

**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL
DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED**

REFERENCE: DEC 24/62

NAME OF APPLICANT: Emma Pearson

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32 C6X3.

NATURE OF APPLICATION: Request for Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended as to whether the proposed renovations of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT: Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32 YD60

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether renovations of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development at Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32YD60.

AS INDICATED on the particulars received by the Planning Authority on the 5th June 2024.

AND WHEREAS Emma Pearson requested a declaration on the said question from Offaly County Council;

AND WHEREAS Offaly County Council, in considering this declaration request, had regard particularly to:

- Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4(1)(h), of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

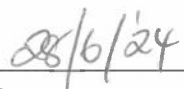
AND WHEREAS Offaly County Council has concluded that the proposed works is development and is exempted development.

NOW THEREFORE Offaly County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that the proposed renovations of an existing dwelling is development and is exempted development at Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32YD60.

MATTERS CONSIDERED In making its decision, the Planning Authority had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.



Administrative Officer



Date

Note: Please note that any person issued with a declaration under subsection 2(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) may on payment to the Board of the prescribed fee, refer a declaration to An Bord Pleanála within 4 weeks of the issuing of the decision.

Planning Report

Section 5 Declaration

File Reference:	<i>Dec. 24/62</i>
Question:	<i>Whether the proposed renovations of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.</i>
Applicant:	<i>Emma Pearson</i>
Correspondence Address:	<i>Bishopswood, Portarlington, Co. Offaly, R32C6X3</i>
Location:	<i>Bishopswood, Portarlington, Co. Offaly, R32YD60</i>

1. Introduction

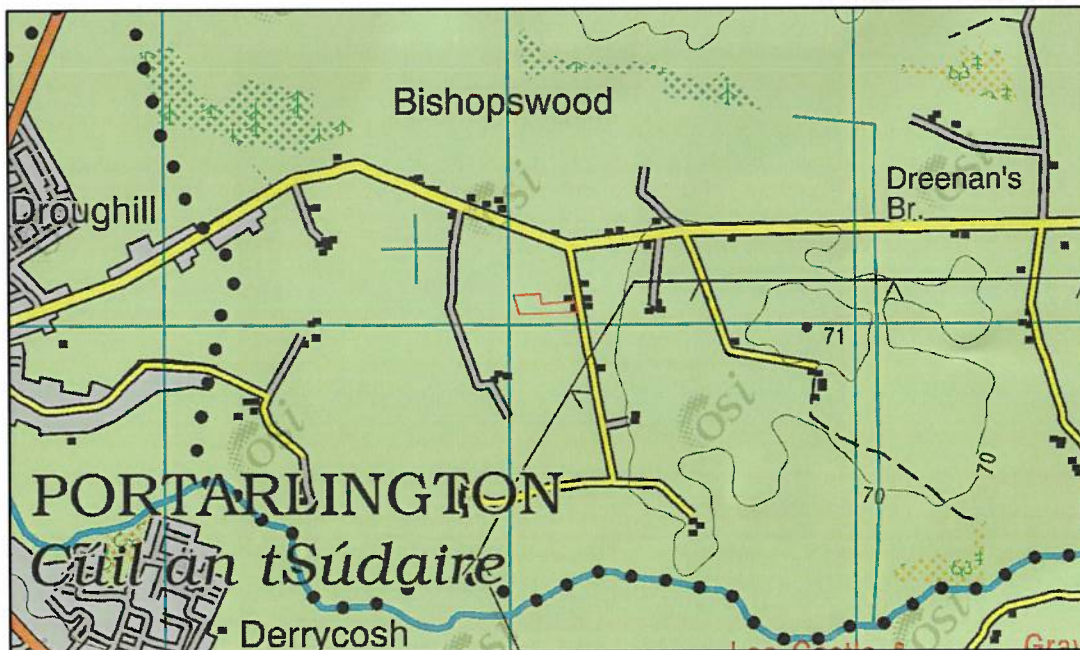
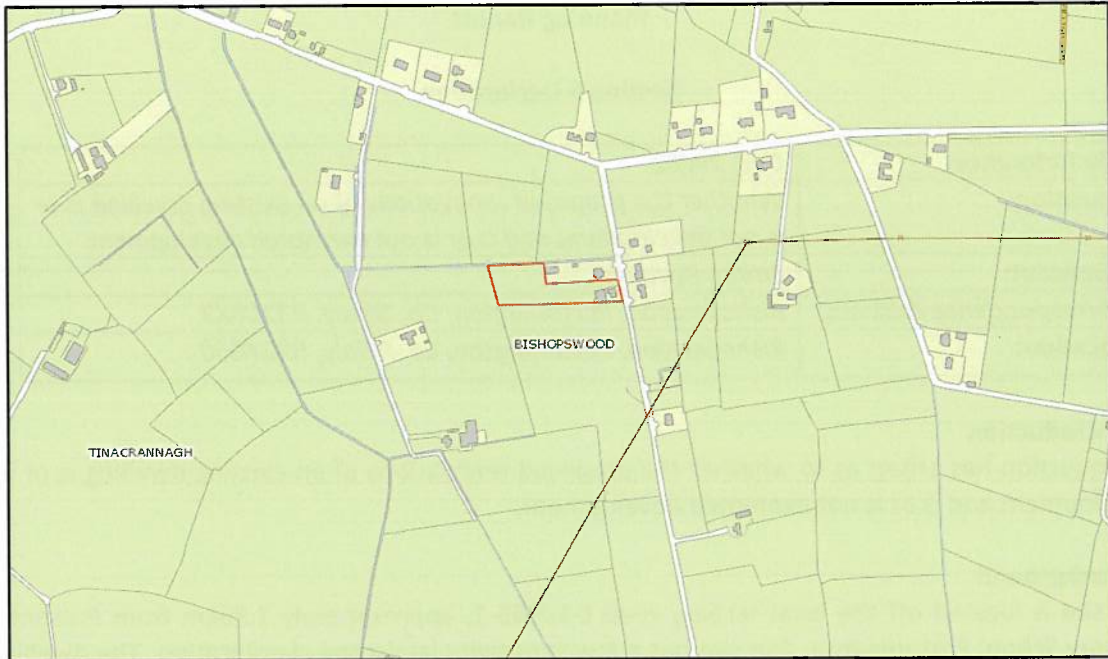
The question has arisen as to whether the proposed renovations of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

