



# Ardmore Road Upgrading Scheme, Mullingar – Phase 2

## Part 8 Planning Application

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Westmeath County Council Transportation Department  
County Buildings, Mullingar  
Co Westmeath, N91 FH4N.

### Document Control Sheet

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## 1.0 Introduction

Westmeath County Council wish to apply for planning under Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

The Ardmore Road is a local primary road (L1133) within the development limits of Mullingar and linking the Dublin and Russellstown Roads. The land uses are mainly residential and agricultural with a mixture of single dwellings on their own plots fronting onto the road, interspersed with agricultural lands and three residential estates connecting onto the road.

The proposed Ardmore Road Upgrading Scheme (Phase 2) is included as an objective of the Ardmore/Marlinstown Framework Plan contained within the Mullingar Local Area Plan 2014 -2020. The Framework Plan provides for the development of a sustainable urban quarter at Ardmore/Marlinstown to accommodate a mixture of uses such as local shops, offices, schools, residential development, and public open space within a permeable urban structure. The character area map for the plan area is show in Figure 1.

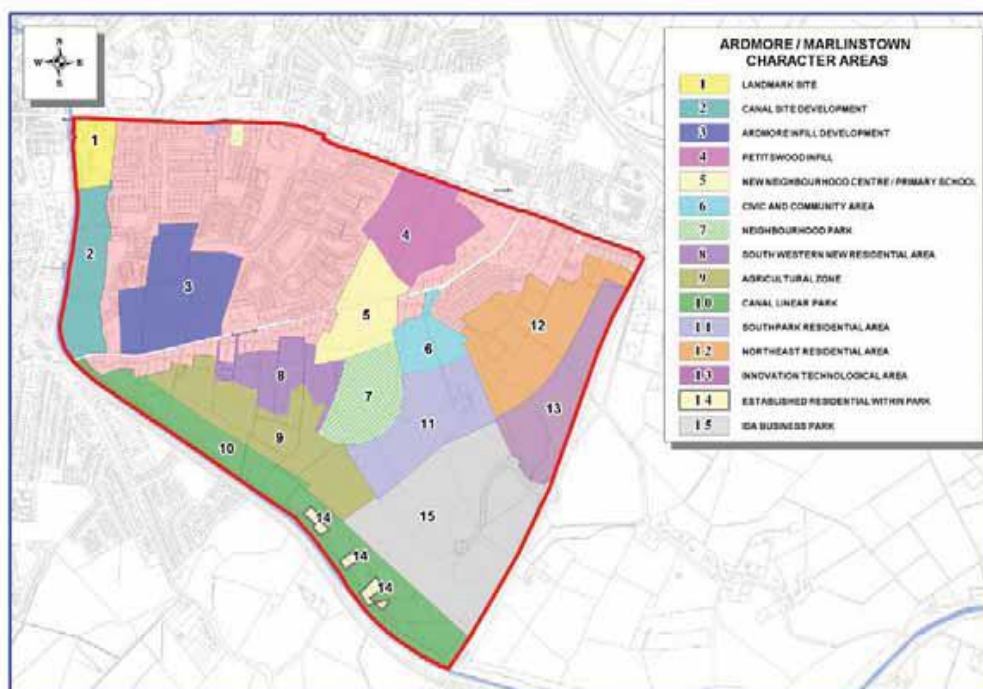
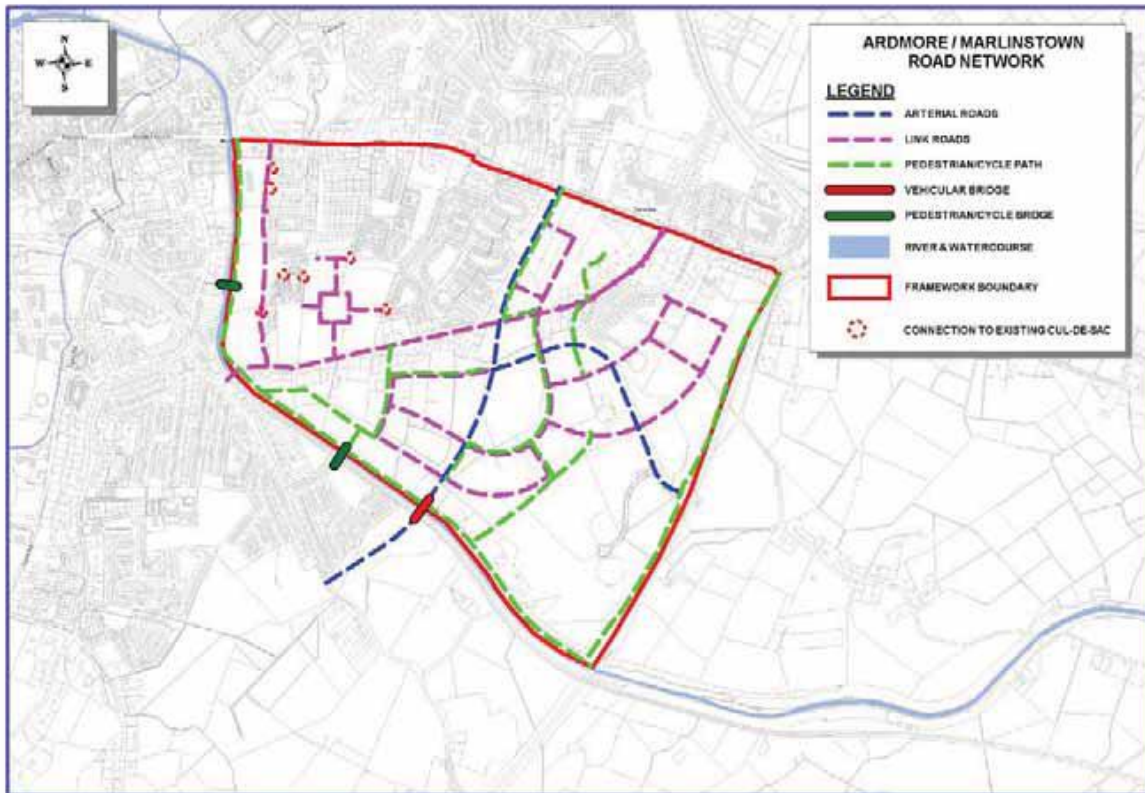


