

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

Tullamore Municipal District.

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Proposal to undertake Re-Furbishment / Upgrade of Existing Bus Stops at Church Street, Clara, County Offaly.		
Site location:	Church Street, Clara, County Offaly.		
Site size:	0.050 Hectares	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	N/A
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	European Site – Daingean Bog NHA (Site Code = 002033)		
Distance to European Site(s):	22km		
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 development applied for 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"/>	

(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT European sites (S):

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

Daingean Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising as it does a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. It is especially important because of its eastern location, at the extreme of the range of raised bogs in Ireland.

The site consists of two main lobes. The northern lobe is much larger than the southern one and forms the majority of the high bog in the site. The lobes are separated by a drain running through a narrow, low-lying section between them. The cutover areas surrounding the site have, for the most part, been reclaimed for agriculture. The bog is of particular interest as it is one of the most easterly remaining raised bogs in the country.

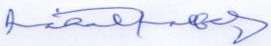
The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the European sites synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on www.npws.ie) **(ATTACH INFO.)**

Much of the high bog vegetation is typical of the Midland Raised Bog type, consisting of Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). Other plants include Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*). The bog moss cover is low and consists mainly of species such as *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *S. papillosum*. On the cutover, some areas have been colonised by Gorse (*Ulex* spp.) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*). The Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) can be found beside some pools on the cutover. These pools are vegetated by Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and the bog moss *Sphagnum papillosum*. The drained low-lying section of the southern lobe is dominated by Gorse and Willow (*Salix* spp.), with a ground flora including Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*).

The site is also host to a population of Irish Hare, a species listed in the Irish Red Data Book.

(C) NPWS ADVICE:

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

(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:	
<p>(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if uncertain assume the effect(s) are significant).</p> <p>If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below, then the effect is significant.</p> <p>(Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)</p>	
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. (22km)
... 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 European Site (22km)
... 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 European Site. (22km)
... 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.
(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:	
Screening can result in:	
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 and the nature and size of the development applied for 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.
Name:	Michael Mullarkey
Signed:	
Position:	Chief Technician
Date:	11-07-2024