



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme,
Gantly Road,
Roscrea,
Co. Tipperary

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report

January 2022

PLACE+U

Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Need for Appropriate Assessment and legislative requirements	4
2.0 METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Guidance	6
2.2 Appropriate Assessment methodology	6
2.3 Desktop study	7
3.0 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION	8
4.0 STAGE ONE – SCREENING REPORT	8
4.1 Brief description of existing site	8
4.2 Brief description of the European sites within 15km of the development	8
4.3 European sites with connectivity to the proposed works	19
4.4 Potential cumulative impacts.....	19
4.5 Screening assessment criteria.....	21
4.6 Screening matrix.....	21
5.0 STAGE ONE SCREENING CONCLUSION	25
6.0 REFERENCES	26

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Tipperary County Council has commissioned PLACE+U to develop the Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme proposals project.

The proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme development includes for public realm refurbishment and enhancement in Roscrea, including the upgrading of the existing Gantly Road, with new high-quality paving, kerbing, landscaping, public lighting, improved street furniture and utility diversions/works, comprising of:

- New kerb alignment and pavement surfaces on Gantly Road, including new alignment design for footpaths, parking areas and trafficked areas, new hard and soft landscaping, new pedestrian crossings, new street furniture, new bollards and new bicycle racks.
- Installation of new public lighting and soft landscaping.
- Alteration of on-street parking for Gantly Road.
- Undergrounding of overhead electrical cables, installation of new public lighting and upgrading of existing public lighting.
- Development of associated drainage services and utilities across the entire project area.
- All associated site works.

1.1 Background

Ross Macklin PhD (Candidate) BSc (Hons) Applied Ecology HDip GIS Dip IPM MCIEEM IFM prepared this Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report for Place + Urbanism on behalf of Tipperary County Council ('competent authority') for the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary (**Figure 1.1**).

The proposed development will be submitted in accordance with Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme proposed by Tipperary County Council development consists of a series of measures to improve both public safety and quality of the public realm along Roscrea's Gantly Road (approximately 302m in length), with ancillary infrastructure and associated site development works at a site of approximately 0.39ha. These are detailed in section 3 below (Development description).

This report, and the best available scientific information contained within, is intended to determine whether or not the works, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are likely to have a significant effect on areas designated as being of European importance for nature conservation (i.e. 'Natura 2000' or European sites). This report provides information to enable the competent authority to perform screening for AA, thereby enabling the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('Habitats Directive'), in addition to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011–2015.

To evaluate the potential impact(s) of the proposed public realm enhancement scheme on the European sites, all sites located within a 15km radius of the works, or those which are ecologically linked, were considered. Please note that whilst a 15km buffer is recommended for plans, there is no ordinance for buffer size (EPA, 2009). However, the applied 15km radius provides a robust target to screen in European sites which could potentially be impacted when considered in isolation or in combination with others plans and projects.

The proposed works area at Gantly Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary is not located within or directly contiguous to any European site and does not contain any hydrological connection to any European site. The nearest watercourse (Bunnow River, EPA code: 25B25) is located approx. 240m (direct distance) east of the proposed works area. However, seven European sites fall within a 15km buffer of the proposed development site (**Figure 4.1**), namely;

- Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412)
- Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585)
- Lisduff Fen SAC (002147)
- Island Fen SAC (002236)
- Coolrain Bog SAC (002332)
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)
- River Nore SPA (004233)