Figure 1: Ardmore/Marlinstown Character Area Map

## 2.0 Need

The Mullingar Local Area Plan provides for a proposed road network comprising of a hierarchy of arterial and link roads and the proposed road network is shown in Figure 2. The Ardmore Road is identified as a Link Road along the same line as currently existing.



**Figure 2: Ardmore/Marlinstown Road Network**

In order to support the implementation of the Plan objectives it is necessary to upgrade the Ardmore Road to accommodate all modes of transport including pedestrians, cyclists, as well as vehicular traffic. In particular, it is a requirement of the Mullingar Local Area Plan that the area shall be pedestrian/cycle friendly and allow for the safe movement of the more vulnerable road users (i.e. pedestrians, cyclists and mobility impaired).

Development works are complete for Curraghmore National School along the Ardmore Road and the school is now open and operational. The Part 8 process which was completed in relation to the school development requires that necessary improvement works along Ardmore Road be carried out in accordance with a programme including the following:

- Prior to opening the school: Provide footpath and cycle facilities along the south side of Ardmore Road (school side) from the Dublin Road to the school. Also provide a pedestrian/cyclist crossing to link the housing areas of Ardmore Close, Pettiswood Manor, Glenmore Wood, and Glen Pettit (and hence the Dublin Road) to the school site
- Within two years of the school opening: Provide a footpath and cycle track along the north side of Ardmore Road from Saunders Bridge to the school.
- Within four years of the school opening: Provide a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge beside the existing bridge crossing the railway line and Royal Canal at Saunders Bridge. Also provide a footpath and cycle track, along the north side of Ardmore Road from the Dublin Road to the school.

