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2025

**Mullingar Regional Sports Complex –  
Robinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath  
Appropriate Assessment Screening  
Report**



Ionad Spóirt Réigiúnach  
an Mhuilinn Chearr

Mullingar Regional  
Sports Complex

## Mullingar Regional Sports Complex, Robinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

### Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

#### Document Control Sheet

<b>Client:</b>	Westmeath County Council
<b>Document No:</b>	231188-ORS-XX-XX-RP-EN-13d-010

Revision	Status	Author:	Reviewed by:	Approved By:	Issue Date
P01	DRAFT	LaM	SB	LM	28/02/2025
P02	S2	LaM	JW	LM	27/06/2025

A World-Class Multidisciplinary Building Consultancy

Mullingar Regional Sports Complex, Robinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) requires that all plans and projects be screened for potential impacts upon Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The aim of this screening process is to establish whether a full Appropriate Assessment of the proposed plan or project is necessary.

The development consists of a regional sports complex located at Robinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. A full description of the development is provided in **Section 3.1**. A comprehensive assessment of the potential significant effects of the development on 10no. designated sites (listed below in **Section 3.4**) was carried out by Larry Manning, BSc (hons), of ORS Building Consultants. This report will allow the relevant competent authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment as required under the Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) regarding Appropriate Assessment, this screening exercise was carried out to identify whether any significant impacts on designated sites are likely. This exercise will also determine the appropriateness of the proposed project, in the context of the conservation status of the designated sites.

## 1.2 Regulatory Context

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC) recognises that certain species of birds should be subject to special conservation measures concerning their habitats. The Directive requires that Member States take measures to classify the most suitable areas as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive. SPAs are selected for bird species (listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive), that are regularly occurring populations of migratory bird species, and the SPA areas are of international importance for these migratory birds.

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that Member States designate and ensure that particular protection is given to sites (Special Areas of Conservation) which are made up of or support particular habitats and species listed in annexes to this Directive.

**Articles 6(3) and 6(4)** of this Directive also call for the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment for plans and projects not directly connected with or necessary to the management of, but which are likely to have a significant effect on any European designated sites (i.e. SACs and SPAs). This is explained in greater detail in the following **Section 1.3**.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC), which came into force in December 2000, establishes a framework for community action in the field of water policy. The WFD was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003). The WFD rationalises and updates existing legislation and provides for water management based on River Basin Districts (RBDs). RBDs are essentially administrative areas for coordinated water management and are comprised of multiple river basins (or catchments), with cross-border basins (i.e. those covering the territory of more than one Member State) assigned to an international RBD. The aim of the WFD is to ensure that waters achieve at least

good status by 2027, and that the status does not deteriorate in any waters.

### 1.3 Appropriate Assessment and the Habitats Directive

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora – the ‘Habitats Directive’ - provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

**Articles 6(3) and 6(4)** of the Habitats Directive sets out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. **Article 6(3)** establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

*“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”*

**Article 6(4)** deals with the steps that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of appropriate assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

**Article 6(4)** states:

*“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the member states shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.”*

*Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”*

### 1.4 The Appropriate Assessment Process

The aim of Appropriate Assessment is to assess the implications of a proposal in respect of a designated site’s conservation objectives.

The 'Appropriate Assessment' itself is an assessment which must be carried out by the competent authority which confirms whether the plan or project in combination with other plans and projects will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority as set out in Section 177U (1) and (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) as follows:

1. A screening for appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.
2. A competent authority shall carry out a screening for appropriate assessment under subsection (1) before -
  - a. a Land use plan is made including, where appropriate, before a decision on appeal in relation to a draft strategic development zone is made, or
  - b. consent for a proposed development is given.

The competent authority shall determine that an Appropriate Assessment is not required if it can be excluded, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or project will have a significant effect on a European site. Where the competent authority cannot exclude the potential for a significant effect on a European site, an Appropriate Assessment shall be deemed required.

Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment Report (Natura Impact Statement (NIS)) should enable the competent authority to ascertain whether the plan or proposed development would adversely affect the integrity of the European site. If adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site cannot be avoided, then measures should be applied during the appropriate assessment process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site remain. Under the terms of the Habitats Directive consent can only be granted for a project if, as a result of the appropriate assessment either:

- a. it is concluded that the integrity of any European sites will not be adversely affected, or
- b. after mitigation, where adverse impacts cannot be excluded, there is shown to be an absence of alternative solutions, and there exists imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project should go ahead.

Section 177(V) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) outlines that the competent authority shall carry out the Appropriate Assessment, taking into account the Natura Impact Statement (amongst any other additional or supplemental information). A determination shall then be made by the competent authority in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether the plan or proposed development would adversely affect the integrity of a European site, prior to consent being given.

## 2 AA Screening Methodology

### 2.1 Appropriate Assessment Screening

This Statement of Screening for Appropriate Assessment (Stage 1) has been prepared with reference to the following:

- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC*. European Commission (2018).
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. European Commission (2021).
- *Nature and Biodiversity Cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice*. European Commission (2006).
- *Clarification of the Concepts of: Alternative Solution, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission*. European Commission (2007).
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009).
- *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, OPR Practice Note PN01, 2021*

The EC Guidance sets out a number of principles as how to approach decision making during the process. The primary one is 'the precautionary principle' which requires that the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 should prevail where there is uncertainty.

