

# 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**

**Edenderry Municipal District.**

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Proposed Road Re-Alignment Works to include re-construction of the existing public road to a width of 7.0m, along with the provision of 2 No. footpaths & 1 No. Cycle-track and all other associated works.		
Site location:	Existing road (R441) at the entrance to the Monasteroris Business Park and ending at the Killane Road (R441) / St., Francis Street, junction Edenderry, a distance of 270 metres approximately.		
Site size:	0.324 Hectares	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	N/A
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	European Site – The Long Derries, Edenderry, SAC (Site Code = 00925)		
Distance to European Site(s):			
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):	
<p>The Long Derries is of botanical importance due to the presence of good quality dry, calcareous grassland, an interesting gravel pit flora and the presence of three rare plant species, two of which are legally protected. The presence of an interesting transition habitat from Esker to peatland, and a varied bird population, including the rare Nightjar and Partridge, adds to the site's importance.</p>	
<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 <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>) <b>(ATTACH INFO.)</b></p>	
<p>An important aspect of this site is the presence of the rare, Red Data Book species, Blue Fleabane (<i>Erigeron acer</i>), and the legally protected (Flora Protection Order, 1987), Basil Thyme (<i>Acinos arvensis</i>) and Green-winged Orchid (<i>Orchis morio</i>). A large population of the latter species occurs in the grassland communities, including those in the transition to peatland zone. Blue Fleabane is found in grassland and gravel pits on the site, the latter habitat also supporting Basil Thyme.</p> <p>The summer birdlife of this area includes Sand Martin, Whinchat, Whitethroat and Cuckoo. Nightjar, a rare species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, breeds on the site. Partridge, an endangered species in Ireland and one listed in the Red Data Book, is known from the site. Badgers have setts along some of the mature hedgerows.</p>	
<p><b>(C) NPWS ADVICE:</b></p>	
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.
... 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.
... 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.
... 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 any European sites

**Name:** MICHAEL MURSKY **Signed:**   
**Position:** CHIEF TECNICIANO **Date:** 31/01/2024