

# 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: Offaly County Council**

**Planning Application Proposed Part VIII  
New Road Layout at Bury Bridge**

**Tullamore Municipal District.**

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Proposal to provide a footpath over Bury Bridge and associated pedestrian facilities on Daingean Rd and Convent Road, Tullamore Co. Offaly.		
Site location:	Daingean Rd, Convent Road , Bury Br., Puttaghan, Tullamore. County Offaly.		
Site size:	0.27 Hectares	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	N/A
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	<b>European Site –</b>		<b>distance</b>
	Charleville Wood SAC 000571		1.87km
	Clara Bog SAC 000572		8.12km
	Raheenmore Bog SAC 000582		10.7km
	Split Hills & long hill esker 001831		10.8km
	River Barrow & River Nore SAC 002162		10.9km
	Sliabh Bloom Mountains SPA 004160		14.6km
Distance to European Site(s):	1.9km-10.9km		
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 site:	Given the limited scale of the proposed development it is not considered that it will have any interactive / cumulative impacts with any other plan or project in the vicinity.		

Is the application accompanied by an EIAR?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT - European sites (S):**

The reasons for the designation of the European sites (s):

**Charleville Wood SAC (000571)** - Old Oak Woodlands, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail.

**Clara Bog SAC (000572)** - Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland, Raised Bog, Degraded Raised Bog, Rhynchosporion Vegetation, Bog Woodland, Marsh Fritillary.

**Raheenmore Bog SAC (000582)** – Raised bog, degraded raised bog, Rhynchosporion vegetation

**Split Hills & long Hill esker (001831)**- Semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( Festuco-Broetalia)

**River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)** - Estuaries, Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats, *Salicornia* Mud, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Mediterranean Salt Meadows, Floating River Vegetation, Dry Heath, Hydrophilous Tall Herb Communities, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woodlands, Alluvial Forests, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

**Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)** - Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Merlin, Red Grouse.

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 sites synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) **(ATTACH INFO.)**

. To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat and/or the Annex II species


**(C) NPWS ADVICE:**

Advice received from NPWS over phone:	None received.
Summary of advice received from NPWS in written form <b>(ATTACH SAME):</b>	-

**(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:**

**(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if uncertain assume the effect(s) are significant).  
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)**

<b>Would there be...</b>	Not likely due to the location and type of development.
... any impact on an Annex 1 habitat?	

(Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance).	The site is sufficient distance from the European Site. (1.8km)
... a reduction in habitat area on a European sites?	There will be no reduction in the habitat area.
... direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the European sites?	Not likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the relevant European Sites
... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the European sites 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 Nearest European Sites
... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the European sites?	Not likely to have an adverse impact due to its location and characteristics
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.
<b>(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:</b>	
<b>Screening can result in:</b>	
1	<i>AA is not required</i> because the project is directly connected with / necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.
2	<i>No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.</i>
3	<i>Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain.</i> (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant, or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging / inappropriate.
Conclusion: Category 2	
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:	Given the location, the nature and the size of the proposed development and the characteristics of European sites in the vicinity and the appropriate assessment guidelines it is considered that the development will have no likely significant impacts on this European site.
<b>Name:</b>	<b>John Connelly</b> <b>Signed:</b> 
<b>Position:</b>	<b>District Engineer</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>22-07-2024</b>