EIAR SCREENING ASSESSMENT

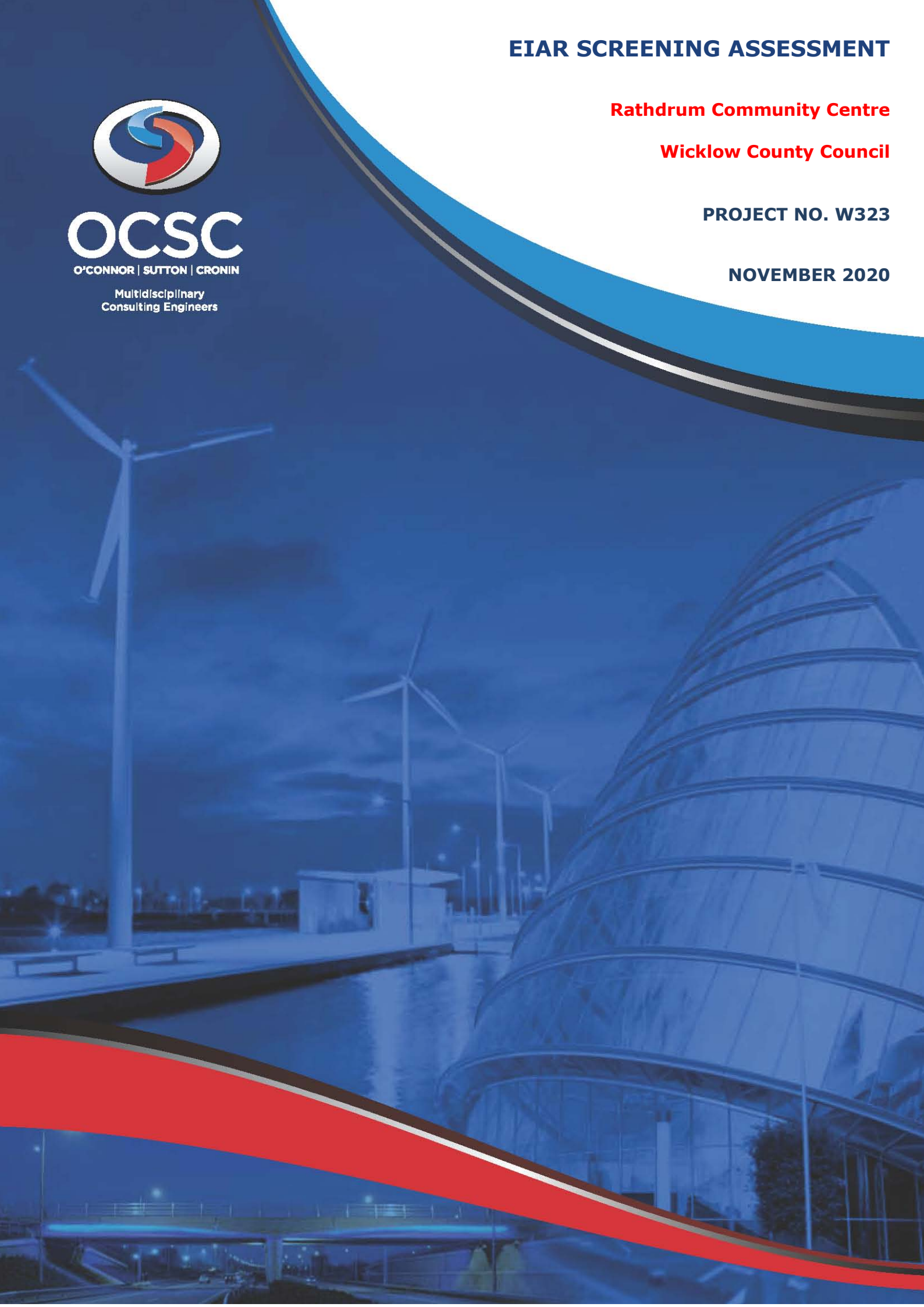
Rathdrum Community Centre

Wicklow County Council

PROJECT NO. W323

NOVEMBER 2020

OCSC
O'CONNOR | SUTTON | CRONIN
Multidisciplinary
Consulting Engineers



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NOTICE

DOCUMENT CONTROL & HISTORY

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P01	S2	EB	EB	EB	27.11.2020

EIAR SCREENING ASSESSMENT

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APPENDICES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Contractual Basis & Parties Involved

This report has been prepared by O'Connor Sutton Cronin & Associates Ltd. (OCSC) at the request of their Client, Wicklow County Council. Wicklow County Council propose to develop a new Community Centre in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

This report has been prepared to support a Part VII Planning Application by Wicklow Council Council for the proposed development. The purpose of this report is to determine whether the project requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This report documents the screening completed to provide a summarised overview of the potential impacts on the receiving environment whilst taking cognisance of the relevant statutory requirements.

A Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment has also been prepared (OCSC, 2020). A Stage 1 Screening exercise assesses the likely significant effects of the development on Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the proposed project. This project has been screened out at Stage 1 and therefore it has been determined that the project does not require the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The report was completed by Eleanor Burke BSc, MSc, DAS, MIEnvSc, CSci, Technical Principal and the OCSC Environmental Division Manager.

1.2 Study Area

The study area is located in Rathdrum, County Wicklow where there is a proposal under a Part 8 Application to develop a site as a Community Centre. The study area consists of a parcel of land to the east of the town covering an approximate area outlined in Figure 1.1. There are two buildings within the site that will be retained as part of the development.

Figure 1.1: Study Area

1.3 Surrounding Land Use

The immediate surrounding area is in an residential, educational, recreational/ community use, commercial/retail businesses and agricultural/horticultural land uses. The site is bounded by the Parnell Memorial Park to the south and east including a carpark directly to the south, town centre to the west, St Saviours to the north. Further beyond immediate site surrounds lies the River Avonmore to the north and east along with woodlands and agricultural lands, and Rathdrum Railway Station to the east of the site. Refer to Table 1.1 for a full list of adjacent land uses.

Table 1.1 – Adjacent Land Uses

BOUNDARY	LAND USE
North	St Saviours directly to the north. River Avonmore (along the east), woodlands, agricultural land uses
South	A carpark directly to the south along with Parnell Memorial Park, residential, commercial/retail (Hyundai automotive dealer), vegetated lands, St Saviours National School and Lower Street.
East	Rathdrum Railway Station, woodlands
West	Town Centre

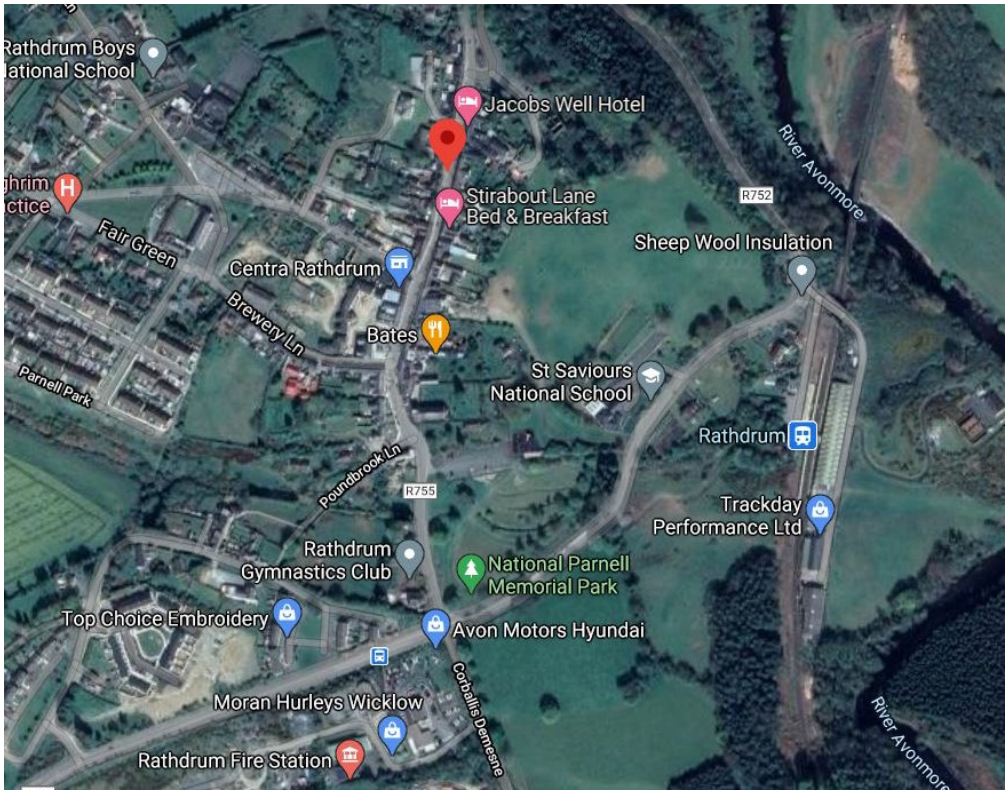

Figure 1.2: Surrounding landuse (Google 2020)

1.4 Project Description

This Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report is prepared to support the Part VIII application for Rathdrum Community Centre. The proposal will involve the retention of two existing buildings on site in addition to the retention of the existing history walls of St. Saviours. As part of the proposed design there will be an Entrance Plaza and Craft Courtyard. Refer to Appendix A for the proposed site layout.