When considering the precautionary principle, the emphasis for assessment should be on objectively demonstrating with supporting evidence that:

- There will be no significant effects on a Natura 2000 site.
- There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.
- There is an absence of alternatives to the project or plan that is likely to have an adverse effect to the integrity of a Natura 2000 site and,
- There are compensation measures that maintain or enhance the overall coherence of Natura 2000.

This translates into a four-stage process to assess the impacts, on a designated site or species, of a policy or proposal.

The EC Guidance states that "*each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required*". Consequently, the Council may not need to proceed through all four stages in undertaking the Appropriate Assessment

The four-stage process involves:

**Stage 1: Screening** – The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether or not these impacts are likely to be significant.

**Stage 2: Natura Impact Statement** – The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

**Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions** – The process which examines alternative ways of achieving objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

**Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain** – An assessment of the compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

In complying with the obligations set out in Articles 6(3) and following the guidelines described above, this screening statement has been structured as a stage-by-stage approach as follows:

- Description of the proposed project.
- Identification of the Natura 2000 sites close to the proposed development.
- Identification and description of any individual and cumulative impacts on the Natura 2000 sites likely to result from the project.
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on-site integrity. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects.
- Description of proven mitigation measures.

## 2.2 Statement of Competency

This AA Screening report was carried out by Larry Manning BSc (Hons). Larry has an honours degree in Applied Freshwater and Biology from GMIT (ATU) Galway, where he gained an education in ecology and environmental management. Larry has worked on a wide variety of ecological assessments and habitat/species management surveys, including working as a consultant MMO for the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Consulting, taking a lead role in marine engineering projects and overseeing regulatory compliance. He has extensive experience in the field of fisheries monitoring and research both in North Atlantic waters and in Antarctic waters for CAMMLR representing the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands government.

The author has worked as a fisheries scientist for the Marine Institute since 2017 on research projects, species management plans, and fisheries species-specific population analysis. While working in the Fisheries Ecosystem Advisory Service at the Marine Institute, Larry engaged with the fishing fleet directly while data gathering at sea on trawlers and played a vital role in gathering sensitive data pertaining to national catch quotas and landings obligations relevant to current regulations. Larry also has experience in implementing company strategy for offshore hydrographic and geophysical surveys in line with current legislation for Offshore windfarm development. During seismic surveys the author was employed as an offshore fisheries liaison officer which required in depth knowledge of regulatory frameworks to ensure the fishing fleet, the survey company, and the ships officers of the watch were all compliant and safe during highly complex and dynamic operations. The author also works as an ornithologist and provides habitat and species assessments for terrestrial infrastructure developments.

## 2.3 Desktop Studies & Consultation

Information regarding the site of the proposed development and its environs was studied prior to the completion of this statement. The following data sources were accessed to complete a thorough examination of potential impacts:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service - Aerial photographs and maps of designated sites, information on habitats and species within these sites and information on protected plant or animal species, conservation objectives, site synopses and standard data forms for relevant designated sites.
- NPWS Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities, 10 December 2009 (as revised 11 February 2010).
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites (2001)
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive (2018).
- NPWS (2013). The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland.
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- Information pertaining to water quality, geology and licensed facilities within the area.
- Myplan.ie – Map-based information.
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) – Information pertaining to protected plant and animal species within the study area.
- National Planning Application Database.
- EPA Online Maps
- Bing maps & Google Street View – High quality aerials and street images.

Inland Fisheries Ireland were consulted to discuss potential implications of the proposed project on the adjacent River Brosna. At time of writing, they are to carry out a visit to the site and provide recommendations thereafter.

## 2.4 Assessment Methodology

The proposed development was assessed to identify its potential ecological impacts and from this, the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposed development was defined. Based on the potential impacts and their Zoi, the Natura 2000 sites potentially at risk from direct, indirect, or in-combination impacts were identified. The assessment considered all potential impact sources and pathways connecting the proposed development to Natura 2000 sites, in view of the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the site's Qualifying Interests (QIs) or Special Conservation Interests (SCIs).

The conservation objectives relating to each Natura 2000 site and its QIs/SCIs are cited generally for SACs as *"to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected"*, and for SPAs *"to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA"*.

As defined in the Habitat's Directive, the favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:



- Its natural range and area it covers within that range is stable or increasing.
- 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.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- The 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.
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future.
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Where site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a European site, these include a series of specific attributes and targets against which effects on conservation condition, or integrity, can be measured. Where potential significant effects are identified, then these SSCO should be considered in detail.

## 3 Site Details

### 3.1 Project Description

Following a site assessment study, it was determined that a dual site approach was the preferred option for the Mullingar Sports Complex, with amenities such as a swimming pool and tennis courts being sited more centrally in the town, whilst the use of this Robinstown site (ITM Coordinates: 644387, 753896) facilitates a superior scale of outdoor facilities than originally envisaged.

The proposed development at Robinstown occurs on a site of *ca.* 7.97ha and consists of a single-storey community-based, multi-sport facility, including:

- 3no. dedicated indoor training spaces.
- Changing and ancillary facilities, including meeting room, staff office, storage, WCs, plant room.
- External works to include 3no. all-purpose, all-weather pitches, 4no. padel courts and 1no. basketball court, walking trail, playground, ESB substation, landscaped entrance plaza, 2no. ground maintenance sheds, car/bus/bike parking facilities, pedestrian/cycle/vehicle routes.
- Ancillary works as required.

