

HABITATS DIRECTIVE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA) SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:

(a) File Reference No:	Part 8-Mill Road, Thurles
(b) Brief description of the project or plan:	See project description in Public notices and Project Reports
(c) Brief description of site characteristics:	Mill Rd, Thurles
(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted: e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW	None
(e) Response to consultation:	N/a

STEP 2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.

European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest ¹	Distance from proposed development ² (km)	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
Lower River Suir SAC	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002137	Within 15km	No	No

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:

Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/magnitude etc.)
<p>Construction phase e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation clearance • Demolition • Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) • Dust, noise, vibration • Lighting disturbance • Impact on groundwater/dewatering • Storage of excavated/construction materials • Access to site • Pests 	<p>No potential impacts of significance. Site removed from SAC and no direct impacts will occur.</p>

<p>Operational phase e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct emission to air and water • Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment • Lighting disturbance • Noise/vibration • Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction • Presence of people, vehicles and activities • Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) • Potential for accidents or incidents 	No potential impacts either direct or indirect.
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In-combination/Other	No potential impacts
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(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:

<p>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area • Disturbance to QI species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction or fragmentation in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.) • Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site 	None
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(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?

Yes No

STEP 4. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significance of effects:
 Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is **not likely** to have **significant** effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

On the basis of the information on file, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the proposed development,
- the proposed land use and distance from European sites,
- the lack of direct connections with regard to the Source-Pathway-Receptor model,

it is concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have significant effects on the above listed European sites or any other European site, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

Conclusion:

	Tick as Appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on a European site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate assessment not required.
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request further information to complete screening <input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
(iii) Significant effects are likely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:	<i>Thomas Duffy</i>	Date: 16.05.24

EIA PRE-SCREENING	
Establishing a development is a 'sub-threshold development'	
File Reference:	Part 8-Mill Road, Thurles
Development Summary:	See project description in Public notices and Project Reports
Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, no further action required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Proceed to Part A
A. Schedule 5 Part 1 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 1 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify class	EIA is mandatory
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	No Screening required Proceed to Part B
B. Schedule 5 Part 2 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and does it meet/exceed the thresholds? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2	No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 and meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold):	EIA is mandatory No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is of a type listed but is <i>sub-threshold</i> : <u>Class 10 (b) (iv)</u> The proposal is significantly below the mandatory threshold.	Proceed to Part C
C. If Yes , has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant	Screening Determination required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant	Preliminary Examination required

EIA PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:

The Planning Authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.

	Comment:	Yes/No/ Uncertain:
<p>Nature of the development: <i>Is the nature of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in significant emissions or pollutants?</i></p>		No.
<p>Size of the development: <i>Is the size of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Are there cumulative considerations having regard to other existing and/or permitted projects?</i></p>		No.
<p>Location: <i>Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or does it have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?</i></p> <p><i>Does the proposed development have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?</i></p>		No.

Preliminary Examination Conclusion:

Based on a preliminary examination of the **nature, size or location** of the development. (Tick as appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>EIA is not required.</p>	<p>There is real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>An EIAR is required.</p>	<p>There is significant and realistic doubt regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Request the applicant to submit the Information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination.</p> <p>Proceed to Screening Determination.</p>