1.5 Project Objectives

The overall project objectives include:

- a description of the physical characteristics of the whole project;
- a description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected;
- description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project; and
- A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the project on the environment resulting from: a) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

1.6 Methodology and Approach

The methodology and approach used in the preparation of this report will follow:

- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Irish Environmental Protection Agency, Draft Edition, August 2017.
- European Commission (2015) Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA, Over, Legal Context
- European Union EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) and its amendments in 1997, 2003 and 2009;
- Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment;
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended);
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- Directive 2014/52/EU;
- Transposition of 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) in the Land Use Planning and EPA Licensing Systems – Key Issues Consultation Paper (2017; DoHPCLG);
- Preparation of guidance documents for the implementation of EIA directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) – Annex I to the Final Report (COWI, Milieu; April 2017)
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (August 2018)

- Environmental Impact Assessment – Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development (2003; DoEHLG)

Using the above documents it has been possible to carry out a desktop EIAR Screening using the best available guidance and operating within the applicable legislation. The methodology employed in this screening exercise updates previous guidance in line with the new Directive 2014/52/EU.

1.7 Scope of Works

To meet the project objectives the following scope of works were completed:

- Present a discussion of the current site status and key environmental influences around the site;
- Undertake and present a historical site and area review, primarily referring to old Ordinance Survey Ireland maps but utilising other sources as appropriate and readily available;
- Present a discussion of the general soil and groundwater conditions within the topographical and area context;
- Present an overview if any significant negative environmental impacts can arise from the proposed project.

1.8 Limitations

This Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report has been prepared for the sole use of Wicklow County Council ("the Client"). No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by OCSC.

This assessment is based on a review of available historical information, environmental records, consultations, relevant guidance information and reports from third parties. All information received has been taken in good faith as being true and representative.

This report has been prepared in line with best industry standards. The methodology adopted and the sources of information used by OCSC in providing its services are outlined in this Report. The assessment undertaken by OCSC and described was undertaken in November 2020 and is based on the information available during that period. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

OCSC disclaim any undertaking or obligation to advise any person of any change in any matter affecting the Report, which may come or be brought to OCSC's attention after the date of the Report.

The conclusions presented in this report represent OCSC's best professional judgement based on review of the relevant information available at the time of writing. The opinions and conclusions presented are valid only to the extent that the information provided was accurate and complete.

The findings of the EIA screening assessment prepared for the project has informed our professional opinion as to whether an EIAR is warranted for the proposed project, with due

regard to all relevant statutory requirements and technical guidance. However ultimately it is the responsibility of the relevant planning authority to make a determination as to whether an EIAR is required for a particular project, based on screening conducted by the planning authority.

2 EIA SCREENING PROCESS

2.1 Introduction

This section of the report discusses the legislative basis for screening so as to decide whether or not the proposed project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be prepared. It also sets out the project in terms of planning context.

This project has been screened in accordance with Section 3.2 of the 'Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports – Draft' (EPA, 2017), the Environmental Impact Directive (85/337/EEC) and all subsequent relevant amendments, Planning and Development regulations (2001-2018), including S.I. No. 296 of 2018 - European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, which came into operation on 1st September 2018.

2.2 EIA Applicable Legislation

Across the European Union, The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 85/337/EEC is in force since 1985 and applies to a wide range of defined public and private projects, which are defined in Annexes I (Mandatory EIA) and II (Screening-Discretion of Member States) of the directive. The EIA Directive of 1985 has been amended three times, 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC. These amended directives have been coded and replaced by Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (and as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). Directive 2014/52/EU have been transposed in 2018 in Irish law under the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (SI 296 of 2018).

2.3 Mandatory EIAR Review

Annex I of the European Communities (EIA) Directive lists the activities for which a mandatory EIA is required. The proposed project is not listed in Annex I and hence it is not mandatory for an EIA to be carried out.

Annex II of the Directive lists the activities for which each member state is permitted to exercise discretion to decide whether an EIA is necessary. The proposed development is not listed specifically on Annex II.

Sub-threshold EIS (123A.) 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2015.

(g) a place or site which has been included by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in a list 151 of proposed Natural Heritage Areas published on the National Parks and Wildlife Service website, the State authority shall, in determining whether the development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, have regard to the likely significant effects of the development on such site, area, land, place or feature as appropriate.

Where a project is listed on Annex II or is a development that is not exempted, the national authorities of the member state have to decide whether an EIA is needed for a proposed

project. This is done by the "screening procedure", which determines the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. Annex III of the Directive outlines the specific criteria that must be taken into account when a sub-threshold project is being examined for Environmental Impact Assessment. The screening procedure investigates whether the project has significant negative impact on the environment using different criteria including:

- Characterisation of the proposed development
- Location of proposed development
- Type and Characteristics of the potential impact

The relevant information to be provided Information for the Purposes of Screening Sub-threshold Development for Environmental Impact Assessment include:

1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular—

(a) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works, and

(b) A description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected. 120 [296]

2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—

(a) The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and

(b) The use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7".

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Schedule 7 of SI 296 of 2018 requires that the characteristics of proposed development are identified. In particular, it references the following sections:

3.1 Size and Design

The site is located to the east of Main Street Rathdrum. The site is located within an area designated in the Rathdrum Local Area Plan 2017 as TC: Town Centre,

"To provide for the development and improvement of appropriate town centre uses including retail, commercial, office and civic use, and to provide for 'Living Over the Shop' residential accommodation, or other ancillary residential accommodation. To develop and consolidate the existing town centre to improve its vibrancy and vitality with the densification of appropriate commercial and residential developments ensuring a mix of commercial, recreational, civic, cultural, leisure, residential uses, and urban streets, while delivering a quality urban environment which will enhance the quality of life of resident, visitor and workers alike. The zone will strengthen retail provision in accordance with the County Retail Strategy, emphasise town centre conservation, ensure priority for public transport where applicable, pedestrians and cyclists while minimising the impact of private car based traffic and enhance and develop the existing centre's fabric."

The design retains the two existing buildings and consists of the development of a Plaza and Crafts Courtyard.

3.2 Cumulation with other Existing Developments/Development the subject of a Consent

A review of Wicklow County Council planning records for the area was undertaken. The review covered projects which are in receipt of a grant of planning within the last 7 years. None of these are to the scale and nature of this application and relate to amendments to individual properties.

There is a development plan for Rathdrum. The Rathdrum Local Area Plan 2017 is the most recent published plan, where the Action Area 1 will be developed along with other portions of Rathdrum area.

Taking into account the review of planning applications, it is considered unlikely that any of the proposed developments will result in a significant cumulative impact (including potential cumulative traffic impacts, surface water quality, etc). The proposed development is short term by its very nature and improves the vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Hence no significant potential cumulative environmental impacts have been identified to the proposed development (either during the construction or operational phases), arising from committed developments in the immediate vicinity.

3.3 The nature of any associated Demolition Works

It is not anticipated that any buildings will require demolition. Both existing buildings will be retained on site. d.

3.4 The use of Natural Resources, in particular Land, Soil, Water and Biodiversity

There will be no long-term use of any natural resource.

3.5 Production of Waste

Any waste generated during the construction will firstly be reused on site where possible e.g. topsoil generated will be reused to provide landscaping. However, in the event that offsite disposal is required for any material it will be managed in accordance with all relevant waste management legislation.

There will be minimal generation of waste during the operational stage of the works as a community centre.

3.6 Pollution and Nuisances

There is the potential that there will be a temporary increase in noise during the proposed works. However, they will not exceed levels typical of construction works and are short-term in nature. There will be a slight increase in traffic disturbance during the construction activities i.e. bringing supplies to site, removal of material if required, however these will be short term in duration. Some dust will likely be generated during the works; however, this nuisance will be managed in line with best practice. There will be no pollution or nuisance during operations i.e. following the completion of works.