The main site entry is at the Southwestern parcel of the site, traveling Northwest on Robinstown Road. This entry utilises an existing entrance previously developed for this land. The building is located to the South of this site in a Northwest orientation with a set-down for buses included to the front of the building. Vehicular access is contained within this parcel of land, with parking provided adjacent to the building. An All-weather pitch, children's play provision and Ground Maintenance shed are all located on this parcel of land. An occasional access route to the Northwest of the building crosses the existing culvert and connects these two parcels of land. On the Northwestern site, an All-weather pitch, 4no. padel tennis courts and a basketball court are proposed. A walking trail unifies both parcels of land with adult exercise equipment dispersed on the radial route.

At the existing pedestrian crossing on Robinstown Road, provision is made for the walking trail to continue to the Northern parcel of land, where overflow bus parking is accommodated. Allowance is made for a future All-Weather pitch on this site

The potential effects have been assessed and best construction practices being implemented will ensure no likely effects will occur. In depth consultation at the design phase has ensured that no in-stream works will take place and no infringement within a specified boundary (10-meter buffer zone) either side of the River Brosna riparian zone which runs through the proposed development site at Robinstown. The construction phase and design elements will adhere to guidelines published in "*Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate / Flood Risk and Recreational Planning, A Guideline Developed by Inland Fisheries Ireland*", and "*Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters, Inland Fisheries Ireland 2016*". This project will also adhere to measures outlined in the accompanying Construction Environmental



Management Plan (CEMP) (Report Ref.: **231188-ORS-XX-XX-RP-EN-13d-012**).

The design of the proposed development has consideration to surface water management. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) objectives have been set out as part of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027. This County Development Plan states that “the Council will require that all developments incorporate ‘Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems’ (SuDS) as part of the development proposals. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are effective technologies which aim to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance biodiversity and amenity.”

The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) is the key guideline document used for the purpose of design of surface water drainage systems. GSDSDS provides a regional strategic approach to sustainable drainage in consistency with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The implementation of GSDSDS guidelines in the context the proposed development will aim to prevent the adverse impacts of discharging the resulting development runoff, which includes discharging pollutants, into existing watercourses. The other objective of working in accordance with the GSDSDS guidelines is to decrease the risk of flooding of the proposed development within the project’s footprint.

It is proposed to incorporate a variety of SuDS measures across the Robinstown site to address the four pillars of SuDS design including water quantity, water quality, amenity and biodiversity.

Given the nature of the development, a variety of measures will be included. Runoff to the roof will be directed to rainwater harvesting storage with an overflow to the below ground piped network. Interception and infiltration measures will be incorporated throughout the development. Permeable paving will be proposed for the car parking spaces. Natural percolation will be available at Robinstown to all permeable playing surfaces while positive drainage will be required to impermeable surfaces at the Robinstown site. Landscaping areas will be utilised to incorporate nature-based solutions such as filter strips, swales, tree pits and rain gardens.

Discharge of runoff off from the Robinstown site will be via outfalls to be constructed at open watercourses including the River Brosna and the open channel which cuts through the centre of the site. There is one existing surface water sewer identified on service records which will need to be diverted. This currently passes from the creche and ballcourt area south of the site, northwards through the southern end of the site and into the watercourse. It is proposed to divert this sewer inside the western site boundary

Discharge will be controlled via flow control devices to restrict flows to match pre-development greenfield runoff rates. Storage of excess run-off generated during the 1 in 100-year storm event incorporated. An allowance for 20% due to climate change is included in all attenuation volume calculations.

As surface water is to be collected from the roads and car parking areas with a low risk of spillage, a Class 1 Petrol/Oil Bypass Interceptor will be provided prior to discharge. All surface water shall be drained from impermeable areas through precast lockable gully traps.

A Greenfield run off rate of ca. 4.1 litres/second/hectare is anticipated for the Robinstown site.

This rate was calculated based on the method outlined in IH 124, with a Standard Average Annual Rainfall (SAAR) for Mullingar taken as 941mm and allowing for Soil Type 3 conditions with a mixture of permeable and impermeable soils in similar proportions.

Rainwater harvesting will be included in the stormwater management strategy. It is proposed to install a separate network of pipework for the collecting of rainwater within underground rainwater tanks. It is intended that a rainwater harvesting system will be utilised to collect rainwater from the roof of the development for use as grey water within the reception building for use in w/c's. The rainwater harvesting tanks will have an overflow outlet into a proposed surface water manhole which will then fall by gravity to the proposed attenuation tank located below the proposed car park, north of the building.

### 3.2 Site Location and Environs

The land-use in the area surrounding the site is largely agricultural where improved agricultural grassland is the dominant habitat locally. Other habitats represented locally include scrub, woodlands, hedgerows and sparse treelines. The proposed site is bounded by the Brosna River and a small ditch/tributary also runs through the middle of the site but is not recognised by the EPA, site survey undertaken to inform the AA Screening confirmed this to be a drainage ditch. The two nearest European sites are Lough Owel SAC at 3.15 Kilometres away, and Lough Ennell SPA which is approximately 4.68 Kilometres away, which the Brosna River flows into. The proposed site is next to Mullingar FC football pitch, and approximately 145 meters from Mullingar Shamrocks GAA Club. North and West of the site is comprised of agricultural lands in the immediate vicinity. Areas South, Southwest and West are situated at distances of 46.95m, 455.69m and 593.90m respectively.

The L1709 link road from the N52 to Robinstown runs through the middle of the two Northernmost fields of the proposed development. The Royal Canal lies ca. 500 meters Southwest of the proposed development. The Mullingar Bypass is ca. 1.05 kilometres from the Eastern edge of the site and before the bypass, there is an area of woodland approximately 688 meters from the site.

