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| **3333333333333333333**  **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**  **SCREENING REPORT** | **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**  **SCREENING REPORT AND**  **CONCLUSION STATEMENT** |

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| **(A) Project Details** | | | | | | |
| **Planning File Ref** | | | Part 8 preparation – Granard Greenway | | | |
| **Applicant name** | | | Longford County Council | | | |
| **Development Location** | | | Granard, Co. Longford. | | | |
| **Site size** | | | 2.2km long trail, 3m wide | | | |
| **Application accompanied by an EIS (Yes/NO)** | | | No | | | |
| **Distance from nearest Natura 2000 site(s) in km** | | | Approximately 4.1km | | | |
| **Description of the project/proposed development**  Construction of c2.2km long, approx. 3m wide greenway path, bridge and fencing including loop through the forestry to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists from GAA complex to R194 Regional Road through the townlands of Carragh, Rathcronan and Higginstown. | | | | | | |
| **(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.**  Sites to consider (but not limited to): | | | *Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats and/or species, or in the catchment (upstream or downstream) of same?* | No, the project is not located within a SAC. | |
| **2** | **Impacts on sites designated for wetland habitats - bogs, fens, marshes and heath.**  Sites to consider (but not limited to): Ardgullion Bog SAC; Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA | | | *Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats (bog, marsh, fen or heath), or within 1 km of same?* | The project site is not located within a SAC or within 1km of same. | |
| **3** | **Impacts on designated terrestrial habitats.**  Sites to consider (but not limited to): Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA | | | *Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodlands, dunes or grasslands, or within 100m of same?* | The project site is not located within an SAC or 100m of same. | |
| **4** | **Impacts on birds in SPAs**  Sites to consider (but not limited to):  Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA | | | *Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 5 km of same?* | The project site is not located within a SPA but is located within 5km of same. | |
| **(C) Identification of Potential Impacts on Habitats and Birds** | | | | | | |
| **1** | | **Impacts on designated rivers, streams, lakes and freshwater dependant habitats and species**  **If ‘Yes’ is recorded in answer to question 1 in Table B, please answer the following.**  Does the development involve any of the following: | | | | |
| 1.1 | | Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings. | | | |  |
| 1.2 | | Discharge to surface water or groundwater within 5km of SAC. | | | |  |
| 1.3 | | Abstraction from surface water or groundwater within 5km of SAC | | | |  |
| 1.4 | | Removal of topsoil within 500m of watercourses. | | | |  |
| 1.5 | | Infilling or raising of ground levels within 100m of watercourses. | | | |  |
| 1.6 | | Construction of drainage ditches within 1km of SAC. | | | |  |
| 1.7 | | Installation of wastewater treatment systems; percolation areas; septic tanks within 500m of watercourses. | | | |  |
| 1.8 | | Construction within a floodplain or within an area liable to flood. | | | |  |
| 1.9 | | Crossing or culverting of rivers or streams within 5km of SAC. | | | |  |
| 1.10 | | Storage of chemicals, hydrocarbons or organic wastes within 1km of a watercourse. | | | |  |
| 1.11 | | Development of a large-scale which involves the production of an EIAR. | | | |  |
| 1.12 | | Development of quarries/mines. | | | |  |
| 1.13 | | Development of windfarms. | | | |  |
| 1.14 | | Development of pumped hydro-electric stations. | | | |  |
| 1.15 | | Construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of rivers, streams, lakes and freshwater-dependant habitats. | | | |  |
| **2** | | **Impacts on designated wetlands – bogs, fens, marshes and heath**  **If ‘Yes’ is recorded in answer to question 2 in Table B, please answer the following.**  Does the development involve any of the following: | | | | |
| 2.1 | | Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings. | | | | No |
| 2.2 | | Construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site. | | | | No |
| 2.3 | | Development of a large scale within 1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site which involves the production of an EIS. | | | | No |
| **3** | | **Impacts on other designated terrestrial habits (woodland, grasslands)**  **If ‘Yes’ is recorded in answer to question 3 in Table B, please answer the following.**  Does the development involve any of the following: | | | | |
| 3.1 | | Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). | | | |  |
| 3.2 | | Development within 200m of Natura 2000 site with woodland, grassland or coastal habitats. | | | |  |
| 3.3 | | Development of a large scale within 1km of Natura 2000 site with woodland, grassland or coastal habitats which involves the production of an EIS. | | | |  |
| **4** | | **Impacts on birds in SPAs**  **If ‘Yes’ is recorded in answer to question 4 in Table B, please answer the following.**  Does the development involve any of the following: | | | | |
| 4.1 | | Works within the boundary of a Special Protection Area (SPA) excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings. No | | | | |
| 4.2 | | Erection of wind turbines within 5km of a SPA. | | | | No |
| 4.3 | | Proposed discharges directly to SPA. | | | | No |
| 4.4 | | Development of cycleways or walking routes within 100m of SPA. | | | | No |

**Conclusion:**

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts on habitats within Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

No further assessment is required in relation to habitats.

If the answer is **Yes**, you will require further information, which should be provided in the form of a Natura Impact Statement which should address the particular issues of concern as identified through the above.