Surface water pollution via runoff including silt or hydrocarbons is an unlikely potential source and pathway given the works will avoid working within and near waterways within the site area, including Poundbrook Stream, which flows directly into River Avonmore, which is 60m south of the site at its nearest point.

Drainage will be constructed in accordance with best practice and therefore the risk of pollution from drainage flowing into the waterways is low due to migration distance and the completion of works in accordance with standard design parameters.

However, the appointed contractor will need to prepare a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will clearly set out all of the required environmental control measures needed.

3.7 The Risk of major Accidents and/or Disasters including those caused by Climate Change

There is minimal risk of major accidents or disasters including those caused by climate change given the small-scale and temporary nature of the construction works. Any risks that are

present are associated with typical construction risks including working with machinery. However, the appointed contractor will need to prepare a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will clearly set out all of the required environmental control measures needed.

There will be no risks following construction above that which would be expected for a community centre.

3.8 Risks to Human Health – e.g. Water Contamination/Air Pollution

Risks to water will be minimised via construction in line with best practice. Contractors will be required to implement construction methods in line with best practice such as storage of fuel and chemicals on site.

From a human health perspective, there are no reported source protection zones (SPZs) (groundwater) within a 2km radius of the proposed site. The nearest SPZ is Redcross PWS which is situated approximately 6.6 km southeast of the site. There are reportedly one well within the site boundary along with seven other wells within 1km of the site area, they were all drilled before 1979 for various uses and depths.

Air pollution will be limited to typical construction nuisance such as dust given the short-term nature of the works and that the works will be conducted in accordance with best practice guidance. The same best practice guidelines will be applied to noise nuisance. Overall, the risk to human health is low.

4 LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Information Sources

An understanding of the site setting, and history was gained by undertaking a review of the following primary sources including:

- A review of available extracts of historical Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) maps;
- National Monuments Service (NMS) viewer;
- A review of information held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EnVision online Mapping;
- Aerial images available of the site (OSI and Google);
- The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and GeoHive online mapping tools; and
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service online map tool.

4.2 Abundance, Availability, Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources

Limited natural resources will be required to complete the works. It is proposed that material generated during the works is reused on site. The relevant natural resources have been looked at in more detail in the following sections.

4.3 The Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment

In the description of the site, the absorption capacity of the natural environment has, in accordance with Regulations, been screened paying particular attention to:

(i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
(ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;
(iii) mountain and forest areas;
(iv) nature reserves and parks;
(v) areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and;
(vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
(vii) densely populated areas; and
(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

4.3.1 Surrounding Land Use

The terrestrial environment is characterized not only by its physical land cover, but also from a human/social perspective by its land use which is distinguished by its designated or identifiable purpose (EPA, 2008).

The immediate surrounding area is in an residential, educational, recreational/ community use, commercial/retail businesses and agricultural/horticultural land uses. The site is immediately bounded by a carpark and the Parnell Memorial Park to the south, town centre to the west, St Saviours graveyard to the north, agricultural land to the east. Further beyond, River Avonmore to the north and east along with woodlands and agricultural lands, and Rathdrum Railway Station to the east of the site. Refer to Section 1 for a full list of adjacent land uses.

Other land in this locality is occupied by rivers, natural grasslands, forests and woodland

4.3.2 Site Development

A review of the OSI historical maps dataset has found that the site has been structurally occupied since at least the 1830's, where the historical mapping image shows the Rathdrum Town Centre where is it currently located with structures present where the existing two buildings are located. The following section outlines the historically mapped features in the immediate environs of the study area.

The 6" inch (1837-1842) shows the site and adjacent lands as Rathdrum Town with building structures including a Round House, church, rectory, Air Hill, brewery, and police station.

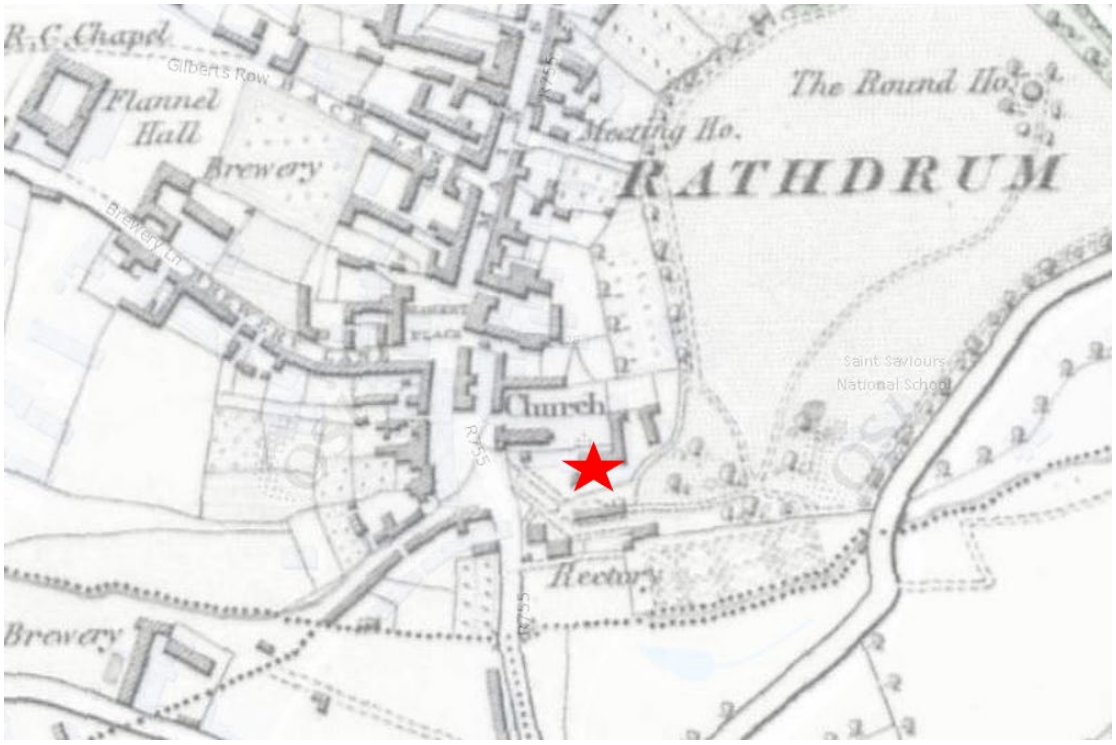

Figure 4.1: Study Area Location on 1837-1842 6-inch OS Map (Source: OSI, 2020)

The 25-Inch Map (1988-1913) map shows the study area and immediately surrounding areas and Rathdrum Town further developed from 1837 historical map. There were no significant changes on site. External to the site, the Round House is no longer depicted. Constable Barracks is now depicted with Ardacon is depicted as a structure to the north of the site where Air Hill was depicted from 1837 historic map. Rathdrum Railway Station and railway is depicted east of the site, heading north and south.

Figure 4.2: Study Area Location on 1888-1913 25 inch OSI Map (Source: OSI, 2020)

It can be seen from the OSI aerial photographs from 1995, 2000 and 2005 that the study area and surrounding area was generally unchanged. It can also be seen from the Google Earth aerial photographs from 2009, 2011 and 2019 that the study area and surrounding area was generally unchanged from 1995 aerial photograph.

4.3.3 Site Physical Setting

Information regarding the site topography, hydrology, geology, hydrogeology and ecology of the area has been obtained from records held by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Envision online mapping tool, Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI), GeoHive, Water Framework Directive Maps and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) databases.

4.3.4 Biodiversity

There are no hydrological features within the site. The Poundbrook Stream is located south of the site and flows east toward River Avonmore, which is located 100m east of the site at its nearest point. The land between the site and the River Avonmore is higher in elevation prior to the river and R752 separates the site from the River. There is a potential for erosion of bare ground, and/or sediment movement resulting from surface run-off during the construction

phase. However, given the relatively small-scale and short-term nature of the works, the lack of hydrological link between the site and European sites as well as the distance between the site and the nearest pNHA, there is no direct significant effects to the European Sites or designated sites anticipated as a result of erosion and/or sedimentation.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has been prepared by OCSC which concluded that it is not expected to have any likely significant effects, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on any European site.

