

Appendix A: AA/EIA Screening Reports

HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Part 8 Ref:

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:	
Site location:	Stereame, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Proposed development:	Development of a Digital Hub on 1.12 Ha of vacant land in Stereame Business Park.
Site size:	1.12Ha site
Floor Area of Proposed Development:	1240.83m ² (consisting of ground floor 636.14m ² , first floor 539.70m ² and second floor 64.99 m ²)
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITE(S):	
Natura 2000 site(s) within 15km and distance to same:	The subject site is not within any protected habitats. There are no protected areas within 5km of the site. The nearest Natura 2000 site is the Lough Derg SPA (Site Code: 004058) which is approximately 6km to the north-west of the proposed development. Lough Derg is also the nearest pNHA to the site. The Silvermine Mountains West SAC (Site Code: 002258), Silvermine Mountains SAC (Site Code: 000939) and Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA (Site Code: 004165) are located over 8km to the south of the proposed site. The Lower River Shannon SAC (002165) is 11km south of the site. Bollinbrook Hill SAC (002124) is 10 km south and Lough Derg North – east Shore SAC (002241) is c 9.7km North of the site.
Sites within the zone of influence:	
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)	<p><i>This section is to be completed with respect to the Natura 2000 site within the zone of influence</i></p> <p>A separate ‘Screening for Appropriate Assessment’ has been prepared and this did not identify the requirement to prepare an Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>There would be no direct impacts arising from the construction phase of the proposed development that would have the potential to impact the Natura 2000 network. The proposed development is entirely located outside the of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>It is considered that there is no potential for construction phase run- off or dust impacts to arise that could affect the Natura 2000 network. The stream located c. 290m east is separated from the site by the Stereame Centre, c. 5.9km from the Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA which is the closest Natura 2000 site, and there are no drains or watercourses on the site. Therefore there is no potential for dust or run off impacts to arise. The site itself is located on an ‘Extremely Vulnerable’ area of groundwater and therefore there is the potential for local groundwater contamination. However, it is considered that this be a local issue and not one that would concern impacts on the Natura 2000 network due to distance. There is no potential for invasive species impacts to affect the</p>

	Natura 2000 network at a distance of 5.9km and again would be a local issue. A review of documents available for the Nenagh WWTP is provided in the current report. A NIS was completed for the plant which noted assimilation capacity in the Nenagh River, as well as an Annual Environmental Report noting that the plant is operating under capacity. The proposed development will include for a connection to the WWTP which discharges to the Nenagh River, c.10.7rkm upstream of the Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA.
Key Environmental conditions to support integrity.	In the current project the following "mitigation incorporated into the project design to reduce, avoid or offset significant adverse impacts" will be provided:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) • A Construction Waste Management Plan (CWMP)

(C) POSSIBLE IMPACTS ARISING FROM THE PROJECT:		
Consider the potential for direct impacts on habitats <i>Consider proposed developments within 200m of the SAC/SPA</i>		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 <i>Consider all proposed developments within the catchment of the SAC/SPA</i>		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 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.	No
2.3	Would the proposed project require an industrial waste	No

	water discharge license? If yes, consider the potential impacts of the discharge on water quality in the SAC/SPA.	
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?	Yes
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
<i>Freshwater Pearl Mussel</i>		
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.	Yes
<i>Freshwater Crayfish</i>		
3.2	Protection of this species will be achieved by the protection of river habitats (see section 1 above).	Yes
<i>Fish species including Salmon, Lamprey spp. and Twaite Shad</i>		
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.	Yes
<i>Otter</i>		
3.4	Would the proposed project result in any interference with river banks within the SAC/SPA?	No
3.5	Would the proposed project result in increased levels of disturbance to the habitat of the Otter?	No
<i>Bats</i>		
3.6	Would the proposed project involve the removal of trees, hedgerow or woodland?	No
3.7	Does the proposed project involve the repointing of old bridges or the restoration or demolition of old buildings or other structures?	No

D) NPWS ADVICE:

Summary of advice received from NPWS:

(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:

Screening concludes that : (Tick [✓] the appropriate box A, B or C)

<p>A) Appropriate Assessment is not required because the project is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.</p>		
<p>B) No potential for significant effects therefore Appropriate Assessment is not required.</p>		X
<p>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.</p>		
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Position:	Senior Exec Engineer	Date: 09/07/20

