



Taisteal Gníomhach  
Active Travel

Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí  
Offaly County Council

## APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PART VIII PLANNING APPLICATION

### ***Tubber Bus Stop & Upgrade Pedestrian Crossing***


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.

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Bus Stop Enhancement works at Tubber, County Offaly This project includes improvements to the public realm including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of paths/Construction of footpaths.</li> <li>- Upgrade Pedestrian Crossing on R420.</li> <li>- Installation of two No. Bus Stops including Shelters/Waiting Area.</li> <li>- Installation of associated Drainage Works.</li> <li>- Installation of associated Road Markings.</li> <li>- Including all associated Accommodation Works.</li> </ul> These works are small in scale with a construction period expected to be approximately 6 (six) weeks.		
Site Location	Tubber, County Offaly		
Site size:	1200m <sup>2</sup>	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	Not Applicable
Identification of nearby Natura 2000 Site(s):	European Site Names: Clara Bog SAC (000572) Split Hills & Long Hill esker (001831) Carn Park Bog SAC (002336) Ballymore Fen SAC (002313) Crosswood Bog SAC (002337) Charleville Wood SAC (000571) Ferbane Bog SAC (000575)		Distance: 5.15km 10.44km 11.1km 12.6km 13.1km 14.3km 14.8km
Distance to Natura 2000 Site(s):	As above – all as the crow flies.		

<p>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 Natura 2000 site:</p>	<p>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.</p>			
<p>Is the application accompanied by an EIAR?</p>	<p>Yes:</p>		<p>No:</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>
<p><b>(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITE(S):</b></p>				
<p>The reasons for the designation of the Natura 2000 site(s):</p>				
<p><b>Clara Bog SAC (000572)</b> Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland, Raised Bog, Degraded Raised Bog, Rhynchosporion Vegetation, Bog Woodland, Marsh Fritillary.</p> <p><b>Split Hills &amp; long Hill esker (001831)</b> Semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Broetalia)</p> <p><b>Carn Park Bog SAC (002336)</b> Active raised bog, degraded raised bog still capable of regeneration.</p> <p><b>Ballymore Fen SAC (002313)</b> Transition mires and quaking bogs.</p> <p><b>Crosswood Bog SAC (002337)</b> Active raised bog, degraded raised bog still capable of regeneration.</p> <p><b>Charleville Wood SAC (000571)</b> Old Oak Woodlands, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail.</p> <p><b>Ferbane Bog SAC (000575)</b> Active raised bog, degraded raised bog still capable of regeneration. Depressions on peat substrate of the Rhynchosporion</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 Natura 2000 site 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>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat and/or the Annex II species.</p>				
<p><b>(C) NPWS ADVICE:</b></p>				
<p>Advice received from NPWS over phone:</p>	<p>None received</p>			
<p>Summary of advice received from NPWS in written form. <b>(ATTACH SAME):</b></p>	<p>None received</p>			

<b>(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:</b>	
<i>(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant. - if <b>uncertain</b> assume the effect(s) are significant).</i>	
If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below, then the effect is significant. <i>(Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)</i>	
<b>Would there be...</b> ... 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 - (15km).
... a reduction in habitat area on a Natura 2000 site?	No - The proposed development is not located within a SPA or SAC. There will be no reduction of the habitat area due to the proposed scheme.
... direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the Natura 2000 site?	No - The proposed development is not located within a SPA or SAC. There will be no direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment in the Natura 2000 site due to these works.
... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?	No - The proposed development is not located within a SPA or SAC. There will be no serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the Natura 2000 site due to these works.
... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site?	No - The proposed development is not located within a SPA or SAC. There will be no direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics, or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site due to these works.
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 Natura 2000 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.
<b>(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:</b>	
<b>Screening can result in:</b>	
1.	<i>AA is not required because the project is directly connected with/necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.</i>
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.		
Therefore, does the project fall into category 1, 2 or 3 above?	<b>Category 2</b>		
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:	There would be no likely significant impact on the European sites from the proposed development due to the scale of the proposed development and the separation distance between the subject site and European Sites.		
<b>Name:</b>	Michael Wall	<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>	Clerk of Works – Active Travel	<b>Date:</b>	22nd August 2024