

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

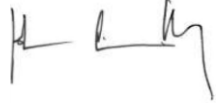
Planning Application Proposed Part VIII

Tullamore Municipal District.

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Proposal to provide parking facilities, footpaths, pedestrian crossings and one-way traffic system at Tober National School.		
Site location:	Tober, County Offaly.		
Site size:	0.15 hectares	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	N/A
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	European Site Name:		distance
	Clara Bog SAC (000572)		5.15km
	Split Hills & Long Hill esker (001831)		10.44km
	Carn Park Bog SAC (002336)		11.1km
	Ballymore Fen SAC (002313)		12.6km
	Crosswood Bog SAC (002337)		13.1km
	Charleville Wood SAC (000571)		14.3km
	Ferbane Bog SAC (000575)		14.8km
Distance to European Site(s):	5.2km-14.8km		
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"/>	

(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT European sites (S):		
The reasons for the designation of the European sites (s):		
<p>Clara Bog SAC (000572) - Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland, Raised Bog, Degraded Raised Bog, Rhynchosporion Vegetation, Bog Woodland, Marsh Fritillary.</p> <p>Split Hills & long Hill esker (001831)- Semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Broetalia)</p> <p>Carn Park Bog SAC (002336) -Active raised bog, degraded raised bog still capable of regeneration.</p> <p>Ballymore Fen SAC (002313)-transition mires and quaking bogs.</p> <p>Crosswood Bog SAC (002337) - Active raised bog, degraded raised bog still capable of regeneration.</p> <p>Charleville Wood SAC (000571) - Old Oak Woodlands, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail.</p> <p>Ferbane Bog SAC (000575)- Active raised bog, degraded raised bog still capable of regeneration. Depressions on peat substrate of the Rhynchosporion</p>		
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.)		
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 (ATTACH SAME):	-	

(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)	
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. (2km)
... 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 (2km)
... 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. (2km)
... 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:	John Connelly		Signed: 
Position:	District Engineer	Date:	22-07-2024