This report relates to the Part 8 process for Phase 2 of the necessary upgrading works i.e. to provide a footpath and cycleway along the north side of Ardmore Road from Saunders Bridge to the school. Proposals also include an increase in footpath width on the south side of Ardmore Road.

### **3.0 Site Location & Proposed Development**

The proposed footpath and cycleway is located in the townlands of Ballinderry and Pettiswood, on the south-eastern outskirts of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. A 6.0m metre-wide Road Carriageway is proposed. The proposed footpath and cycleway will provide pedestrians and cyclists with a safe pathway from Saunders Bridge to Ardmore Close estate and Curraghmore National School.

The scheme provides for a footpath and cycleway along the north side of the Ardmore Road with the following geometry;

- Chainage 0 to 20 - 3m shared cycleway and pedestrian lane
- Chainage 20 to 530 - 2m footpath + 3m cycleway
- Chainage 530 to 872.5 - 3m shared cycleway and pedestrian lane

On the south side of the Ardmore Road a 2m footpath will be provided along the entire length of the Phase 2 scheme.

## 4.0 Drawings

The following drawings outline the site location plan and proposed plans and cross sections:

Drawing No.	Drawing Title
1195-20-01	Site Extents Location Map
1195-20-02	Proposed Plans and Typical Cross Sections (Sheet 1 of 3)
1195-20-03	Proposed Plans and Typical Cross Sections (Sheet 2 of 3)
1195-20-04	Proposed Plans and Typical Cross Sections (Sheet 3 of 3)

## 5.0 Appropriate Assessment Screening

The initial Stage 1 Screening of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- a. Whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- b. If it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

The proposed scheme has undergone **Appropriate Assessment Screening** under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). A copy of the report, dated October 2020, is included with this Part 8 Planning Application. The report states ‘that the proposed development is not likely to give rise to significant effect, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on any European Natura 2000 Sites in the vicinity’. The following Natura sites are within 15km of the scheme and have been considered for the Appropriate Assessment Screening:

SiteCode	Name	Type	Distance From (km)
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	SAC	6.6
002299	River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC	SAC	11
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	SAC	3.0
000685	Lough Ennell SAC	SAC	2.9
000688	Lough Owel SAC	SAC	4.83
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	SPA	3.43
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	SPA	10.4
004046	Lough Iron SPA	SPA	11.1
004047	Lough Owel SPA	SPA	4.83

## **6.0 EIAR Screening Report & Ecological Report**

The proposed scheme has undergone screening for **Environmental Impact Assessment** under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU. The EIAR Screening report was carried out in October 2020 to identify whether there is a need under The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for an EIAR for the proposed works. The conclusion of the report states 'it is reasonable to conclude that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required in this instance.'

A copy of the report, dated October 2020, is included with this Part 8 Planning Application.

## **7.0 Protected Structures**

The proposed development is located adjacent to two number Protected Structures, namely, Canal Bridge - Saunder's Bridge (RPS 019-093 refers) and Railway Bridge - Saunder's Bridge (RPS 019-094 refers).

The proposed construction will take place to the east of these structures and will have no direct impact on either structure.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

The recommended carriageway, footpath and cycleway facilities is consistent with the development objectives of the Mullingar Local Area Plan and the Part 8 Planning Conditions of Curraghmore National School.



**Appendix A - Determination on Part 8 (AA and EIA Screening)**

# Part 8 MEMO

<b>To:</b>	Pat Keating District Manager
<b>From:</b>	Cathaldus Hartin, Senior Planner
<b>Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Determination on Part 8 Footpath and Cycle Track, Ardmore Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

## 1. Project Description

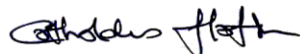
Westmeath County Council proposes to carry out works comprising of the provision of a footpath and cycle track along the north side of Ardmore Road and provision and upgrading of footpath, where required along the south side of the Ardmore Road from the Saunders Bridge over a distance of approximately 950 metres, in accordance with a detailed design prepared by Westmeath County Council.