There are 2No. SPAs within 15km of the proposed site development. The closest SPA to the proposed development is the Wicklow Mountains SPA (Site Code 004040) which is located approximately 8.6km north west of the proposed study area. There are no hydrological links between the adjacent surface waters (Poundbrook Stream south of the site and Avonmore River) and the SPAs. There is no physical connectivity, in the form of hedgerows, treelines or woodlands, from the proposed pedestrian and cycle route area to any SPAs. There is no direct hydrological link in the form of surface water pathways from the proposed area of works to any SPAs. The distance from the proposed works area to the SPAs negates any potential groundwater connectivity between the works area and any SPA. As any connecting pathways from the proposed works area to the aforementioned SPAs have been ruled out, potential impacts from the proposed project on any of the bird species or supporting habitats within the SPAs are not anticipated. Certain bird species, for which the SPA sites are designated, have the potential to feed within the wider landscape away from the habitats associated with the SPAs however it is not likely that the urban setting of Rathdrum supports these.

There is no Natural Heritage Area (NHA) within 15km of the study area.

There are 11no. proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) within 15km of the site. With the Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) (Site Code 000773) located 0.85km north of the study area. There is no linkage between the site and the Vale of Clara pNHA as the study area is located downstream. There is no hydrological link between the River Avonmore situated to the east and the site, and at its closest, is approximately 100 m east from the site via the Poundbrook stream. The River Avonmore flows south into the Avoca River Valley proposed Natural Heritage Area on its way to the bay. However, given the relatively small-scale and short-term nature of the works alongside the distance the impact is considered to be negligible.

Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts on the surrounding Natura 2000 sites, SPAs, NHAs or pNHAs from the proposed development.

Given the nature of the development, its' scale, the existing localised and temporary nature of the construction effects identified it is concluded that the project is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on the biodiversity local to the site, either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects.

4.3.5 Topography

The topography of the regional area is varied with rolling hills, troughs and lower lying elevations towards the Avonmore River.

4.3.6 Unconsolidated Geology

The site is comprised of three different soils, with made ground in the west of the site (light blue on map), deep well drained mineral in the central portion (red on map) and rest of the site as shallow well drained mineral (light pink on map).

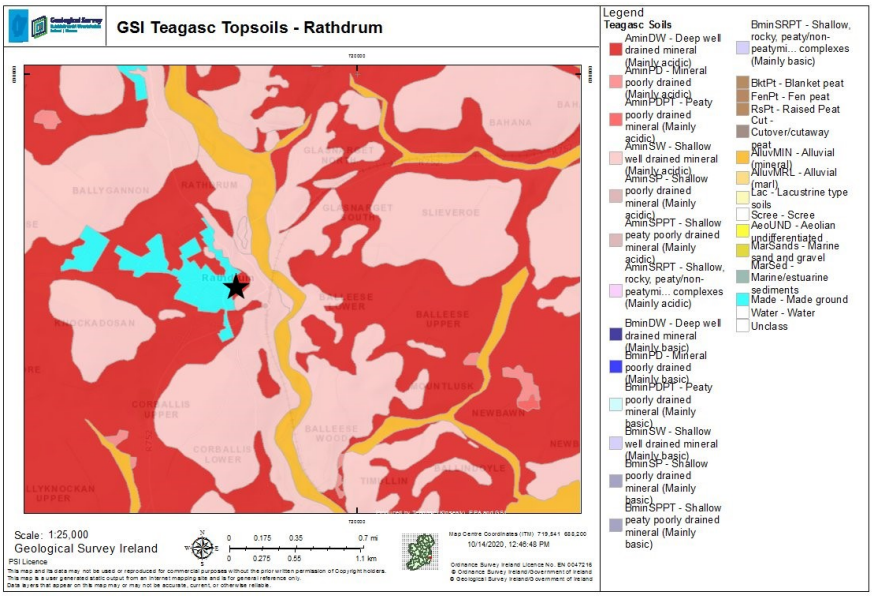

Figure 4.4: Teagasc Topsoil Soil Classification (approximate site location indicated by black star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

4.3.7 Geology

The site is comprised of Ordovician Avoca Formation, which is described with Rhyolitic volcanics and dark grey slate.

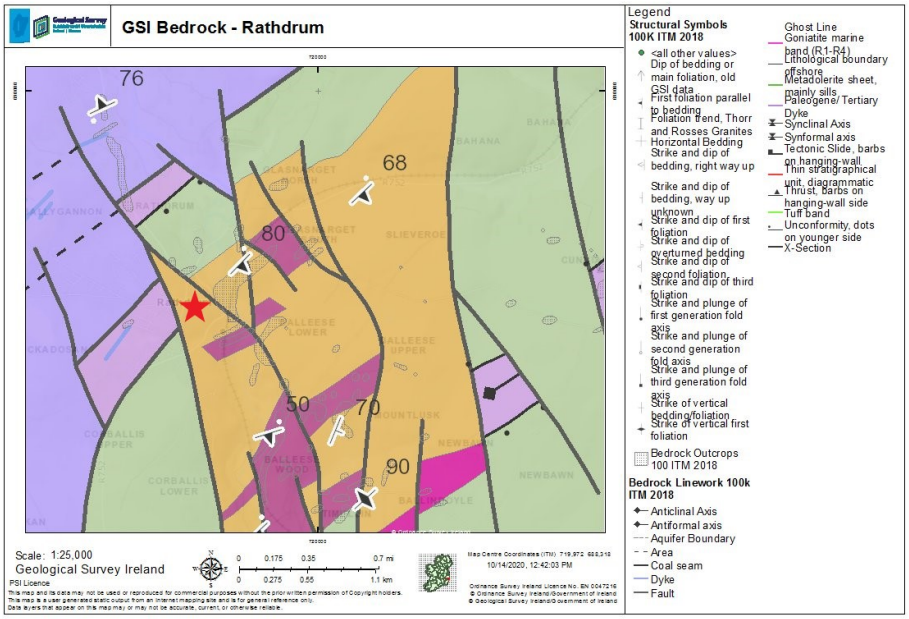

Figure 4.5: Bedrock 100k (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

4.3.8 Area of Geological Interest

The GSI online mapping service was consulted regarding areas of geological interest in the area of the site. The nearest area of geological interest is Slieveroe lane and rail cutting, which is located 1.9km northeast of the site. Slieveroe has a site code of WW053 and is designated a County Geological Site (CGS) due to the 'Graptolite fossils from black slates and a rich assemblage of brachiopods and trilobites. The second nearest area of geological interest is Glenmalure, which is 3.5km west of the site. Glenmalure has a site code of WW032 and is designated as a CGS and recommended for Geological Natural Heritage Area due to the 'The Glenmalure mines are of interest as the oldest of the lead mines along the edge of the granite'. Given the distance between the site and the two nearest areas of geological interest, it can be considered that it is not within the area of influence of the proposed development.

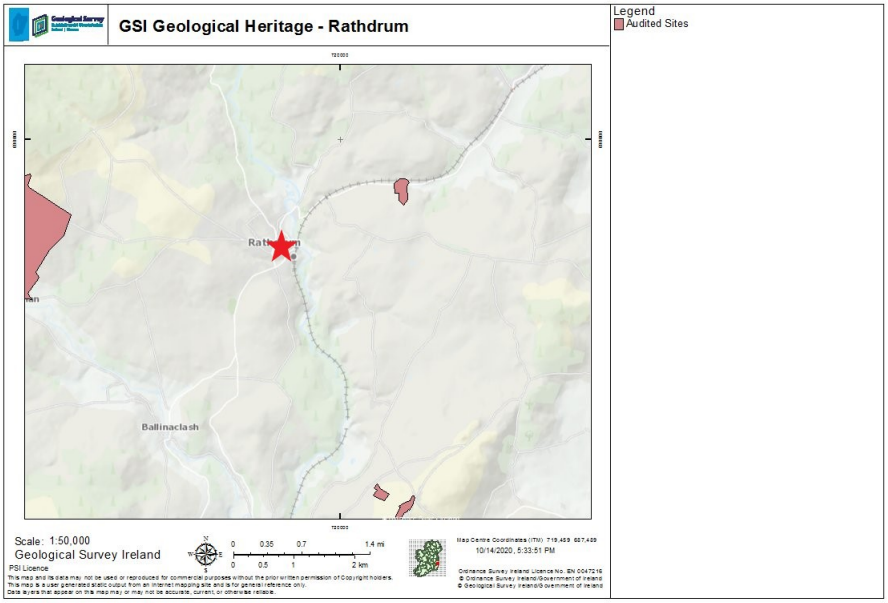

Figure 4.6 Approximate location of the study area and the nearest Geological Heritage

4.3.9 Aquifers

The GSI provides a methodology for aquifer classification based on resource value (Regionally Important, Locally Important and Poor) and vulnerability (Extreme, High, Moderate or Low). Resource value refers to the scale and production potential of the aquifer whilst vulnerability refers to the ease with which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities (vulnerability classification primarily based on the permeability and thickness of subsoils). The site lies above a Poor (Pu) aquifer, which is bedrock which generally unproductive.

