

KERRY ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PRELIMINARY SCREENING EXAMINATION

to establish if the proposed development

at

The Ardrahan North, Co. Galway would be likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of the nature, size or location of the development.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This development at Ardrahan North, Co. Galway seeks to carry out building works on existing rough grassland / scrub habitat.

This project is not one which requires a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This report constitutes a Preliminary EIA Examination (Screening) report for the project.

2.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Where a proposed development is 'sub threshold' in nature, the competent authority (in this case, the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland) shall decide whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The key issue, in the context of the possible need for EIA of sub- threshold development, is whether or not such development is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In accordance with Article 123 A. (1) (a) of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)* where a State authority proposes to carry out a sub-threshold development prescribed under section 181 of the Act, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.

The purpose of this preliminary screening exercise is to conclude either that:

- 1) there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall conclude that an EIA is not required;
- 2) there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the development, it shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination;

or

- 3) there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall— (i) conclude that the development would be likely to have such effects, and (ii) prepare, or cause to be prepared, an EIAR in respect of the development.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposal seeks to construct 10 no. residential units in Caisleán Raithin, Ardrahan for Galway County Council. The proposed development is located on a greenfield at the end of a cul-de-sac road and faces an existing group of low houses.

The area of the site being developed is approximately 5762 m² (0.5762Ha) (GPS Coordinates Irish Grid Reference X-146229, Y-212516). The site is undeveloped and does not have any existing structures, however there is an access track to a wastewater treatment facility to the North of the site.

4.0 PROJECT ASSESSMENT (INCORPORATING SOURCE-PATHWAY-RECEPTOR APPROACH)

This project is not large scale in nature, comprising 10 residential units.

The subject site is located within the greater urban area of Ardrahan village.

The subject site is not located in a sensitive location from a cultural heritage (archaeological, architectural) point of view.

It is not located in an area which is sensitive in terms of landscape or ecology. It comprises species-poor rank grassland and scrub habitat. The nearest Natura 2000 site is located approximately 500m to the south-east i.e. Ardrahan Grassland SAC (code 2244). It is also <2km south of Castletaylor Complex SAC (code 0242), <5km south-east of Kiltiernan Turlough SAC (code 2185) and Lough Fingal Complex SAC (code 0606). However, there is no direct pathway between the subject site and these Natura 2000 sites, with no watercourses present on site, with the intervening land comprising embankments, hedgerow, raised railway line, farm fields and public roads (refer Appropriate Assessment Screening Report).

5.0 CONCLUSION

Having regard to the above, in particular the limited nature and scale of the proposed development, along with and the absence of any significant environmental sensitivity on site and the absence of any ecologically sensitive location (notably Natura 2000 sites), there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. It is considered that the information supplied addresses the requirements of an EIA Screening and the need for Environmental Impact Assessment can, therefore, be excluded at this preliminary screening examination.

EXAMINATION
with reference to Schedule 7 of the Planning & Dev Regs 2001 (as amended)

	Yes / No / Uncertain	Comment:
Is the size or nature of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?	No	The proposed development is not large scale comprising the building of 10 small residential units.
Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in significant emissions or pollutants?	No	Demolition waste generated will be disposed of to an authorised waste disposal facility. There will be no loss of materials or pollutants to waters or sensitive receptors during works.
Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?	No	The subject site is not sensitive in terms of ecology or landscape. It comprises species-poor rank grassland and scrub. The nearest Natura 2000 site is 500m distant with no hydrological connection.
Does the proposed development have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?	No	The subject site is not sensitive in terms of cultural (archaeological or architectural) heritage.