## Recommendation

Having reviewed the preliminary documentation associated with the above named proposed works at Ardmore Road, Mullingar and in the consideration of this application in accordance with the Part 8 approved for a Pedestrian Cycleway Bridge Saunders Bridge (LA(M)-119 it is considered, based on a preliminary assessment, that a **Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** are **not** required at this time.

It is recommended that the project proceed to detailed application design in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended), based on which the Planning Section will issue final determinations.

Considerations are set out as per the associate headings hereunder.



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Cathaldus Hartin | Senior Planner

Westmeath County Council | Planning, Transportation and Economic Development  
05 October 2020

# Part 8 MEMO

## 2. Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Stage 1 Preliminary Examination

### 2.1 Legislative Context

The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 which transpose into Irish law both the European Union (EU) Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and the Habitats Directive and list habitats and species that are of international conservation importance and require protection. This protection is afforded in part through the designation of areas that represent significant examples of habitats that support populations of listed species within a European context, known as Natura 2000 sites. An area designated for bird species is classed as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and an area designated for other protected species and habitats is classed as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Together, SPAs and SACs form the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.

The Habitats Directive requires competent authorities to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of plans and projects that, alone and/or in combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have significant effects on one or more Natura 2000 sites. The assessment process is divided into a stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and where required, a full Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

### 2.2 Natura 2000 Sites

Note: European Natura 2000 sites include SAC's, cSACs, SPA's and pSPA's, but not NHA's. This stage 1 screening assessment covers Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the site development boundary.

There are 9 (no.) sites situated with 15km of the proposed works, as set out at **Table 1** below. Site synopsis are available at [www.npws.ie/protected-sites](http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites).

SiteCode	Name	Type	Distance From (km)
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	SAC	6.6
002299	River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC	SAC	11
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	SAC	3.0
000685	Lough Ennell SAC	SAC	2.9
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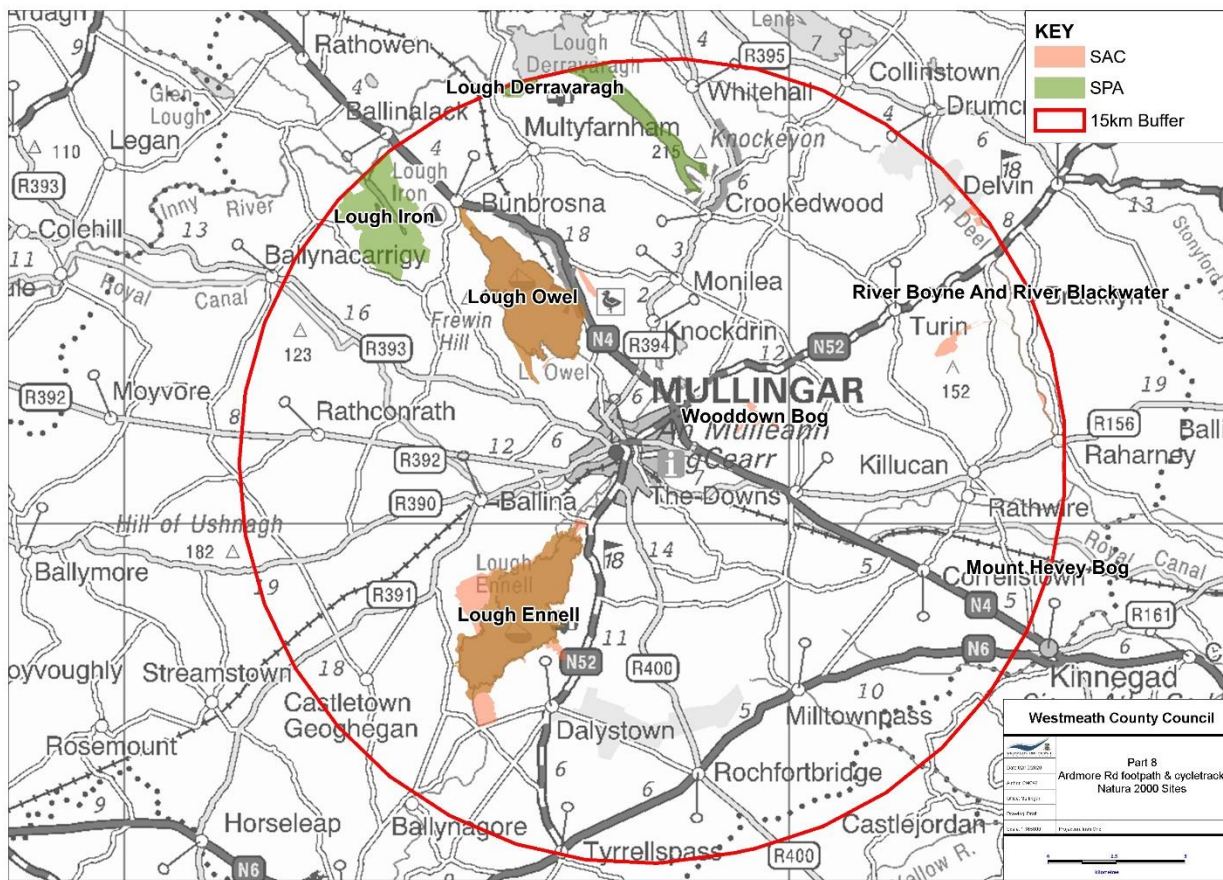
**Table 1:** Natura 2000 Sites within 15km