2. Background

The site is located off the local tertiary road L-10063-1, approximately 1.95km from Presentation Primary School Portarlington. The site has a low sensitivity landscape classification. The dwelling on site is one storey bungalow.



Photo 1: Subject Site



Photos 2-3: Site location (red line boundary).

3. Site History

On site: No relevant on site planning history.

Adjoining lands:

Ref 00125: Jason and Jacqueline Travers were granted permission conditionally for a dwellinghouse, septic tank and effluent treatment system.

Ref 98754: Maureen Delaney was granted outline permission conditionally for a bungalow and septic tank.

4. Legislative Context

In order to assess whether or not the proposed works constitute exempted development, regard must be had to the following items of legislation:

Statutory Provisions

Section 2 (1) Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states as follows:

“house” means a building or part of a building which is being or has been occupied as a dwelling or was provided for use as a dwelling but has not been occupied, and where appropriate, includes a building which was designed for use as 2 or more dwellings or a flat, an apartment or other dwelling within such a building;

“works” includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal and, in relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, includes any act or operation involving the application or removal of plaster, paint, wallpaper, tiles or other material to or from the surfaces of the interior or exterior of a structure.

Section 3 (1) Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, defines development.

“development” means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

Section 4 - Exempted Development

Section 4 (1) (a) – (l) sets out what is exempted development for the purposes of this Act including:

(h) development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure and which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or neighbouring structures.

5. Proposal by Applicants

The Applicant has advised of proposed renovations of an existing dwelling.

1. Remove all existing floors and replace with DPC insulation and new concrete floor. The radiator pipes are to be replaced with new ones in this process.
2. The entire house needs to be rewired and a new fuse board fitted. Walls need to be chased and re-plastered after the rewiring is complete.
3. Remove 2 chimneys which are no longer being used in 2 bedrooms. Repair roof where chimney was previously.
4. Re-do hall ceiling and ceilings in both bedrooms where the chimneys will be removed. Replace ceiling in new kitchen.
5. Convert double chimney into a single chimney between sitting room and kitchen.
6. Convert current dining room into kitchen. Fit new kitchen units including sink and worktop and re-plumb to suit new kitchen. Fit smaller window from kitchen into porch.
7. Fit new units in utility room and re-plumb to suit.

