

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT
AND
CONCLUSION STATEMENT**

(A) Project Details			
Planning File Ref	Part VIII		
Applicant name	Laois County Council		
Development Location	Ballymorris Road to Canal Road, Portarlinton		
Site size	2.49 ha		
Application accompanied by an EIS (Yes/No)	No		
Distance from Natura 2000 site in km	The site is located approximately 0.8km southeast of the River Barrow And River Nore Special Area of Conservation		
Description of the project/proposed development			
<p>The proposed development will comprise pathfinder improvement works and active travel measures in Portarlinton between Ballymorris Road and Canal Road. More specifically, the proposed development will include footways and cycle-tracks, where pedestrians and cyclists are segregated from one another, or shared surfaces, where pedestrians and cyclists share the same facility at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballymorris Court to Canal Court • Canal Court to Whitefields • Station Road to Canal Road • Station Road 			
(B) Identification of Natura 2000 sites which may be impacted by the proposed development			
			Yes/No
			If answer is yes, identify list name of Natura 2000 site likely to be impacted.
1	Impacts on sites designated for freshwater habitats or species.	<i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose</i>	No

	<p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Barrow And River Nore SAC</p> <p>Ballyprior Grassland SAC</p>	<p><i>qualifying interests include freshwater habitats and/or species, or in the catchment (upstream or downstream) of same?</i></p>	
2	<p>Impacts on sites designated for wetland habitats - bogs, fens, marshes and heath.</p> <p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Barrow And River Nore SAC</p> <p>Ballyprior Grassland SAC</p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats (bog, marsh, fen or heath)</i></p>	No
3	<p>Impacts on designated terrestrial habitats.</p> <p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Barrow And River Nore SAC</p> <p>Ballyprior Grassland SAC</p> <p>River Nore SPA</p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodlands, dunes or grasslands, or within 100m of same?</i></p>	No
4	<p>Impacts on birds in SPAs</p> <p><u>Sites to consider:</u> River Nore SPA</p>	<p><i>Is the development within a Special Protection Area?</i></p>	No

Conclusion:

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts can be ruled out for habitats and bird species.

No further assessment in relation to habitats or birds is required.

If the answer is **Yes** refer to the relevant sections of **C**.

(G) SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT		
<i>Selected relevant category for project assessed by ticking box.</i>		
1	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with/necessary to the conservation management of the site	

2	No potential significant affects/AA is not required	X
3	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. Seek a Natura Impact Statement Reject proposal. (Reject if potentially damaging/inappropriate)	
Justify why it falls into relevant category above (based on information in above tables)		
<p>Based on the distance and lack of pathways, the proposed works will not impact on any designated sites.</p> <p>Based on the above it is considered that there is no need to proceed to a stage 2 NIS.</p> <p>The Planning Authority concludes that the works proposed, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site.</p>		
Name:	Olive O'Donnell	
Position:	Executive Planner	
Date:	20/10/2023	