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The proposed site is situated approximately 3 km north of Lough Ennell Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 000685), 3.4km km north of Lough Ennell Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code: 004044) and approximately 3km southwest of Wooddown Bog SAC.

It is noted that the conservation objectives for the SPAs and SACs in the vicinity are to maintain or restore favourable conservation condition of habitats and species listed as Special Conservation Interests for which the SPA/SAC has been selected.

Disturbance to key habitats and species has potential to arise from increased noise, vibration, light, construction and operation activities or others arising from the inappropriate timing of works or proximity to settlements.



**Map 1:** Natura 2000 Sites in proximity to proposal.

It is considered that having regard to the separation distances to the subject site from the SPAs and SACs (illustrated at **Map 1** above), that the proposed development would not give rise to any significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any nearby Natura 2000 sites having regard to the nature of the proposed development and separation distances involved to adjoining Natura 2000 sites.

# Part 8 MEMO

## 2.3 AA Preliminary Screening Conclusions

It is considered that the proposed development is not likely to give rise to significant effect, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on any European Natura 2000 Sites in the vicinity.

## 3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Stage 1 Preliminary Examination

### 3.1 EIA Preliminary Screening Examination

Examination		
	Yes / No / Uncertain	Comment
Is the size of development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?	No	
Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or have the potential to impact on a sensitive site or location*?	No	
Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in emissions or pollutants?	No	
Conclusion		
<b>Based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size or location of the development, is there a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment? **</b>		
There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.	EIAR not required.	✓
There is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.	Stage 2 Screening Determination required.	
	Schedule 7A information required?	Yes   No
There is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.	EIAR required.	

\*Sensitive locations or features include SAC/SPA, NHA/pNHA, Designated Nature Reserves, and any other ecological site which is the objective of a CDP/LAP (including draft plans) to protect.

\*\* Having regard to likely direct and cumulative effects, and the criteria set out in Schedule 7 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

# Part 8 MEMO

## 3.2 EIA Preliminary Screening Conclusion

On the basis of the preliminary information received, which I consider adequate in order to issue a screening determination, it is reasonable to conclude that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required in this instance.