The development will be contained within the plot of land outline in **Figure 3.1**. The plot is made up of grasses and rushes and semi-improved agricultural fields.

The road running through the proposed site represents built habitat and artificial surfaces. There are hedgerows and small stands of trees nearby, specifically along the banks of the river Brosna. EPA data confirms the river has a WFD status of Poor, and a Q-Value score of 3. There is no EPA data for the drainage ditch which runs perpendicular to the two Northernmost fields of the proposed site. Laughs and Giggles Childcare business is situated on the adjoining land at the Southeastern corner of the site.

The site location and environs is presented in **Figure 3.1 (a) and (b)** overleaf.



Figure 3.1(a): Proposed development layout at Robinstown site (HJL Architects)

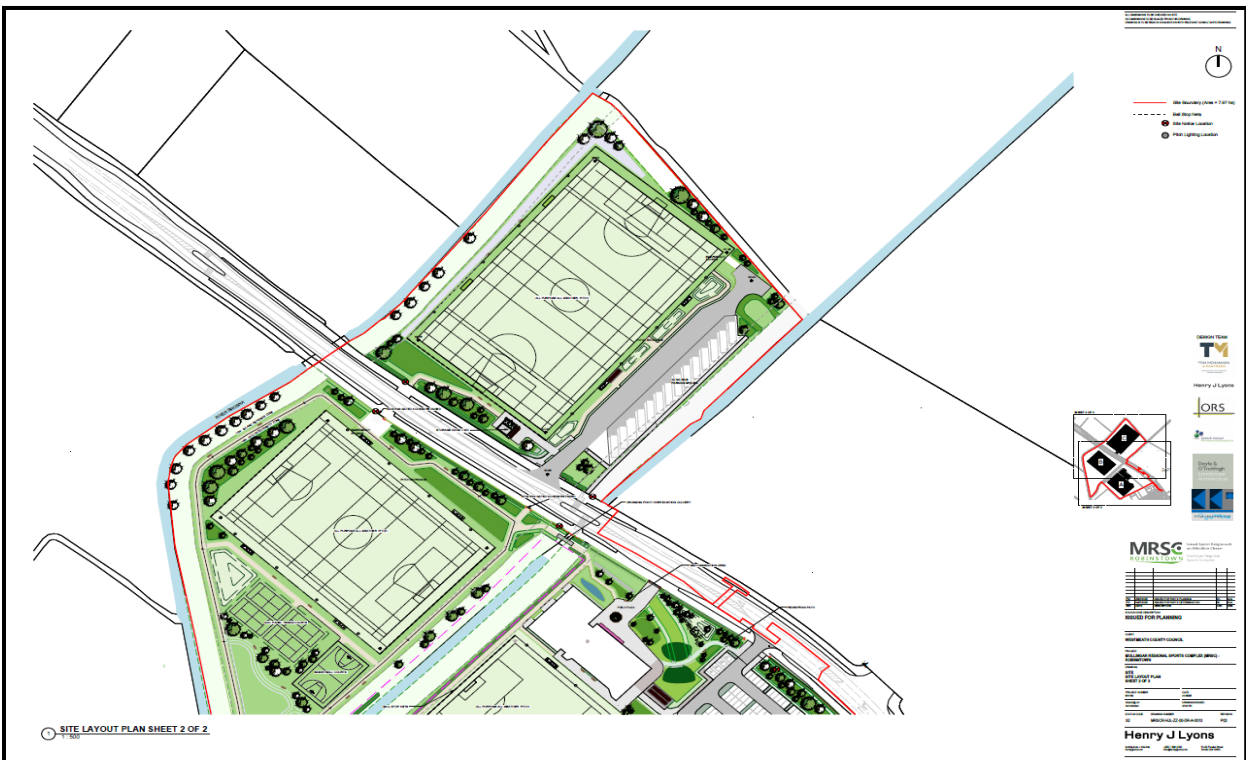


Figure 3.3(b): Proposed development layout at Robinstown site (HJL Architects)

### 3.3 Environmental Considerations

#### 3.3.1 Topography

A topographical survey was carried out by ORS for the Robinstown site on behalf of the design team, see Civil Engineering Planning report (231188-ORS-Z1-XX-RP-C-13a-001). The ground levels across the site typically fall from higher levels in the south of 94.70m OD to 90.70m OD in the north, adjacent to the River Brosna. In general, the southern end of the site, south of the watercourse is higher than other areas and this appears to be due to the reworked Made Ground placed there. The level of the link road passing through the site is above the level of the site by approximately 0.5m.

#### 3.3.2 Hydrology

The proposed site is located within the WFD catchment 25A – Lower Shannon and sub-catchment BROSNA\_SC\_010. The principal hydrological feature within the vicinity of the site consists of the River Brosna (EPA name: BROSNA\_020) which runs directly adjacent to the north and west of the Robinstown site. An open channel / drainage ditch connecting to the river Brosna divides the western side of the site in two. The Royal Canal is located ca. 500m southwest of the Robinstown site. The Arterial Drainage Scheme channel C45(12) runs through the Robinstown site and the whole site itself is located on land benefitting from this drainage artery.