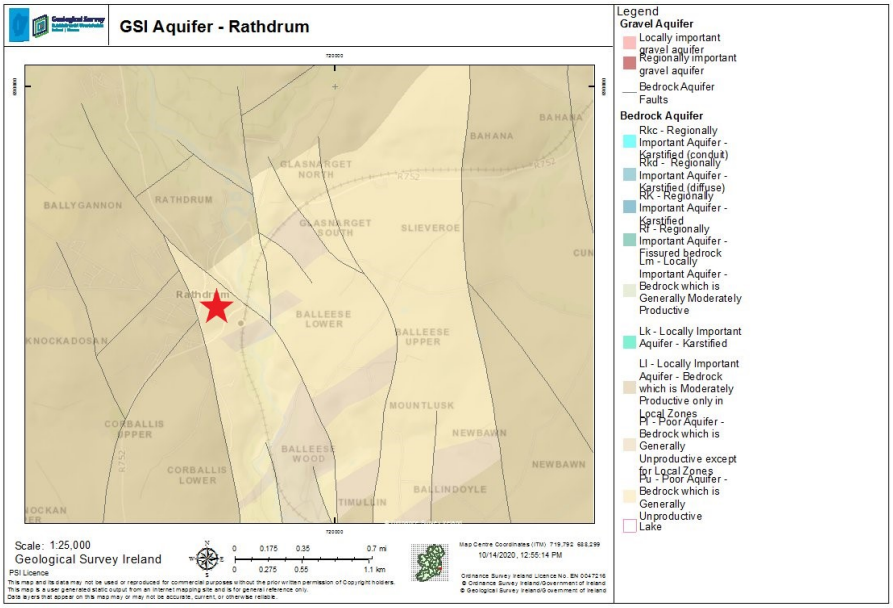

Figure 4.7: Aquifers (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

4.3.10 Groundwater Vulnerability

The GSI resources describe the groundwater vulnerability beneath the site divided between with two vulnerabilities, Extreme 'E' is located in the west and central portions of the site and Extreme 'X' is located in the eastern boundary. Vulnerability ratings are related to a function of overburden thickness and permeability which might offer a degree of protection and/or attenuation to the underlying aquifer from surface activities and pollution. There were no karst features identified adjacent to the site.

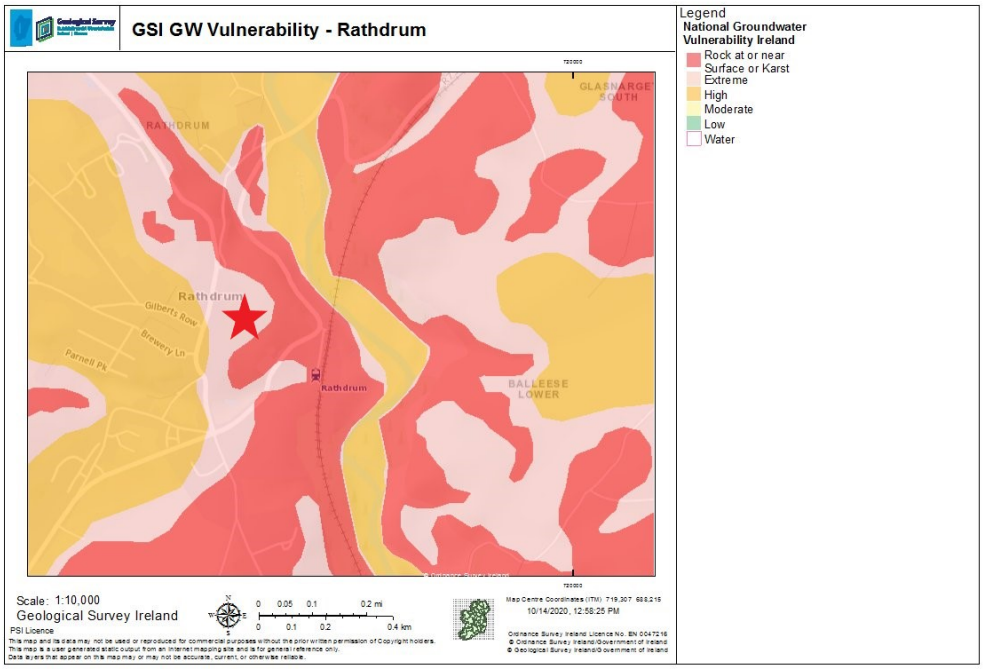

Figure 4.8: Groundwater Vulnerabilty (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

4.3.11 Groundwater Recharge

Diffuse recharge generally occurs via rainfall percolating through the subsoil with its rate being higher in areas where the subsoil in thinner and/or more permeable. The proportion of effective rainfall that recharges the aquifer is largely determined by the thickness and permeability of the soil and subsoil, and by the slope. The site footprint is underlain by one polygon summarised in Table 4.1.

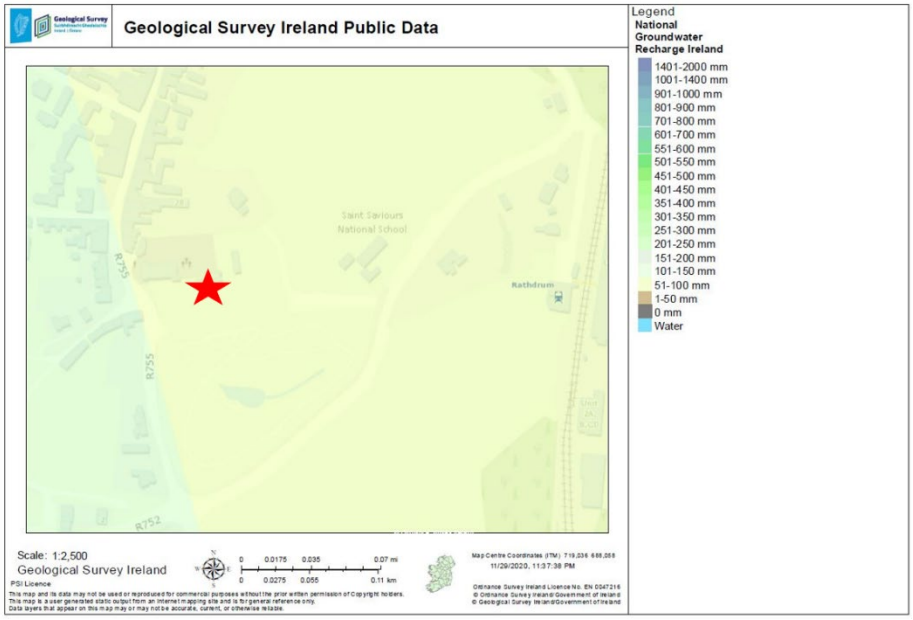

Figure 4.9: Groundwater Recharge (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

Table 4.1 - GSI Groundwater Recharge Parameters

Groundwater Recharge Parameters	
Average Recharge (mm/yr)	100
Hydrogeological Setting	1m
Hydrogeological Setting Description	Made ground
Recharge Coefficient (%)	20.00
Effective Rainfall	848
Recharge Cap Apply	Y
Maximum Recharge Capacity (mm/yr)	100
Recharge (pre cap) mm/yr	170
rech_mm/yr_*PRE-CAP	170
SOIL DRAINAGE	MADE
Subsoil Type	Made
Subsoil Description	Made ground
Peat	Made
SAND/GRAVEL SUBSOIL	NOT SG_SUBSOIL
GW Vulnerability	E
GW Vulnerability Description	Extreme
AQUIFER CATEGORY	Pu
Aquifer Description	Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive
Peat Area (In SG Aquifer)	0.00

4.3.12 Wells & Springs

A search of the GSI groundwater well database was conducted to identify registered wells within the site footprint and/or the surrounding area. There are one well found within the site boundaries, and is described with a GSI Name of 2917NEW040, and drilled in May 1969 to 17.7mbgl for domestic use only. There are seven other wells located within 1km of the site area and were all drilled prior to 1979 for various uses and depths.

The GSI database also provides a framework for the protection of groundwater source zones (e.g. areas of contribution to water supply bores). There are no reported source protection zones (SPZs) within a 2km radius of the proposed site.

