

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PART VIII 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.

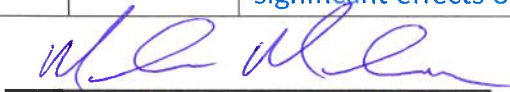
Planning Authority: Offaly County Council

Planning Application: Proposed Part VIII

Edenderry Municipal District – December 2018

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	<p>Inner Relief Road (Section 1) - Clonmullen Lane (L-5034-1) to St. Conleths Road (R-401-1) via Clonmeen Rise (L-5044-1) Inner Relief Road (Section 2) – Fr. McWey Street (including Carraig Aoibhinn L-1028-1) to Edenderry Business Campus, Monasteroris (to junction at R-441-1) & associated junction works Junction realignment works – Junction of St. Conleth’s Road (R-401-1) with Carraig Aoibhinn (L-1028-1) and Clonmeen Rise (L-5044-1) Junction works – Junction of Clonmullen Lane (L-5034-1) with Section 1 and Clonmullen Drive (L-50432-1) Junction realignment works – Junction of Clonmullen Drive (L-50432-1), Clonmullen Drive (L-50431-1), Clonmullen Drive (L-50431-1) and access road to R-402-1 (adjacent to retail premises)</p>		
	<p>Construction of approximately 1.1 km of single carriageway, 7.3m wide, construction of approximately 2,200 linear metres of 2.25m wide footpath with pedestrian crossings, construction of approximately 2,200 linear metres of 1.5m wide cycle-paths, associated kerbing, drainage, services, public lighting, landscaping and boundary treatments. Construction of junction at intersection of Inner Relief Road (Section 1) and Clonmullen Lane (L-5034-1) and associated works. Construction of junction at intersection of Inner Relief Road (Section 2) and Fr. McWey Street and associated works. Realignment of Carraig Aoibhinn (L-1028-1) and revised junction design at junction of St. Conleth’s Road (R-401-1) with Carraig Aoibhinn (L-1028-1) and Clonmeen Rise (L-5044-1) and associated works. Realignment of access road (access road to R-402-1) and revised junction design at junction of Clonmullen Drive (L-50432-1), Clonmullen Drive (L-50431-1), Clonmullen Drive (L-50431-1) and access road to R-402-1 (adjacent to retail premises) and associated works.</p>		
Site location:	Edenderry & Monasteroris, Co. Offaly.		
Site Size	3.8 hectares	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	Not applicable
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	European site: The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC (Site Code = 000925)		

Distance to European Site(s):		4.1km
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 European site:		Given the scale and nature of the development in question, 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 EIS?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT European SITE(S):		
The reasons for the designation of the European site:		
	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.	
	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 www.npws.ie) (ATTACH INFO.)	
	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. 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.	
(C) NPWS ADVICE:		
Advice received from NPWS over phone:		None received
(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:		
<i>(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if uncertain 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>		
Would there be...		Not likely due to the location and type of development.
... any impact on an Annex 1 habitat?		The site is sufficient distance from the European site.

(Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of		
... a reduction in habitat area on a European site?		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 site?		Not likely due to the location and type. of the development The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the European site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?		Not likely due to the location an type. of the The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the European site?		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 NIS 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?		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 be unlikely to have significant effects on any European sites.
Name:	Mark Mahon	Signed: 
Position:	Senior Executive Engineer	Date: 11/12/18