Regarding the Water Framework Directive and the status of the river and canal waterbodies in this area, stated from the EPA maps, the River Brosna has a WFD status of “Poor” and is “At Risk” in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. This indicates the rivers ecological status and chemical status are poor. In relation to the nearest canal waterbodies, the Royal Canal Main Line (Lower Shannon) possesses a WFD status of “Good” and the Risk Level is “Under Review”. The Cycle 3 HA 25A Lower Shannon Catchment Report, May 2024, states the main pressures on the Brosna\_020 waterbody occur due to Urban run-off and hydromorphological changes e.g. channelisation, damming, urban development, that ultimately disrupt the flow and storage ability of the water body.

Taking the scale and nature of the proposed development into consideration, only waterbodies within a 1km radius of the site were considered as potential receptors and were included in this analysis. A summary of the nearest waterbodies can be found in **Table 2.1** below.

**Table 2.1:** Waterbodies in Proximity to Proposed Site

Waterbody	WFD Sub-basin Name	Code	Distance from Site	Direction from Site
River Brosna	BROSNA_020	IE_SH_25B090006	North & Western Boundary	N & W
the Royal Canal Main Line (Lower Shannon)	SUIR_180	IE_25A_AWB_RCMLW	500m	SW

EPA Maps were also consulted to determine whether any WFD River Network Routes in the vicinity are designated as Salmonid Waters under *S.I. No. 293/1988 - European Communities*



*(Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988*. None of the nearby riverine waterbodies are included in this designation, meaning that no adverse impacts on salmonid habitats are anticipated from the site.

### **3.3.3 Geology & Hydrogeology**

Teagasc soil mapping indicates that the surface / quaternary sediments at the Robinstown site are classified as till derived from limestone on majority of the site. In the northeast extent the surface / quaternary sediments are described as cut over raised peat. The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) bedrock database indicates that soils of the proposed site are underlain at depth by the Lucan Formation, which consists of dark limestones and shale.

According to GSI groundwater maps, the site overlies a locally important aquifer. The groundwater vulnerability index at the site is classified as moderate. The hydrogeological setting at the site is described as moderate permeability subsoil overlain by well-drained soil. The groundwater vulnerability is based on the predicted time taken for a pollutant released to the ground at surface level to reach an aquifer, i.e. the ease at which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities.

No groundwater source protection zones or protected hydrological features such as holy wells or springs are located within the boundaries of the of the proposed site. The nearest source protection zone, the Ballivor public water scheme, is located *ca.* 25km east of the development. The nearest Drinking Water Surface Water Body is Lough Owel, located *ca.* 3.5km northwest of the development.

In 2008, a comprehensive site investigation and factual report (Ground Investigation Factual Report, Arup Consulting, Aug 08) was commissioned by Geotechnical and Environmental Services for the Robinstown site. The authors described two areas – Area 1 being to the north of the central open drain and Area 2 to the south of this drain. The key difference between the two areas is that a layer of Made Ground (re-worked clay) has been deposited over Area 2 to depths of 0.7 to 1.6m. In all areas, a layer of topsoil or peaty topsoil was encountered to depths ranging from 0.1 to 0.9m. In the area to the south of the central drain, as noted above, a layer of reworked clay is identified. Below this layer are Alluvial Deposits which then overlay Glacial Till.

ORS have also commissioned a detailed site investigation report for the ground within the boundaries of the Robinstown Site. Works were completed by IGSL, and a report was issued in November 2024.

Generally, the findings of the IGSL report are in line with the findings of the previous investigation. Ground conditions in the southern portion of the site are preferred to those in the norther two portions either side of the link road, both of which are adjacent to the River Brosna. Below the soft material, an allowable bearing capacity of 100kPa is tentatively given for foundation design which would be sufficient for traditional shallow foundations in the case of the dressing rooms to be constructed here. Bearing capacities increase with depth in all areas.

Finally, the site investigation noted elevated levels of landfill gases were found due to presence of made ground, peat and alluvial deposits. Methane and Carbon Dioxide are noted in the gas monitoring locations. This will need to be accounted for in the building design to ensure no build-up of gases can occur and this is standard practice under the building regulations.

### 3.4 Natura 2000 Sites Identified

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, a list of Natura 2000 sites within the vicinity of the proposed development have been identified and described according to their site synopsis, qualifying interests and conservation objectives. In addition, any other sites further than this, but potentially within its zone of influence were also considered. The zone of influence may be determined by an assessment of the connectivity between the application site and the designated areas by virtue of hydrological connectivity, atmospheric emissions, flight paths, ecological corridors, etc. The measurements used here are taken from the closest point along the proposed work area to the SAC / SPA.

For significant effects to arise, there must be a potential impact facilitated by having a source, i.e., the proposed development and activities arising out of its construction or operation, a receptor, i.e., the European site and its qualifying interests, and a subsequent pathway or connectivity between the source and receptor, e.g., a water course. The likelihood for significant effects on the European site will largely depend on the characteristics of the source (e.g., nature and scale of the construction works), the characteristics of the existing pathway and the characteristics of the receptor, e.g., the sensitivities of the Qualifying Interests (habitats or species) to changes in water quality.

Taking the scale and nature of the project in question and its proximity to ecologically sensitive sites, a Zol of 15km has been used for the purposes of this assessment.

There are 10 no. protected sites located within 15km of the subject site which are summarised in **Table 3.1**. A map showing their locations relative to the works is shown in **Figure 3.2**. A full description of the sites can be read on the website of the National Parks and Wildlife Service ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)).

