HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Part 8 Ref:

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:	
Site location:	The proposed development will be carried out at Tipperary Hills, Tipperary town, Co. Tipperary, in the townland of Murgasty, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary.
Proposed development:	General development throughout the site includes the upgrading of all existing tarmac pathways to a minimum width of 2 metres, upgrading existing gravel paths to bound gravel paths, development of new seating areas, development of the Peace Path, upgrade of all existing seating, installation of information and wayfinding signage, construction of a dog exercise area, introduction of native woodland planting and specimen trees along with native wildflower meadows in selected locations throughout the amenity area and reorganisation of the existing carpark area. Localised developments include: <u>Access Lane – St Patrick's Avenue to St John's Famine Graveyard</u> a) Widening to 2.75m and refurbishment of tarmac pathway between St Patrick's Avenue entrance and entrance to St John's Famine Graveyard to facilitate hearse access. b) Introduction of safety guard rail to north edge of pathway c) Introduction of bicycle parking at St Patrick's Avenue entrance d) Introduction of an information sign at St Patrick's Avenue entrance <u>Clanwilliam Rugby Club</u> e) Upgrading of existing pathway to bound gravel pathway, 1.2m wide along east and north boundary of Clanwilliam Rugby Club <u>Pitch and Putt Clubhouse</u> f) Realign existing pathway to improve width and gradient to facilitate accessibility g) Construction of new steps with safety handrail h) Introduction of timber knee rail to south-western edge of pathway to limit access to pitch and putt greens i) Relocation of existing signage j) Introduction of seating k) Landscaping and planting on both sides of pathway <u>Flat Hollow Playing Pitch</u> l) Levelling and reseeding of the playing pitch m) Introduction of natural seating area with bound gravel surface n) Realignment of existing pathway to improve width and gradient to facilitate accessibility o) Construction of new concrete steps with handrail p) Landscaping, specimen tree planting and perennial planting <u>Bohercrow/Monastery Road</u> q) Improved pedestrian access to The Hills including new style entrance, new concrete steps, safety handrails and resurfacing to pathway r) Demolition and reconstruction of boundary stone wall from the Mass Path to the car park entrance to facilitate the introduction of new 2m wide footpath.

	'The Hollow' Area of Tipperary Hills s) Introduction of timber knee rail edge at western and northern edge of pathway t) Introduction of information sign 'Cup and Saucer' Area of Tipperary Hills u) Introduction of timber steps with handrails to provide safe access to the top of 'Cup and Saucer' v) Introduction of bound gravel path to circumference of top of 'Cup and Saucer' w) Installation of 2 log seats Telecoms Mast x) Introduction of localised network of bound gravel paths and seating to the south of the mast y) Introduction of areas of native woodland planting Dog Exercise Area z) Development of fenced dog exercise area with 2 gates and bound gravel surface to the west of 'The Hollow'
Site size:	7.9 ha
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITE(S):	
Natura 2000 site(s) within 15km and distance to same:	Lower River Suir SAC (Site Code 002137), approximately 5.8km to the south. Galtee Mountains SAC (Site Code 000646), approximately 10.3km to the south. Moanour Mountain SAC (Site Code 002257), approximately 7.6km to the south west. Philipstown Marsh SAC (Site Code 001847), approximately 8km to the northeast Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code 002125), approximately 12km to the northwest
Sites within the zone of influence:	The site is within the drainage catchment of the Lower River Suir SAC. There are no direct hydrological inkages between this site and the SAC
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 at www.npws.ie) (*ATTACH INFO if necessary)*	Lower River Suir SAC Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]

	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]
Key Environmental conditions to support site integrity.	Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: • its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and • the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and • the conservation status of its typical species is favourable. The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: • population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and • the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and • there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

(C) POSSIBLE IMPACTS ARISING FROM THE PROJECT:		
Consider the potential for direct impacts on habitats *Consider proposed developments within 200m of the SAC/SPA*		**Y/N and Comment**
1.1	Could the proposed project give rise to direct loss of habitats for which the SAC/SPA is designated, or other habitats occurring within the SAC/SPA?	No
1.2	Could the proposed project give rise to increased human usage/access to the site, which could potentially cause deterioration of certain habitat types eg woodlands, wetlands or riverbanks. Consider proposals for development of a large scale within 1km of sensitive woodlands eg large scale residential development or hotels. Consider proposals for the development of paths or cycleways along the river.	No
1.3	Does the proposed project involve development of drainage systems? If yes, could this cause drying out of wetland or woodland habitats within the SAC/SPA?	No
Consider the potential for impacts on water quality within the SAC/SPA *Consider all proposed developments within the catchment of the SAC/SPA*		**Y/N and Comment**
2.1	Are there any rivers, streams or drains connecting the proposed development site and the SAC/SPA? If yes, consider whether there is potential for construction related impacts on water quality.	No
2.2	Would the proposed project result in surface water or other discharges to rivers, streams or drains directly connected to the SAC/SPA? If yes, consider whether the discharges	**No**

	could give rise to increased eutrophication or other pollution risk within the cSAC/SPA. Consider whether increased surface water discharge could give rise to increased risk of downstream storm water surges.	
2.3	Would the proposed project require an industrial waste water discharge license? If yes, consider the potential impacts of the discharge on water quality in the SAC/SPA.	**No**
2.4	Is the proposed project located within a flood zone? If yes, consider whether there is potential for construction or operational related impacts on water quality in the SAC/SPA; consider whether the proposed project increases flood risk elsewhere in the catchment and particularly the cSAC/SPA; or increases the risk of stormwater surges downstream.	**No**
2.5	Are the proposals for waste water treatment in compliance with EPA requirements?	N/A
2.6	Could the proposed project contribute to cumulative negative impacts on water quality? Consider the current status of the freshwater system (see www.wfdireland.ie).	**No**
2.7	Would the proposed project involve dredging (construction or ongoing maintenance related)?	**No**
Consider potential for impact on species		**Y/N and Comment**
Freshwater Pearl Mussel		
3.1	Protection of this species will be achieved by the protection of water quality (see section 2 above), by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above), and by the maintenance of free passage for fish.	Impacts on this species will not arise
Freshwater Crayfish		
3.2	Protection of this species will be achieved by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above).	Impacts on this species will not arise
Fish species including Salmon, Lamprey spp. and Twaite Shad		
3.3	Protection of these species will be achieved by the protection of water quality (see section 2 above), by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above), and by the maintenance of free passage for fish.	Impacts on this species will not arise
Otter		
3.4	Would the proposed project result in any interference with river banks within the SAC/SPA?	Impacts on this species will not arise
3.5	Would the proposed project result in increased levels of disturbance to the habitat of the Otter?	Impacts on this species will not arise

D) NPWS ADVICE:	
Summary of advice received from NPWS:	**N/A**

(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:
Screening concludes that : (Tick [√] the appropriate box A, B or C)

A) Appropriate Assessment is not required because the project is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site. **B) No potential for significant effects therefore Appropriate Assessment is not required.** **C) Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging or inappropriate.**			 √
Name:	**Frank Cussen**		
Position:	**Executive Engineer**	**Date:**	**22/02/2023**