6. Evaluation

Question: Whether the proposed works (as listed) to the existing dwelling are development and if so, are they exempted development?

In considering the proposed works against the definitions of 'development' and 'works' as provided in the Act, it is the view of the Planning Authority that the proposed works are deemed as development as it includes refurbishments to an existing dwelling.

Question: Is this proposal considered as Exempted Development?

The declaration assessed under Section 4 (1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). In that regard it is considered that the proposed works are exempt.

7. Screening

A screening exercise for an appropriate assessment has been carried out and it is concluded that the development is unlikely to have significant effects on any European sites. Please see attached report under Appendix A.

It is considered that the proposed development does not constitute a development listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. Accordingly an EIAR is not required.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Applicant be advised that the proposed development is **development** and is **exempted development**.



Enda Dolan (Assistant Planner)

Date: 27th June 2024



Ed Kelly A/Senior Executive Planner

Date: 27th June 2024

Declaration on Development and Exempted Development

Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether renovations of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development at Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32YD60.

AS INDICATED on the particulars received by the Planning Authority on the 5th June 2024.

AND WHEREAS Emma Pearson requested a declaration on the said question from Offaly County Council;

AND WHEREAS Offaly County Council, in considering this declaration request, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4(1)(h), of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

AND WHEREAS Offaly County Council has concluded that the proposed works is development and is exempted development.

NOW THEREFORE Offaly County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that:

- The proposed renovations of an existing dwelling is development and is exempted development at Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32YD60.

Please note that any person issued with a declaration under subsection 2(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) may on payment to the Board of the prescribed fee, refer a declaration to An Bord Pleanála within 4 weeks of the issuing of the decision.

APPENDIX A

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS



Screening is used to determine if an AA is necessary by examining:

- If the plan / project is directly connected with / necessary to the management of the European site.
- If the effects will be significant on a European site in view of its conservation objectives, either alone / in combination with other plans / projects.

Planning Authority: OCC

Planning Application Ref. No: DEC 24/62

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Whether the proposed renovations of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.		
Site location:	Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly, R32YD60		
Site size:	0.73ha	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	Not given
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	River Barrow And River Nore SAC – 0.78km		
Distance to European Site(s):	As above – all as crow flies		
The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the European site:	None		
Is the application accompanied by an EIAR?	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITE(S):			
The reasons for the designation of the European site(s):			
River Barrow And River Nore SAC – Features of interest include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (<i>Desmoulin's Whorl Snail</i>) [1016] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (<i>Freshwater Pearl Mussel</i>) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (<i>White-clawed Crayfish</i>) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (<i>Sea Lamprey</i>) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (<i>Brook Lamprey</i>) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (<i>River Lamprey</i>) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (<i>Twaite Shad</i>) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (<i>Salmon</i>) [1106] 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421] 	
The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the European site synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on www.npws.ie) (ATTACH INFO.)	
Site Name: River Barrow And River Nore SAC Site Code: 002162 https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY002162.pdf	
(C) NPWS ADVICE:	
Advice received from NPWS over phone:	None Received
Summary of advice received from NPWS in written form (ATTACH SAME):	None Received
(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:	
<i>(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if uncertain assume the effect(s) are significant).</i>	
If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below, then the effect is significant. (Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)	
Would there be... ... any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance).	Not likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... a reduction in habitat area on a European site?	There will be no reduction in the habitat area. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the European site?	Not likely due to the location and type of development The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the European site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?	Not likely due to the location and type of development The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the European site?	None likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects. [Look at <i>in-combination effects</i> with completed, approved but not completed, and proposed plans / projects. Look at projects / plans within and adjacent to European sites and identify them]. Simply stating that there are no cumulative impacts' is insufficient.	No other plans known of in the vicinity of the site. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:	
Screening can result in:	
1.	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with / necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.
2.	No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.
3.	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant, or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging / inappropriate.
Therefore, does the project fall into category 1, 2 or 3 above?	Category 2
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:	There would be no likely significant impact on the European site from the proposed development due to the scale of the proposed development and the separation distance between the subject site and European Site.

Name:	Enda Dolan <i>Enda Dolan</i>		
Position:	Assitant Planner	Date:	27 th June 2024