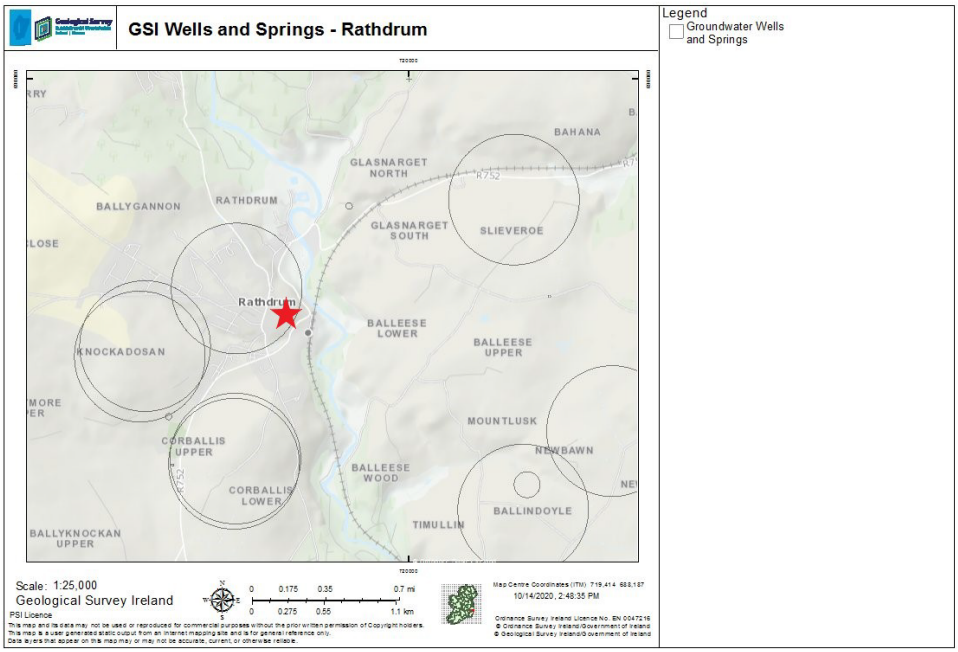

Figure 4.10: Wells and Springs (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

4.3.13 Hydrology

There are no surface water features mapped within the site area. The nearest surface water feature is the Poundbrook Stream that flows east approximately 50m south of the site, flowing from the west to the east into River Avonmore. This surface water feature feeds into the River Avonmore and based on the most recent water quality information 2013-2018, has an overall Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status of 'Moderate' (Table 2.5). The EPA spatial dataset show that the WFD River Waterbody Risk associated with the stream is 'Not at Risk' (EPA 2020).

The second nearest surface water feature is River Avonmore, which is located 100m east of the most eastern point of the site and flows from north to south until it enters into the bay at Arklow. This surface water feature has an overall WFD status of 'Moderate (Table 2.5). The EPA spatial dataset show that the WFD River Waterbody Risk associated with the river is 'Not at Risk' (EPA 2020). Poundbrook Stream and River Avonmore have the same EPA ID and code, which is IE_EA_10A050500.

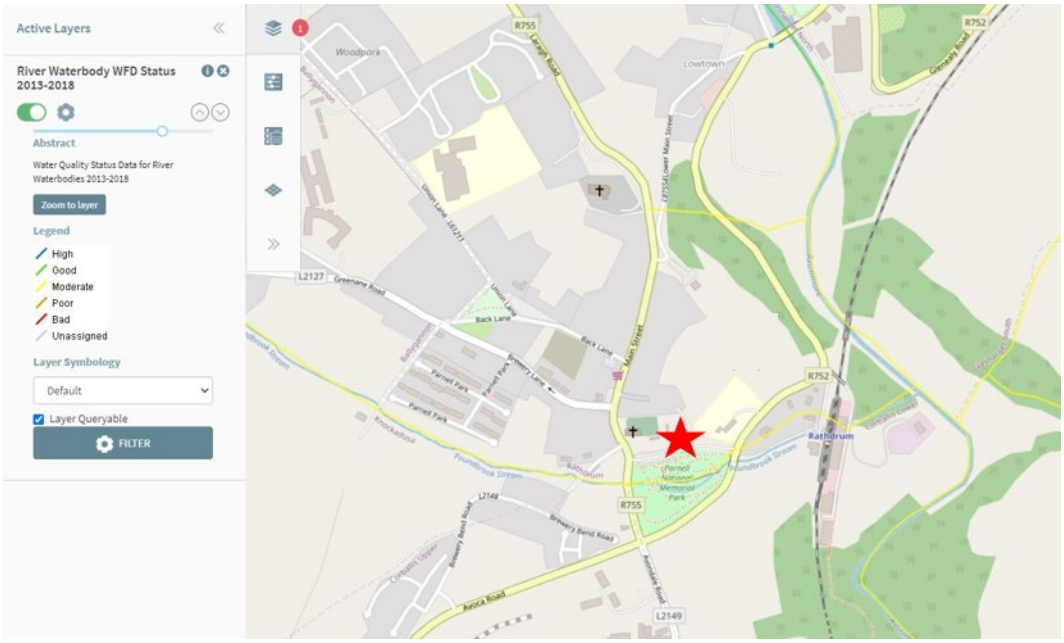

Figure 4.11: River Waterbody WFD Status (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: EPA Maps, 2020)

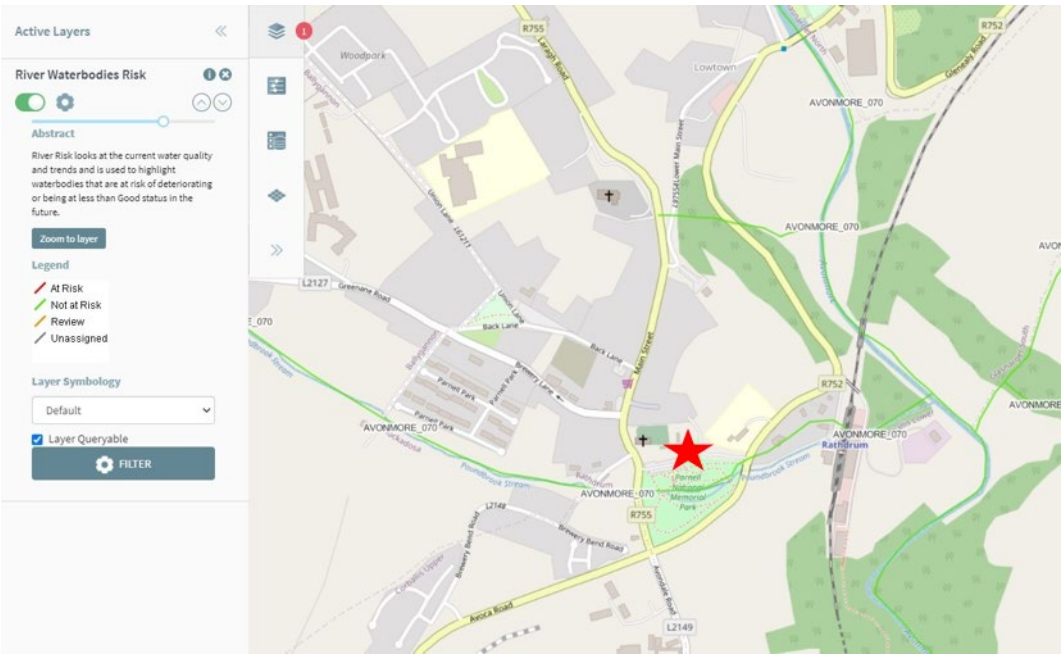

Figure 4.12: River Waterbodies Risk (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: EPA Maps, 2020)

Table 4.2 - WFD Summary Information – Poundbrook Stream and River Avonmore

Waterbody Code	IE_EA_10A050500
Waterbody Name	Avonmore_070
Waterbody Type	River

Iteration	SW 2013-2018
Status	Moderate
Risk	Not at Risk

4.3.14 Radon

According to the EPA (now incorporating the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland) between one and five per cent of the homes in this 10km grid source where the site is located are estimated to be above the Reference Level of 200 Bq/m^3. The Building Regulations in Ireland only require radon protection to be installed in areas of high radon risk (10% to 30% of homes exceed reference).

