STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:	
a) File Reference No:	
(b) Brief description of the project or plan:	The proposed development in the Townland of Belleek, Ballina consists of 24 car parking spaces, a pedestrian link to the existing off-road footpath (90m) network and footpath running north from Belleek Gate Lodge (Entrance) to the speed limit at Belleek Lodge Housing Estate (See Appendix A for Location Map). This is the Recreational Zone of Ballina and accommodates a great deal of visitors for exercise and well being. In order to cater for increased recreational activity in the area this proposal seeks to limit informal parking and provide a structured solution.
(c) Brief description of site characteristics:	The proposed works are all centred around Ballina Athletic Track, Castle Road Belleek, Ballina Co. Mayo. The adjoining land use is residential, recreational and commercial. The footprint of the carpark area onto the Local Road L-11205 is amenity grassland. The footprint of the footpath linking the proposed car park to the existing path network is scrub and treeline while the 300m section of footpath on Belleek Road consisting of amenity grassland, wooden fencing and an immature treeline. The Killala Bay /Moy Estuary SAC, at its closest, is located 120m to the east of the proposed development separated by a public road, housing ,amenity grassland and riparian treeline (see Appendix B for map showing development relative Natura 2000 sites).
(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**	**Distance from Proposed development**	**Connections Source-Pathway-Receptor**	**Considered further for screening Y/N**
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (000458)	13 QIs https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000458.pdf	120m east	Yes. Weak hydrological connection exists	Y
Killala Bay / Moy Estuary SPA (004036)	9 SCIs 8 birds species and wetland https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004036.pdf	1.5 km north east	Yes. Weak hydrological connection exists	Y
River Moy Complex SAC 002298	12 QIs https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002298.pdf	340m South west	No. Proposed development is downstream	N
Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA 004228	5 SCIs 4 bird species and 1 wetland https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004228.pdf	7.4km southwest	N No ecological connection due to separation distance	N
Lough Hoe Bog SAC 000633	4 QIs https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000633.pdf	9.4km southeast	N No ecological connection due to separation distance	N
Ox Mountain Bogs SAC 002006	9 QIs https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002006.pdf	11.0 km east	N No ecological connection due to separation distance	N

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).**
Construction Phase • Vegetation clearance • Demolition • Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping • Dust noise vibration • Lighting disturbance • Impact on groundwater/dewatering • Storage of excavated/construction materials • Access to site • Pests	There will be excavation works required to achieve formation level for the carparking area (500m^2). Excavated material will be loaded onto trucks and removed to an agreed location from where no sediment runoff issues will affect the nearby Natura 2000 sites. There will be limited noise disturbance during excavation works and increased traffic movements but not significantly above background traffic noise. Where necessary existing immature trees will be felled to accommodate the new 300m section of footpath along Castle Road. It is not intended to remove any of the mature beech trees to construct the footpath linking the existing network to the new carpark. Concrete works for the carpark will be limited to installing edging slabs. The linking pathway will be concrete asphalt with timber edging and the new pathway along Castle Road will be poured concrete. There are no surface water pathways to the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and SPA and the intervening landuses (roadway , grassland and riparian treeline) will attenuate any potential runoff generated. Indirect groundwater connectivity is weak and due to the short duration and low intensity of the works no significant effects are predicted on the nearby European site.
Operational phase e.g. • Direct emission to air and water • Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment • Lighting disturbance • Noise/vibration	It is not expected that there will be a significant increase in disturbance levels over and above existing activity due to the proposed project. The areas of proposed impermeable surface are minimal in comparison to the existing road

• 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	and track and runoff will feed into the drainage infrastructure There will be two lighting columns installed at the carpark area but no disturbance effects are predicted.
In-combination/other	None

(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include: • 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 While the proposed development is in close proximity to the Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary SAC, due to the short duration of the construction and low intensity of use in the operational phase changes to the European site as listed are not likely to occur

(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?	
Yes ☐ **No** ☒	While best practice construction methods are likely to be implemented these are not required to avoid or reduce any affects on a European site. These measures are not relied upon to reach a conclusion of no significant effects on any European site.