Table 3.1: Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of Subject Site			
Site Name & Code	Distance & Direction from Site	Qualifying Interests	Screened In/Out
Lough Derravagh SPA (000684)	Located ca. 8.53 Km from site.	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and NHA, and there is no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC and NHA. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect the nearest SACs or SPAs over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the

			proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (002299)	Located ca. 11.1 Km from site.	<p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p>River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]</p> <p>Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p>	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC, and there is no source- pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect this SAC over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
Lough Iron SPA (004046)	Located ca. 9.78 Km from site.	<p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</p> <p>Wigeon (<i>Anas pEnnelope</i>) [A050]</p> <p>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</p> <p>Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SPA, and there is no source- pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SPA. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect this SPA over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
Scragh Bog SAC (000692)	Located ca. 4.65 Km from site.	<p>Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</p> <p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p><i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i></p>	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC, and there is no source- pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC. Therefore, significant

		(Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]	effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect this SAC over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
Lough Owel SAC (000688)	Located ca. 3.15 Km from site.	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]  Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]  Alkaline fens [7230]  White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092]	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and SPA, and there is no source- pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC and SPA. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect these SACs or SPAs over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
Lough Owel SPA (004047)	Located ca. 3.15 Km from site.	Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056]  Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125]  Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and SPA, and there is no source- pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC and SPA. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect these SACs or SPAs over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the

			proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
Wooddown Bog SAC (002205)	Located ca. 2.27 Km from site respectively.	Peatlands [4] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and NHA, and there is no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC and NHA. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect the nearest SACs or SPAs over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.
Lough Ennell SPA (004044)	Located ca. 4.68 Km from site.	Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<b>Screened Out.</b> There are watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and SPA, and there is a source- pathway-receptor linkage between the application site and this SPA. Due to the best practice construction procedures being implemented, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. Best practice construction procedures have been put in place and will prevent any soil erosion, deposition or bank erosion during the construction and operational phases.
Lough Ennell SAC (000685)	Located ca. 4.27 Km from site.	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Alkaline fens [7230]	<b>Screened Out.</b> There are watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and SPA, and there is a source- pathway-receptor linkage between the application site and this SAC. Due to the best practice construction procedures being implemented, significant effects upon any

			interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. Best practice construction procedures have been put in place and will prevent any soil erosion, deposition or bank erosion during the construction and operational phases.
Garriskil Bog SAC (000679)	Located ca. 14.4km northwest from site.	<p>Active raised bogs [7110]</p> <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]</p>	<b>Screened out.</b> There are no watercourses within the proposed area of works that connect to this SAC and NHA, and there is no source-pathway-receptor linkages between the application site and this SAC and NHA. Therefore, significant effects upon any interconnected watercourses can be ruled out. Additionally, the distance of the development to this European site is great enough to be unaffected by this type of mid-sized construction and will not affect the nearest SACs or SPAs over the long term or during the construction phase. Protected Groundwater Sources are not within the immediate vicinity of the proposed developments. There will be no disturbance to qualifying interests or negative effects on European sites within 15 kilometres.