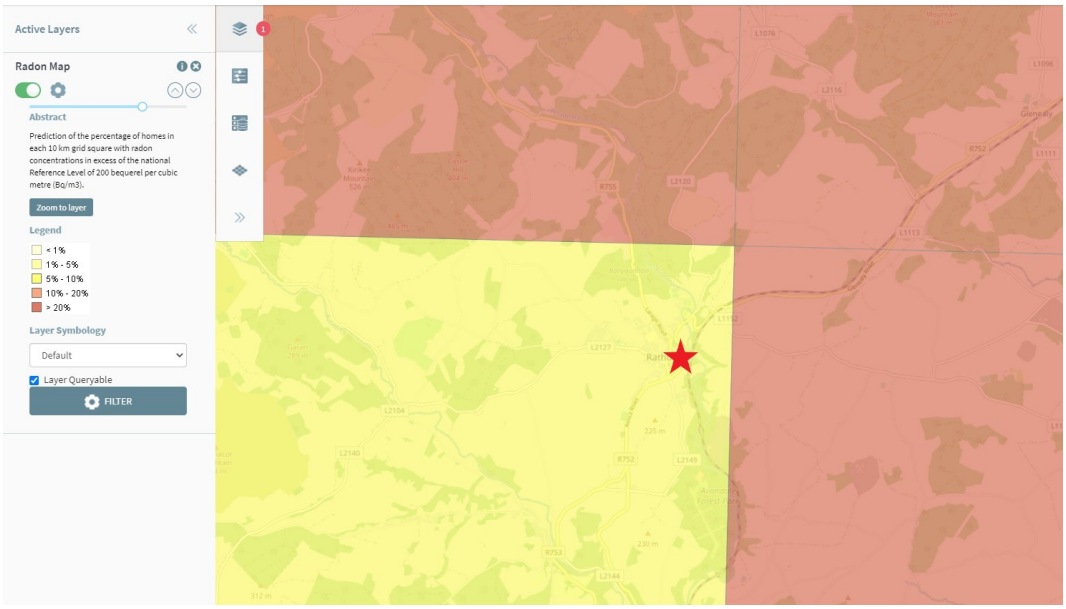

Figure 4.13: Radon Map (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: EPA, 2020)

4.3.15 Protected Structures

The National Monuments Service (NMS) maps show that there are three protected structures adjacent to the site including immediately to the south east:

The protected structure is the Charles Stewart Parnell Monument, Reg. No. 16318011, and is a monument constructed in the 1990s.It is a freestanding bronze statue of politician Charles Stewart Parnell erected in 1991 to commemorate the centenary of his death. The statue is set on a block-like granite plinth with scabbled finish and 'Parnell' inscribed on the front (south) face. The statue is the work of sculptor Fred Conlen and is set within a small paved area overlooking a public park. A small plaque set into the retaining wall behind the monument states that it was unveiled by President Mary Robinson in September 1991.

There are two protected structures immediately north of the site in St. Saviours Church of Ireland Chapel including the Chapel itself described as a Detached six-bay single-storey gable-fronted Board of First Fruits Gothic style Church of Ireland church with integral three-stage tower, built 1796, but part rebuilt 1837-38 and chancel added c.1870. The church is roughly rectangular with the tower to the west front flanked by side porches, and a relatively shallow gabled chancel to east and vestry projection to the south-east. The walls are finished in unpainted render with granite quoins and dressings. The pitched roof is covered in slate and has stone parapets. The lean-to roofs of the side porches are also slated and have stepped parapets with pinnacles, with a crenellated parapet with similar pinnacles to the tower. The main entrance is to the west face of the tower and consists of a timber double door with decorative strap hinges and a pointed arch fanlight with Gothick tracery, all set in a moulded granite reveal. The windows are mainly pointed arch and filled with timber frames with lattice glazing; the east window has stained glass and the windows to the uppermost stage of the tower have ogee heads. Cast-iron rainwater goods. The church is prominently sited at the side of a sloping road with its small forecourt enclosed by a curving rubble wall topped with cast-iron railings.

The second monument north of the site is within St Saviours Graveyard and is described as a late medieval graveslab with an incised wheel cross and a serpent at the base of an inscription.

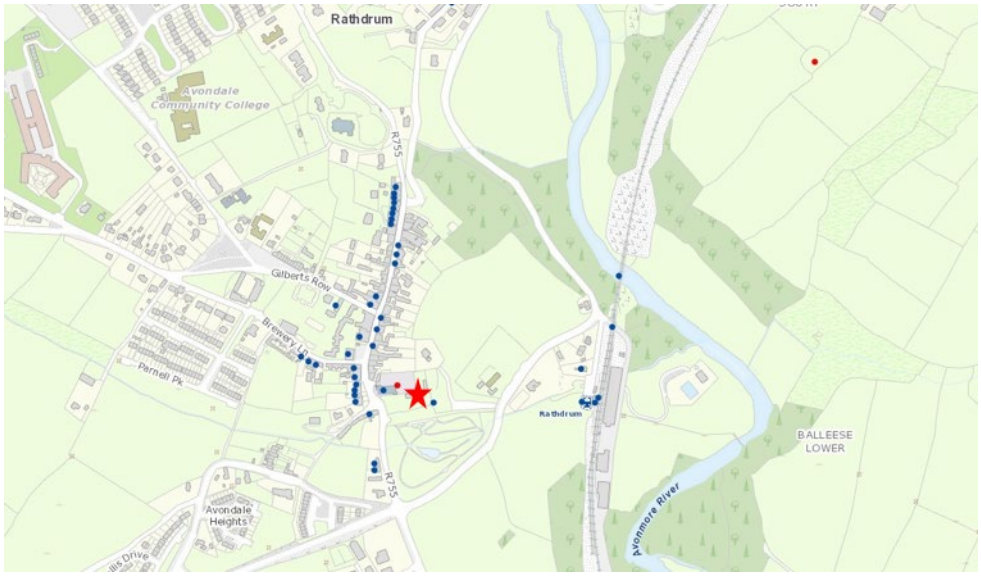

Figure 4.14: National Monument Service Protected Structures (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: NMS, 2020)

There are multiple protected structures west adjacent in the town centre and east adjacent by the railway station. In addition, it is understood that the historic wall of the St. Saviours adjacent to the graveyard will not be disturbed as part of the proposed development.

4.3.16 Nearby Site Investigations

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) have compiled a database from site investigations previously carried out in Ireland. Figure 21 identifies the site investigations locations closest to the vicinity of the site.

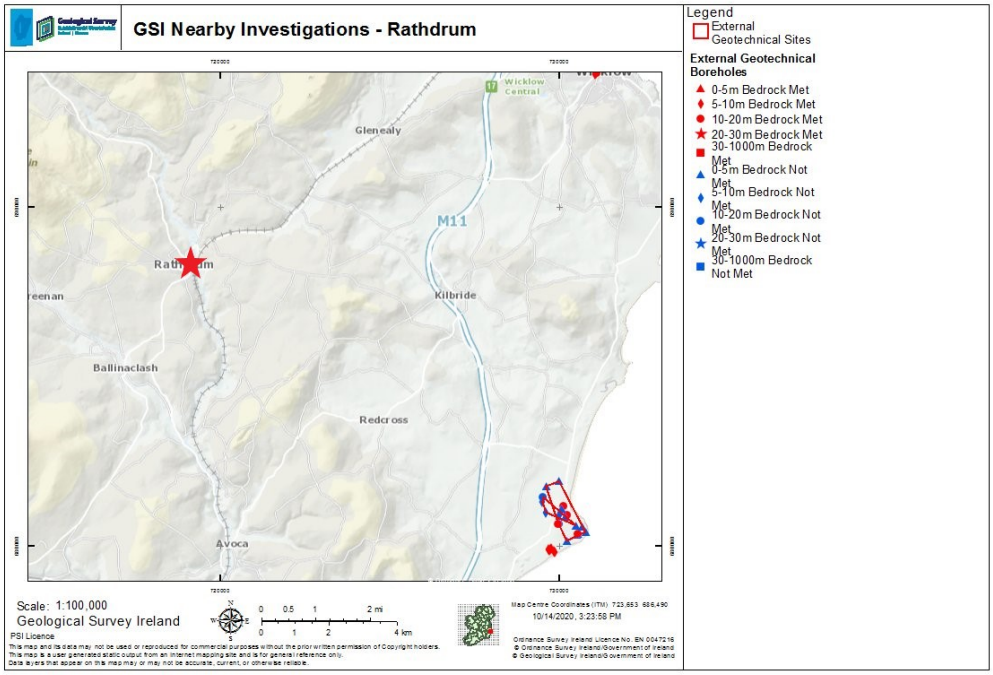

Figure 4.15 – Nearby Boreholes and Site Investigations (approximate site location indicated by red star) (Source: GSI, 2020)

4.3.17 Summary of the Physical Site Setting

Summary of the site physical setting are outlined in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 - Summary Site Setting

FEATURE	DETAILS & COMMENTS
Topography	Varied topography and lower elevations towards waterways.
Geology	**Topsoil:** Made ground, deep well drained mineral and shallow well drained mineral
	Solid Geology: Avoca Formation described with Rhyolitic volcanics and dark grey slate

Hydrogeology	**Aquifer Classification:** Poor Aquifer (Pu) – Bedrock which is generally unproductive
	Vulnerability & Recharge: The vulnerability has been classified as Till derived chiefly from Lower Palaeozoic rocks and Bedrock outcrop and subcrop. The average recharge has been modelled at 100 mm/year.
	Groundwater Flow: The regional groundwater flow direction can be expected to be to the east towards River Avonmore, which heads south.
	Well Search: There were no Source Protection Zones identified and therefore the assumption is that there are no public supply wells within a 2km zone.
Hydrology	**Surface Water Courses:** The are no hydrological receptors within the site. The nearest surface water feature is the Poundbrook Stream located south of the site. The River Avonmore is located 100m east of the site.

