



Mayo County Council

Habitats Directive (EU 92/43/EEC)

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Appropriate Assessment for Development to be undertaken by Mayo County Council under Section 179A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) of: **The Construction of 37 no. dwellings, together with all associated site development works including site access, boundaries, drainage, associated earthworks, utilities and services connections and all ancillary site works, at Lios na Circe, Saleen / Milebush, Castlebar, Co Mayo. The development will also include the construction of a temporary construction access onto the proposed development from the existing access road serving existing Lios Na Circe housing and Regional Training Center.**

Mayo County Council, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, appointed **AONA Environmental Consulting Ltd** to prepare a Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report on the proposed development of **37no. houses and associated works as listed above**, to consider, analyse and assess whether in view of best scientific knowledge and objective information and the conservation objectives of the European site(s), if the Proposed Scheme individually or in-combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

Mayo County Council (“the Council”) has noted that the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report uses the following guidance:

- Guidance document on assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites: a summary, (European Commission, 2022)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat’s Directive 92/43/EEC ((European Commission, 2019)
- Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Rulings of the European Court of Justice (European Commission Final Draft September 2014)
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- Nature and Biodiversity Cases – Ruling of the European Court of Justice (European Commission 2006)
- 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, 2001)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision)
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 (NPWS, 2010)
- Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 2019)
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, May 2022)
- Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) 2021).

The Screening Report has been completed to consider potential direct and indirect impacts of the project on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in-combination with other plans and projects. In this context the following elements were considered:

1. Description of the project and local site characteristics
2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites, and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives
3. Assessment of potential impacts upon Natura 2000 sites, including:
 - Direct impacts (e.g. loss of habitat area, fragmentation)
 - Indirect impacts (e.g. disturbance of fauna, pollution of surface water)
 - Cumulative / 'in-combination' effects associated with other concurrent projects
4. Screening Statement with conclusions

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report has concluded that the development will not lead to significant adverse impacts upon any European sites as a result of the proposals, either alone or in combination with any other development.

Mayo County Council has received and read the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report and has considered its content and its conclusions and recommendation set out therein. Having done this, Mayo County Council, agrees with the conclusions and recommendations as set out in the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, Mayo County Council has made a determination that the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), as it can be concluded on the basis of information provided by **AONA Environmental Consulting Ltd** that the works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on any European Sites.

Signed on behalf of the Competent Authority (Mayo County Council):



Director of Services - Planning and Corporate
Development
29/10/2024