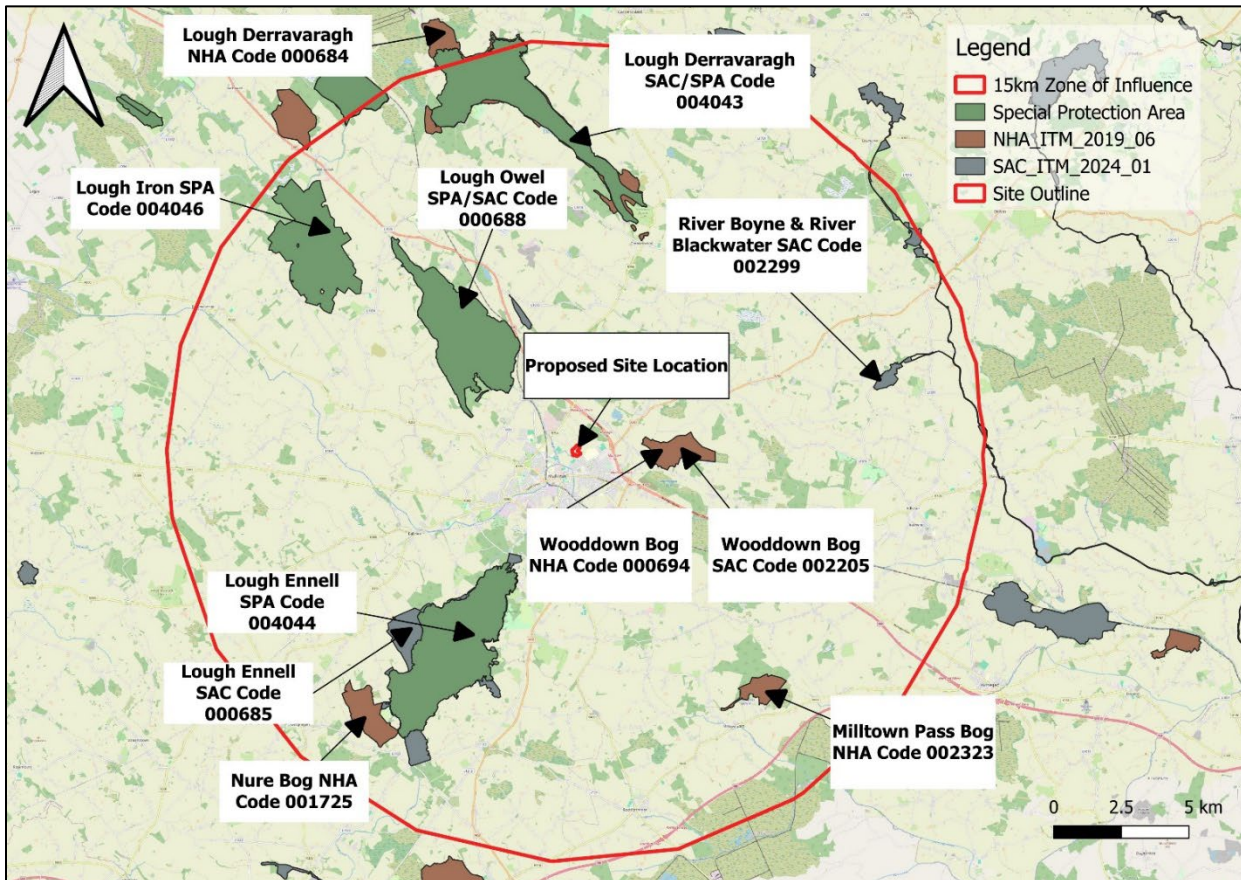


Figure 3.2: Natura 2000 sites within a 15km Zone of Influence of the proposed development.

### 3.5 Natura 2000 Impact Assessment

The potential significant effects of the proposed development on the Natura 2000 sites identified are described below in **Table 3.2**.

**Table 3.2: Natura 2000 Threshold Levels**

**Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on nearby Natura 2000 site:**

The proposed regional sports complex proposed at Robinstown, Mullingar, County Westmeath will involve the development of 3no. dedicated indoor training spaces, changing and ancillary facilities, including meeting room, staff office, storage, WCs, plant room, external works to include 3no. all-purpose, all-weather pitches, 4no. padel courts and 1no. basketball court, walking trail, playground ESB substation, landscaped entrance plaza, 2no. ground maintenance sheds, car/bus/bike parking facilities, pedestrian/cycle/vehicle routes, and all ancillary works as required.

The proposed works take place adjacent the River Brosna which flows into the Lough Ennell SAC/SPA over 4km southwest of the subject site. While this serves as a potential source-pathway-receptor linkage, the subject development is supported by a dedicated Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Report Ref.: **231188-ORS-XX-XX-RP-EN-13d-012**) which will ensure that best practice construction procedures for the prevention of emissions from site are implemented.

**Describe any likely direct, indirect, or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the nearby Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:**

**Size and scale:** Having regards to the medium size and scale of the development in relation to the overall size of the designated sites identified, the likelihood of any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on the designated sites identified is considered to be negligible.

**Land-take:** There will be no land-take from any designated site. There will be no interference with the boundaries of any designated site.

**Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site:** There are 10 Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the application site. The three closest of these are Lough Owel SPA and SAC (000688) at 3.15 Km, and Wooddown Bog SAC (002205) located ca. 2.27 Km and 3.48 Km from the site respectively and Lough Ennell SAC & SPA (000685) & (004044) located 4.27 Km from the site. A hydrological connection to Lough Ennell is established via the River Brosna.

**Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.):** No resources will be taken from any European site and there are no resource requirements that will impact upon any designated site.

**Emissions:** Generation of contaminants on site will be avoided by means of best practice procedures and measures outlined in the project CEMP (Report Ref.: **231188-ORS-XX-XX-RP-EN-13d-012**). IFI have also been consulted to provide advice for working adjacent the River Brosna. The project will implement sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to control surface water runoff during the development phase. Significant effects upon the Lough Ennell SPA and SAC European site arising from emissions into water are considered unlikely when taking into account the best practice construction procedures to be implemented as part of the proposal.

**Excavation requirements:** Excavations will be required on site as part of ground works and building foundations. Generation of silt and sediment will be controlled with adequate management measures within the CEMP to ensure excessive runoff is avoided.

**Transportation requirements:** There will be an increase in construction-related traffic during development phase. This rise in traffic is not expected to result in significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites identified.

**In-Combination / Cumulative Impacts:** The proposed application was considered in combination with other developments or proposed developments in the general Mullingar area and potential cumulative impacts were considered. Granted planning applications of a relatively large scale in the vicinity of the proposed site were assessed for the potential for in-combination effects upon Natura sites to occur. Relevant projects are listed below.

**Annebrook House Hotel, Pearse Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91YH2F  
Planning Ref 2460035**

Permission for development which will consist of demolition of existing premises at No.7 Pearse Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and provision of new 4 storey extension to existing Annebrook House Hotel (a protected structure - RPS Reference No.019/118) to consist of new restaurant/bistro, new breakfast room, reception area extended bar area, ancillary rooms and 60 number bedrooms with new internal alterations to the adjoining premises at No.9 Pearse Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath (a protected structure - RPS Reference No.019/117) to include new connection to hotel, new single storey extension to rear, external alterations and all associated site works.

**In-combination effects:** Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was carried out for this development which will minimize any potential effects on Natura 2000 sites determined to have connectivity with the project. In-combination effects are not deemed likely.

**Robinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath  
Planning Ref 2460422**

Development which will consist of:

1. Construction of 3 no. new all-weather playing pitches with associated flood lighting, ball stop nets and dug-outs,
2. Construction of a new walking track with flood lighting,
3. A new entrance from the Robinstown Road and,

4. Boundary treatments, car parking and all associated site works

**In-combination effects:** Screening for appropriate assessment will be required ahead of proposed works commencing. Considering the implementation of best practice measures, in-combination effects are not considered likely.