5 TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The likely significant effects on the environment of proposed development in relation to the criteria outlined below.

5.1 Magnitude and Spatial Extent of Impact

This project relates to the development of a site for community centre uses. This project is small in magnitude and extent. Any potential impacts are not likely to be significant.

5.2 The Nature of the Impact

This project relates to the development of a site for community centre uses. This project is small in magnitude and extent. Any potential impacts are not likely to be significant.

5.3 The Transboundary Nature of the Impact

There is no potential for transboundary impacts.

5.4 The Intensity and Complexity of the Impact

The project involves a small area affected which has been limited to that required to enhance community and civic amenity. Any potential impacts are not likely to be significant.

5.5 The Probability of the Impact

The probability of impacts is low taking into account the following considerations:

- A project specific CEMP will be prepared by the appointed contractor; and
- The receiving environment is not considered significantly sensitive.

5.6 Expected Onset, Duration, Frequency and Reversibility of the Impact

Small area affected which has been limited to the works identified.

5.7 The Cumulation of the Impact with the Impacts of other Existing and/or Future Developments

There are no cumulative impacts arising from this project based on a review of planning.

5.8 The Possibility of Effectively Reducing the Impact

A CEMP will be prepared by the appointed contractor taking into account all of the site details will take account of all required mitigation measures.

Potential exists, particularly at the construction stage for an amount of nuisance associated with localised traffic disruption and construction noise and dust. However, for the most part construction works related to this project are likely to be 'low-key' and temporary.

5.9 Screening Decision

Having regard to the above, and in particular to the nature, scale and location of the proposed project, by itself and in combination with other plans and projects, it is considered that the overall impact on the receiving environment is considered low.

Therefore, it is not considered that an EIA is required at this time. Please refer to the completed Screening Checklist identified in European Commission publication Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on Screening (2017).

Checklist	Response
Will there be a large change in environmental conditions?	No
Will new features be out-of-scale with the existing environment?	No
Will the impact be unusual in the area or particularly complex?	No
Will the impact extend over a large area?	No
Will there be any potential for transboundary impact?	No
Will many people be affected?	Minor temporary impacts.
Will many receptors of other types (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected?	No (refer to AA screening)
Will valuable or scarce features or resources be affected?	No (refer to AA screening)
Is there a risk that environmental standards will be breached?	No (refer to AA screening)
Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features will be affected?	No (refer to AA screening)
Is there a high probability of the effect occurring?	No
Will the impact continue for a long time?	Temporary short term.
Will the effect be permanent rather than temporary?	No (refer to AA screening)
Will the impact be continuous rather than intermittent?	Temporary short-term during construction. No impact following.
If it is intermittent will it be frequent rather than rare?	-
Will the impact be irreversible?	-
Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect?	-

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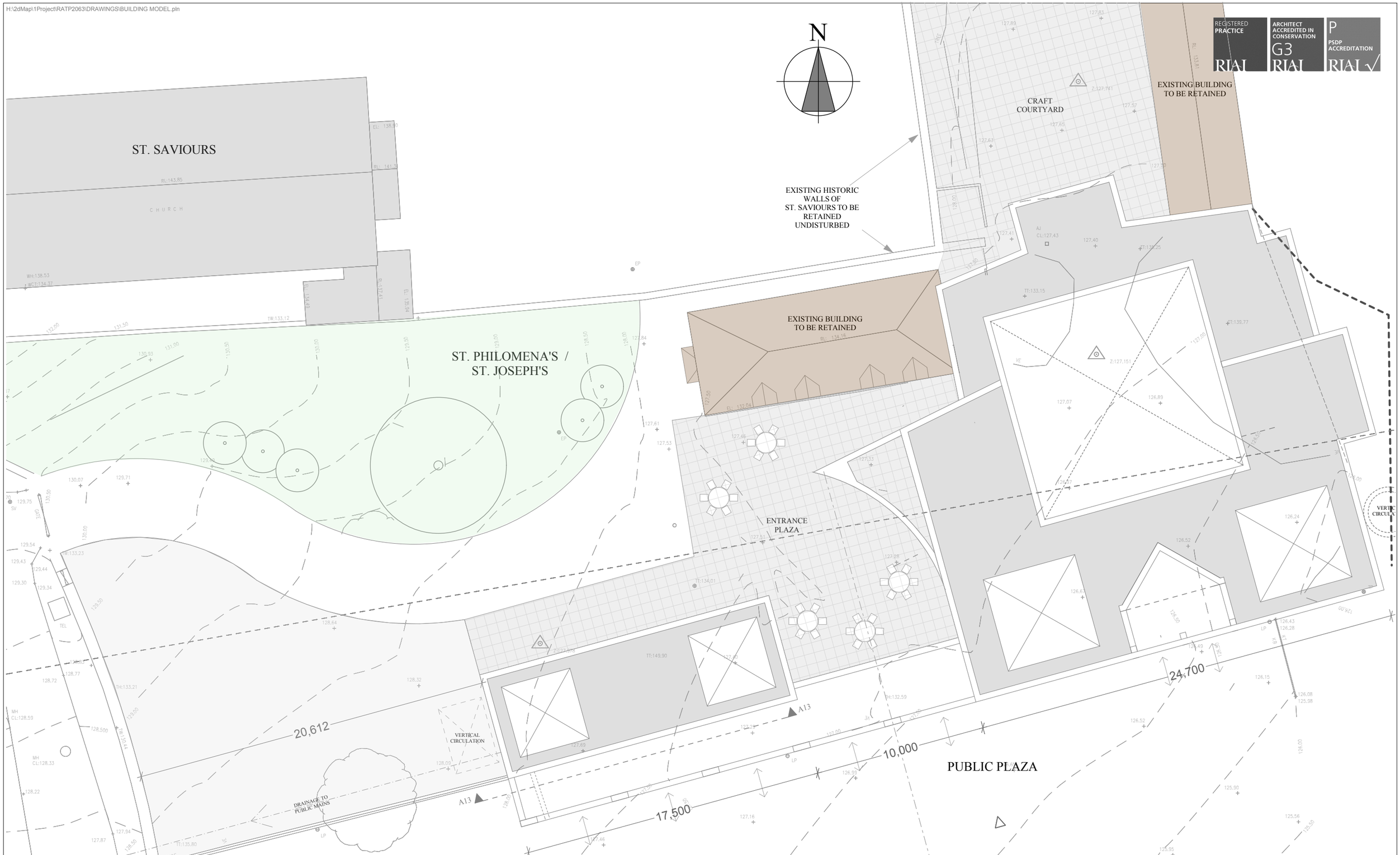
APPENDIX A. Proposed Site Layout

H:\2dMap\1Project\RATP2063\DRAWINGS\BUILDING MODEL.pln



REGISTERED PRACTICE RIAI | ARCHITECT ACCREDITED IN CONSERVATION G3 RIAI | PSDP ACCREDITATION RIAI

THE PADRAIG SMITH PARTNERSHIP

ARCHITECTS PLANNERS DESIGNERS

Market Square
Wicklow
Ireland
Phone 0404-69478
Fax 0404-66584

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PROJECT: DEVELOPMENT AT RATHDRUM

TITLE: SITE LAYOUT PLAN

SCALE: 1:200

DATE: OCTOBER 2020

OUR REF: RATH 20/63

NO: PP/03-01