.

1.4.2.2.1.2 Viewpoint 2 (Vp2) Newtown Road

At viewpoint 2, the proposed glazed parapet would result in a distinguishable and subtle change in view. The subtle change would be due to the transparent nature of the glazing. The composition and character of the proposed view would be similar to the existing view.

A **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate beneficial and not significant** visual effect. Road users of **high** sensitivity would experience a **small** magnitude of impact resulting in a **minor beneficial and not significant** visual effect.

1.4.2.2.1.3 Viewpoint 3 (Vp3) Pedestrian Bridge Celbridge

At viewpoint 3, a small part of the proposed web truss structure would be visible through the stone arches of the existing bridge. This will result in a minor change to the baseline view. The change would be distinguishable from the surroundings whilst the overall composition and character of the proposed view would be similar to the existing view.

A **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate beneficial and not significant** visual effect.

1.4.2.2.1.4 Viewpoint 4 (Vp4) R403 English Row / R405 Main Street.

At viewpoint 4, part of the proposed glazed handrail and proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge deck would be visible as a small element thereby resulting in a minor change to the baseline view. The changes would be noticeable but the character and composition of the proposed view would be similar to the existing view.

A **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate beneficial and not significant** visual effect. Road users of **high** sensitivity would experience a **small** magnitude of impact resulting in a **minor beneficial and not significant** visual effect.

1.4.2.2.1.5 Viewpoint 5 (Vp5) R405 Primrose Hill

At viewpoint 5, part of the proposed glazed handrail and proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge deck would be visible as a small element thereby resulting in a minor change to the baseline view. The changes would be noticeable and would obstruct a small part of the existing view (rear of building along Main Street). The character and composition of the proposed view would differ slightly to the existing view.

A **small** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **moderate beneficial and not significant** visual effect. Road users of **high** sensitivity would experience a **small** magnitude of impact resulting in a **minor beneficial and not significant** visual effect.

1.4.2.2.1.6 Viewpoint 6 (Vp6) Pedestrian Bridge Celbridge

At viewpoint 6, a very small part of the proposed glazed parapet will be partially visible in the background behind the stone bridge. This would result in a small but noticeable change to the existing view. Whilst the change in view would be distinguishable, the proposed view would be similar in composition to that existing.

A **negligible** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **minor beneficial and not significant** visual effect.

1.4.2.2.1.7 Viewpoint 7 (Vp7) Abbey Lodge

At viewpoint 7, the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge, including glazed parapet and web truss structure would be clearly visible in front of the existing road bridge. These elements would bring about a partial obstruction of the existing view of the stone bridge. Partial change in the character and composition of the baseline view would arise. Although the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge would be seen in front of the existing road bridge, it is expected to present as a relatively light structure against the backdrop of the river and the more solid structure of the old stone bridge.

A **medium** magnitude of impact is considered to arise to pedestrians (including recreational visitors) of **very high** sensitivity resulting in a **major beneficial and significant** visual effect.

The significance of visual effects during operation is summarised in the table below.

Table 1.13: Visual Effects Summary - Operation Phase

ID	Viewer Type	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
Vp1	Pedestrians	Very High	Medium	Major and significant beneficial
Vp 1	Road users	High	Medium	Moderate and not significant beneficial
Vp2	Pedestrians	Very High	Small	Moderate and not significant beneficial
Vp2	Road users	High	Small	Minor and not significant beneficial
Vp 3	Pedestrians	Very High	Small	Moderate and not significant beneficial
Vp4	Pedestrians	Very High	Small	Moderate and not significant beneficial
Vp4	Road users	High	Small	Minor and not significant beneficial
Vp5	Pedestrians	Very High	Small	Moderate and not significant beneficial
Vp5	Road users	High	Small	Minor and not significant beneficial
Vp6	Pedestrians	Very High	Negligible	Minor and not significant beneficial
Vp7	Pedestrians	Very High	Medium	Major and significant beneficial

1.5 Mitigation Measures

1.5.1 Construction Phase

Construction activities are expected to be of short term duration. A construction compound will be located in the former Bank of Ireland site and the Abbey Lodge car park and will be screened from view by hoarding during the construction phase. In addition, the extent of construction lighting would be kept to a minimum in the interests of landscape and visual amenity. Measures outlined in BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to construction would be implemented to protect retained wooded vegetation in proximity to the construction site.

1.5.2 Operation Phase

Measures incorporated into the design of the scheme to mitigate operational landscape and visual effects are as follows:

- The design sought to minimise the overall height or depth of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge web truss structure thereby minimising landscape and visual effects, in particular, along the River Liffey;
- The design was carefully developed aesthetically to have regard for the particular site location;
- Glazing materials were selected for the proposed parapet, the transparent nature of which would minimise obstruction of existing views; and

- The proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge comprises a visually light structure in order that it would be present in the landscape as a secondary element to the existing road bridge which would continue to be the dominant focal point within the study area. The lighting is incorporated into the handrail. As a result, the lighting needs are catered for without the introduction of additional lighting columns.

1.6 Residual Impact

Residual effects on landscape and visual amenity are concerned with the effects of a proposed development with mitigation measures in place. In the case of the proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge, the mitigation measures are inherent in the design of the bridge. Thus, the residual effects of the pedestrian bridge are the same as that reported under operational effects above.

Appendix A
Photomontages