Step 4. Screening Determination Statement

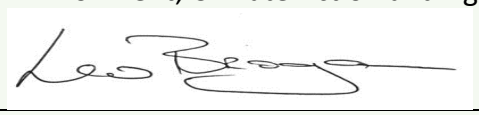
The assessment of significance of effects:
Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is **not likely** to have **significant** effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

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

- The nature and scale of the proposed project on amenity grasslands in an urban setting
- Intervening grasslands, structures and riparian treeline acting as a buffer for any effects
- Absence of a direct connections with regard to the Surface-Pathway-Receptor model

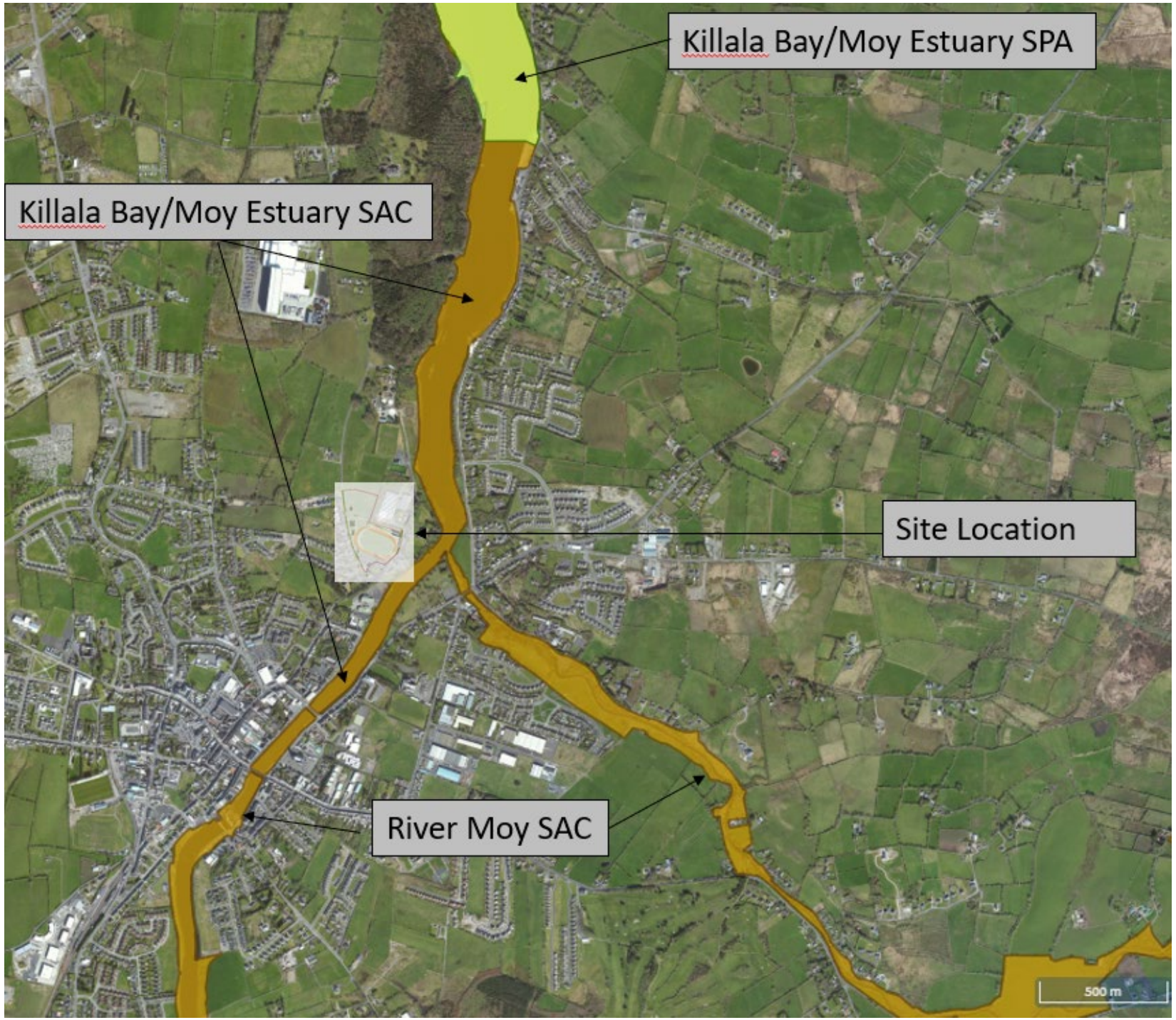
It is concluded that the proposed project, individually or incombination with other plans or projects, would bot be likely to have a significant effect on the above listed European sites or any other European site, in view of the said sites conservation objectives

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	☒	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.	☐	☐Request further information to complete screening ☐Request NIS ☐Refuse planning permission
(iii) **Significant effects** are likely.	☐	☐Request NIS ☐Refuse planning permission
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:	Leo Brogan A. Assistant Scientist Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Section 	
Signature and Date of the Decision Maker:		

APPENDIX A

Site Location Map


Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC
Site Location
River Moy SAC
500 m

APPENDIX B

Map showing development relative to Natura 2000 sites


Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC
Carpark
New footpath
Link pathway
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC
River Moy SAC
100 m