

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Part XAB
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 8

**Playground and Carpark Development,
Leixlip Amenities Sports Centre,
Maynooth Road, Leixlip
Co. Kildare**

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Kildare County Council is proposing to develop an open access Playground and Carpark extension in the Grounds of Leixlip Amenities Sports Centre. The location for the development is at Maynooth Road, Leixlip Co. Kildare. The proposed development comprises of:

- A new playground (1130m²) to replace a small existing playground (540m²) located on the Leixlip Amenities Centre Lands
- Location of the existing playground to be replaced with additional carpark spaces.
- The existing carpark spaces on the western side of the current playground to be realigned and extended to maximize the available car parking.
- A new pedestrian entrance with universal access will be provided at the east end of the playground from the R148.
- Additional accessible car parking and bike parking spaces

A description of the proposed development has been provided in the Section 4 of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report prepared by Mary O'Connor Consultant Ecologist forming part of the Part 8 application.

Having regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the guidance contained in the document entitled "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities*" (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009) and following an examination of the objective information provided in the Screening for Appropriate Assessment report (the Screening Report) prepared by Mary O'Connor Consultant Ecologist, on behalf of Kildare County Council, as the Competent Authority, determines that the proposed development at Leixlip Amenities Sports Centre, Maynooth Road, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, does not have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on European sites, their conservation objectives or integrity, and therefore does not require an Appropriate Assessment.

Key points in the determination – The nearest European site to the Proposed Development is associated with The Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC (Site Code 001398), which is located approximately 350-400m north east of the proposed development site. There is no connectivity to any other European sites within or outside the guideline 2km Zone of Influence. The Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC is not directly linked by habitat connectivity to the area of the proposed development site at Leixlip Amenities Sports Grounds. The SAC site is separated from the proposed development site by the Maynooth Road and associated urban infrastructure. The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European

site, taking into account the size and scale of the Proposed Development have been carried out in the AA Screening, prepared by Mary O'Connor Consultant Ecologist, on behalf of Kildare County Council.

It is considered that the proposed development does not include any element that has the potential to significantly alter the favourable conservation objectives associated with the species and habitats, or, interfere with the key relationships that define the structure or function, either alone or in combination with other impacts, of Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC.

No risks to the conservation objectives of any other Natura 2000 sites are considered likely due to one or more of the following, lack of ecological or landscape connectivity between the proposed works areas and the designated area, significant buffer between the proposed works area and the designated area, the nature of the site's conservation objectives, no impact or change to the management of the designated area or; and no change to chemical or physiological condition of the designated site as a result of the proposed development.

It is therefore highly improbable that a project of this nature and scale will have any measurable impact on the qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 sites.

Therefore a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the project appraisal either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 sites and their Conservation Objectives.



Kehinde Oluwatosin
Senior Executive Planner
11/04/2023


Emer Uí Fhátharta
Senior Planner

April 11th 2023

ORDER: That Kildare County Council as the Competent Authority, having considered the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report, prepared by Mary O'Connor Consultant Ecologist on behalf of Kildare County Council, makes a determination that a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the proposed open access Playground and Carpark extension in the Grounds of Leixlip Amenities Sports Centre, Maynooth Road, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to any Natura 2000 sites and their Conservation Objectives.

Date: 12.4.2023


Chief Executive