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| **Consideration of potential impacts on protected species within SACs** |

Currently, one of our Special Areas of Conservation is designated for species as well as for habitats, namely Lough Ree SAC, which includes habitat for otters *Lutra lutra*. Activities could have an impact on this protected species. Please tick if you are concerned that the proposed development could have an impact on these species.

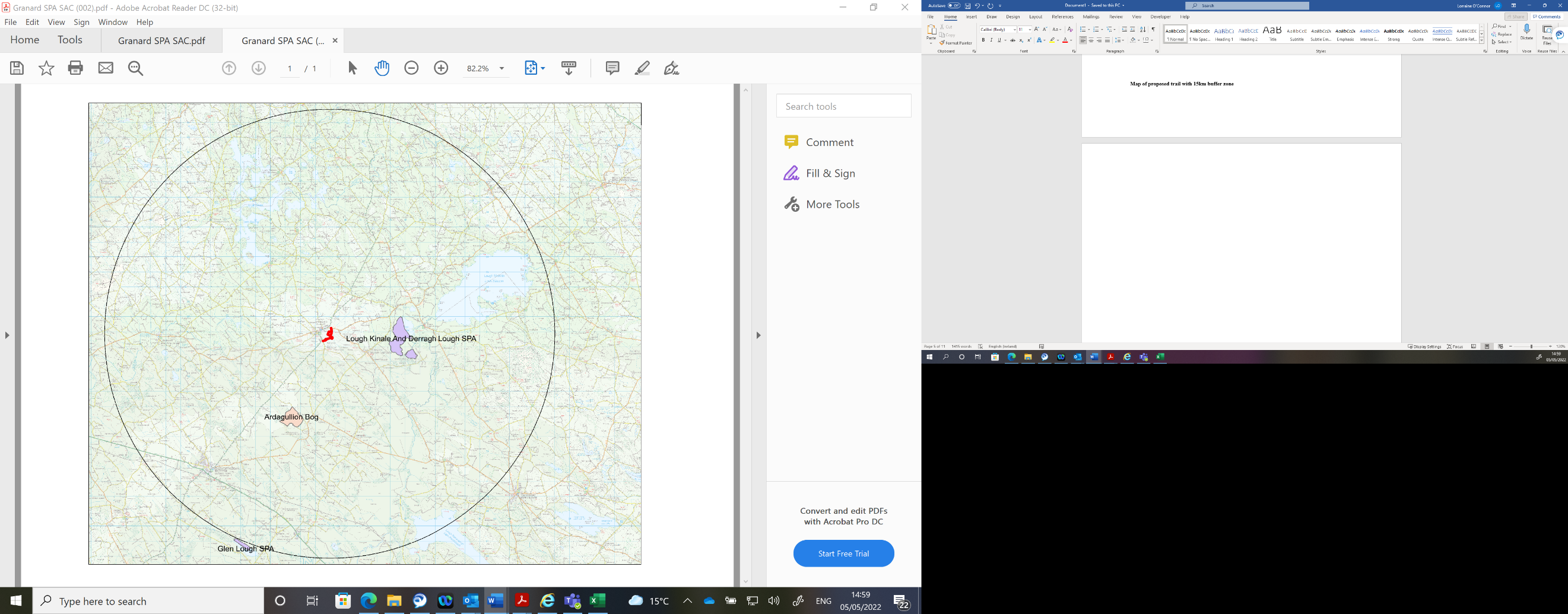
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| **Species** | **Relevant Site(s)** | **Activities which could have impacts on species** | **Possible Impacts Identified Yes/No** |
| Otter | Lough Ree | Activities that interfere with river banks. | No |

**Conclusion:**

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts on species can be ruled out.

If the answer is **Yes**, then further information is likely to be required in relation to potential for impact on that particular species.

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| **(D) Summary of Impacts** | | | | |
| **Natura 2000 Sites within impact zone** | | | Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA, Ardagullion Bog SAC | |
| **Qualifying features of Natura 2000 Site** (attach site synopsis from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)) | | | See Site Synopsis below | |
| **(E) Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (from Tables above)** | | | | |
| **Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect the Natura 2000 site(s).** | | | | |
| From the tables above, it is considered the project (alone or in combination) will not affect the Natura 2000 sites. | | | | |
| **If there are potential impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant.** | | | | |
| N/A | | | | |
| **(F) Relevant Advice Received** | | | | |
| **Documentation reviewed for making this statement.** | | | | |
| Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (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)  Relevant Site Synposis. | | | | |
| **Persons/Bodies consulted with for the making of this statement.** | | | | |
| Longford County Council Planning Department | | | | |
| **(G) SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT**  *Selected relevant category for project assessed by ticking box.* | | | | |
| **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)** | | | | |
| The proposal has no potential significant affects on the Natura 2000 network for the following reasons:   1. The project site is not located within a SAC or in the catchment of same to impact on sites designated for freshwater habitats or species. 2. The project site is not located within a SAC or within 1km of site designated for wetland habitats. It does not involve construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site. 3. The project site is not located within an SAC or 100m of same to impact on designated terrestrial habitats. 4. The project site is not located within a SPA. It is within 5km of same. However, it does not fall within the risk categories identified above. | | | | |
| **Name:** | | Lorraine O’Connor | | |
| **Position:** | | Regeneration Officer (Executive Planner) | | |
| **Date:** | | 05/05/2022 | | |



**Map of proposed trail with 15km buffer zone**