**Residential Healthcare Unit, St Loman's, Delvin Road  
Planning Ref 206154**

Refurbishment of existing canopy and colonnade and the demolition and reconstruction of the existing glazed accommodation to the front of building at the residential Healthcare unit and all associated site development works. The proposed development consists of works to a protected structure

**In-combination effects:** The subject development is not considered to be of a substantial scale to result in any in-combination effects occurring.

**St.Colemans National School, Bellview, Delvin Road, Mullingar  
Planning Ref 186166**

Construct a 142sqm single store extension at the southeastern side of the existing school comprising of a 80sqm classroom with en-suite toilets, 2 x 15sqm resource rooms and circulation space. A separate 10.5sqm assisted toilet in the covered courtyard. Connect to the existing drainage and all associated works including internal alterations and site works.

**In-combination effects:** This development lies sufficient distance from the River Brosna for significant in-combination effects to be considered unlikely.

**Saint Loman's Lakepoint Park, Delvin Road, Mullingar  
Planning Ref 21293**

Permission for extending the sports development, the proposed development consists of the construction of a full size Gaelic football pitch with a spectator stand, upgrading of the existing training pitch and for the installation of 14 LED pitch flood lighting with supporting masts extending to a maximum height of 21 Meters around pitches, permission is also sought to construct the following (a) landscaping of soft areas as outlined on drawings, (b) to construct new walkways around pitches 6meters in width and measuring approximately 1026 meters in length with installation of 51 single walkway lighting units with a maximum height of 4.5meters and for the importation of fill and topsoil to achieve a height of not more than 1.3 meters above average existing ground levels, (c) to erect a 2 meter high security fence around main boundaries of the development and pitch railing around the perimeter of the proposed pitches and all associated site works.

**In-combination effects:** This development lies sufficient distance from the River Brosna for significant in-combination effects to be considered unlikely.

**Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc:** Works are estimated to take 12-24 months.

**Describe any likely changes to the nearby Natura 2000 sites arising as a result of:**

**Reduction of habitat area:** The proposed development lies outside the boundaries of the European sites identified in **Section 3.3**. There will be no reduction of designated habitat area within any SAC or SPA. There will be no impacts upon the habitat qualifying interests or Species of Scientific Interest of any designated site regarding this factor. There will be no interference with the boundaries of any European site.

**Disturbance to key species:** There will be no disturbance to any key species protected under the EU Habitats Directive or EU Birds Directive.

**Reduction in species density:** There will be no likely reduction in species density.

**Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.):** There will be no likely changes to water quality in terms of sedimentation or water chemistry that would otherwise have short- and long-term effects.

<b>Describe any likely impacts on the nearby Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of:</b>
<b>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site:</b> In due consideration of the precautionary principle, effects upon the Lough Ennell SAC/SPA are not considered likely.
<b>Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</b>
<b>Loss - Estimated percentage of lost area of habitat:</b> None likely <b>Fragmentation:</b> None likely <b>Disruption &amp; disturbance:</b> None likely <b>Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.):</b> None likely or foreseen.

### 3.6 Finding of No Significant Effects

<b>Table 3.3: Significant Effects Report Matrix</b>	
<b>Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix</b>	
<b>Name and Description of project</b>	Mullingar Regional Sports Complex – Robinstown, Co. Westmeath
<b>Name and location of nearest Natura 2000 site</b>	Lough Ennell SPA and SAC (004044) and (000685) Located ca. 4.68 Km and 4.27 Km from site respectively.
<b>Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?</b>	No
<b>Are there other projects or plans that together with project being assessed could affect the site?</b>	No
<b>The Assessment of Significance of Effects</b>	
<b>Describe how the project is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site</b>	It is not envisaged that any negative impacts on the nearby Natura 2000 sites and their QI's SCI's or conservation objectives are likely to occur when considering the implementation of measures outlined in the project CEMP (Report Ref.: <b>231188-ORS-XX-XX-RP-EN-13d-012</b> ) which will be site-specific and ensure the prevention of pollutant emissions from site.
<b>Explain why these effects are not considered significant</b>	There are no potential or significant effects likely due to design phase best practice procedures incorporated into the construction and operational phase.
<b>Describe how the project is likely to affect species designated under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.</b>	Soil deposition and changes to water quality through particulate matter and changes in water chemistry would otherwise alter the life cycle of macro-invertebrates, microbial organisms, fish and birds if the current management measures were not addressed during the design phase. This would be the case if there were to be significant run-off from the construction and operational phase, and from bank destruction at the river Brosna where the development will take place. It is not foreseen that Annex II species will be affected when considering implementation of best practice and adherence to the

	project CEMP (Report Ref.: <b>231188-ORS-XX-XX-RP-EN-13d-012</b> ).
<b>Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment</b>	
<b>Who carried out the assessment</b>	Larry Manning, BSc (hons), Senior Ecologist
<b>Sources of data</b>	NPWS, EPA, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Westmeath County Council
<b>Level of assessment completed</b>	Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening
<b>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed</b>	Full results included

## 4 Conclusion

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the relevant case law, established best practice and the precautionary principle, this AA Screening Report has examined the details of the project in relation to the relevant Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the application site.



At this stage of the AA process, it is for the competent authority, i.e., Westmeath County Council, to carry out the screening for AA and to reach one of the following determinations:

1. AA of the proposed development is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites;
2. AA of the proposed development is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

It is of the opinion of the author that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIS) of the proposed development is *not* required as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information provided in this report, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, and will not have a significant effect on any European sites, namely the Lough Ennell SAC and SPA. It is therefore recommended that this project is screened out at Stage 1 of the Appropriate Assessment Process, and a stage 2 Natura Impact Statement is not required.



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