

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**

Sensory Garden, St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Kildare County Council is proposing a Sensory Garden at St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

The proposed development consists of:

- Planting of semi-mature trees such as *Amelanchier* sp.
- Planting of heavy standard trees such as *Acer freemanii*
- Planting of feathered trees such as *Crataegus* sp.
- Planting of various multi-stem/small trees such as *Prunus avium* and *Sorbus* spp.
- Planting of large shrub species such as *Hamamelis x intermedia*, *Viburnum* and *Sambuccus*
- Creation of a new hedge of *Fagus sylvatica*
- Creation of new planting beds
- Creation of a wildflower meadow of 500m²
- Creation of grassed areas with seed
- Creation of amenity (grassed) areas
- Installation of timber lawn edging
- Creation of new tarmac surfaced footpaths
- Installation of 8 no. benches (steel and wood)
- Installation of smoothed granite boulders
- Creation and seeding of earthen mounds
- Installation of paved areas

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 *Appropriate Assessment Screening Report* by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants, Kildare County Council, as the Competent Authority,

determines that the proposed residential development at St. Catherine's Park, 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 proposed development site is not located within or adjacent to any Natura 2000 sites, so there is no risk of habitat loss, fragmentation or any other direct impacts.
- The nearest Natura 2000 site is the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC (site code: 001398) which is located approximately 1.047km to the west of the subject site.
- No potential pathways were identified to Natura 2000 sites.
- There are no surface water, groundwater or other pathways linking the Site to any European sites, so there is no risk of indirect effects.
- There are no SPAs in the vicinity of the site.

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


Martin Ryan
Senior Executive Planner
03/06/2025

Signed:



S. Willoughby
Senior Planner

13/06/2025

ORDER: That Kildare County Council as the Competent Authority, having considered the AA Screening Report prepared by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants on behalf of Kildare County Council, makes a determination that a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment will not be required to inform the Sensory Garden development at St. Catherine's Park, 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: 17th June 2025


Chief Executive