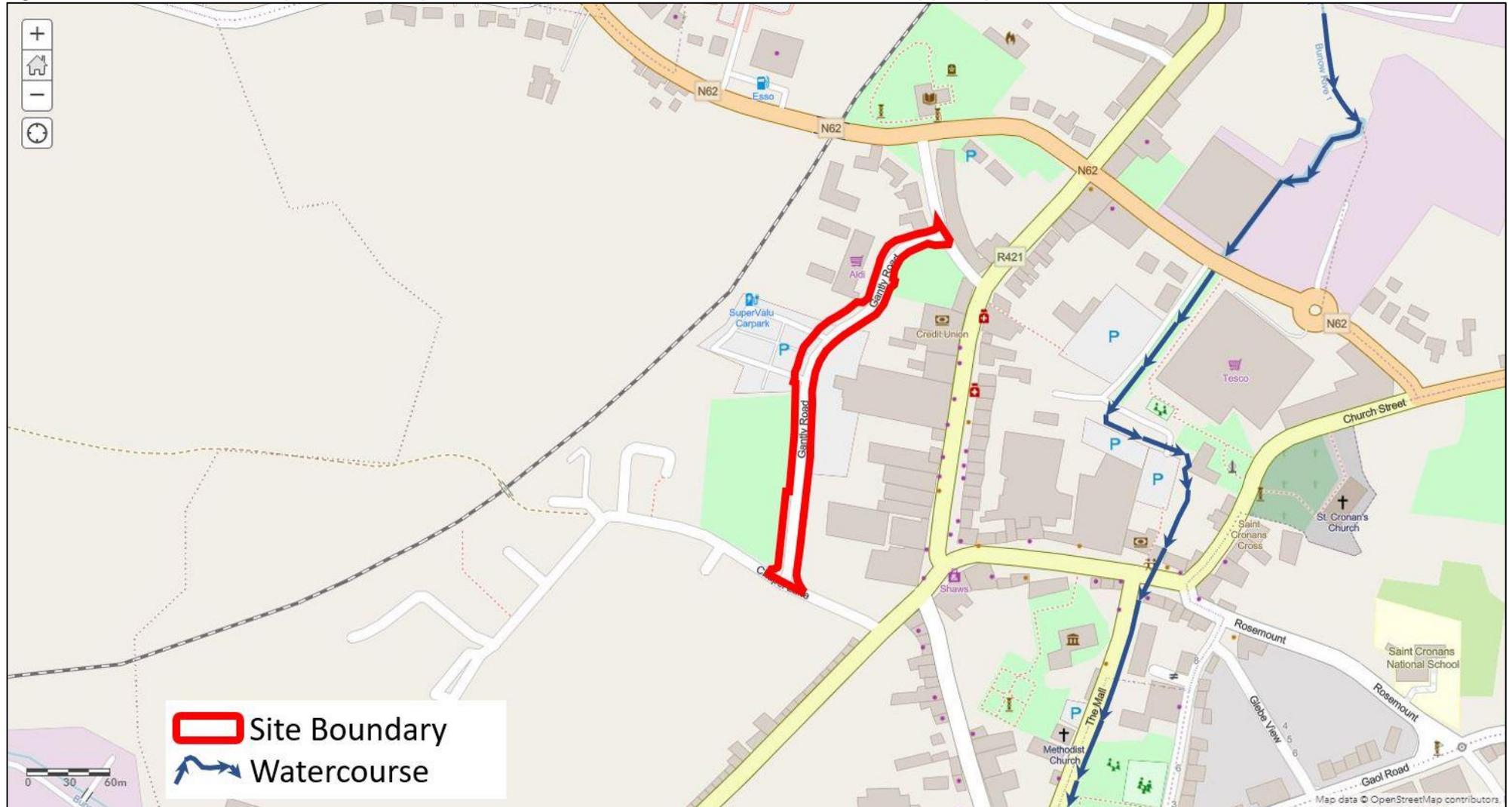
1.2 Need for Appropriate Assessment and legislative requirements

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs) are sites that form part of a network, known as Natura 2000 sites, to be designated across Europe in order to protect biodiversity within the EU. SACs are designated under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), as transcribed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997, while SPAs are designated under the EU Birds Directive (79/4089/EEC, as amended and codified in 2009/147/EC). The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) revoked the 1997 Regulations (and amendments) as well as the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The purpose of the 2011 Regulations was to address transposition failures identified in the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgements. Following additional amendments in 2013 (S.I. 499/2013) and 2015 (S.I. 355/2015) the regulations are now cited as the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021.

Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive states that: "*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.*" Such an assessment is known as an Appropriate Assessment (AA). This provision is transposed into Irish legislation by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Acts, Section 177U(4) of which provides for AA screening as follows: "The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of [...] a proposed development [...] is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the [...] development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site."

Further guidance on AA is provided by the European Commission (2000) and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009). The stages of the Appropriate Assessment for the proposed development at Gantly Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary are described in the methodology section below.

Figure 1.1: Scheme boundary for the Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary



Source: ArcGIS by ESRI under Licence

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Guidance

This report has been prepared using the following guidance documents;

- DEHLG (2009). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*.
- EPA (2013). *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual*. STRIVE Report Series No. 106 EPA STRIVE Programme 2007–2013. Prepared for the Environmental Protection Agency by Ainhoa González.
- European Commission (2000). *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (2000 and updated draft April 2015)*.
- European Commission (2001). *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 (2007). *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 (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*. Commission notice, November 2018.
- Fry & Scott (2011). *Developing IBIA: A standardised AA review package*. In *Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business & Industry: 31st Annual meeting of IAIA, Puebla, Mexico (Vol. 29)*.
- Möckel, S. (2017). *The European ecological network "Natura 2000" and the appropriate assessment for projects and plans under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive*. In: Möckel S (Ed.) *'Natura 2000 appropriate assessment and derogation procedure – legal requirements in the light of European and German case-law'*. *Nature Conservation* 23: 1–29.
- NPWS (2010). *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- NPWS (2019a). *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments*. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill
- NPWS (2019b). *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments*. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill
- Recent Irish and European case law on the Habitats Directive.
- The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended.
- The Planning and Development Act 2000-2019.
- The Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2019.

2.2 Appropriate Assessment methodology

The screening process to facilitate appropriate assessment has four main steps (after European Commission, 2001) (**Table 2.1**). This methodology was followed in preparation of this report.

Table 2.1 Stages in the Appropriate Assessment process (after DEHLG, 2009).

Stage 1	Screening for Appropriate Assessment
Stage 2	Appropriate Assessment
Stage 3	Alternative solutions
Stage 4	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

The aforementioned guidance documents set out a staged approach for undertaking the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process, the first stage of which is referred to as 'screening'. This stage identifies the likely significant impacts on European sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake AA. However, even if screening makes a finding of no significant effects, and therefore concludes that AA is not required, these findings must be clearly documented in order to provide transparency of decision-making, and to ensure the application of the so-called 'precautionary principle'.

Screening for AA involves the following;

- Determining whether a project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European sites
- Describing the details of the project/plan proposals and other plans or projects that may cumulatively affect any European sites;
- Describing the characteristics of relevant European sites
- Appraising likely significant effects of the proposed project or plan on relevant European sites.

2.3 Desktop study

In order to complete the Screening for Appropriate Assessment, certain information on the existing environment is required. A desktop study was carried out to collate available information on the site's existing environment. This comprised a review of the following publications, data sources and datasets:

- Draft Tipperary County Development Plan (2022-2028)
- Roscrea Local Area Plan 2012 (as extended)
- Tipperary County Council Online Planning Query System (map viewer) (<https://tipp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=460724c4b3de413cbbeb853111df588a>)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website and metadata available (<http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>)
- OSI Aerial photography and 1:50,000 mapping
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) (on-line map-viewer available at <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map>)
- BirdWatch Ireland website

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (map viewer)
(<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>)
- Teagasc soil area maps (via NBDC online map-viewer)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) area maps (map viewer)
(<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>)

3.0 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

In summary, the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme development includes for public realm refurbishment and enhancement in Roscrea, including the upgrading of the existing Gantly Road, with new high-quality paving, kerbing, landscaping, public lighting, improved street furniture and utility diversions/works, comprising of:

- New kerb alignment and pavement surfaces on Gantly Road, including new alignment design for footpaths, parking areas and trafficked areas, new hard and soft landscaping, new pedestrian crossings, new street furniture, new bollards and new bicycle racks.
- Installation of new public lighting and soft landscaping.
- Alteration of on-street parking for Gantly Road.
- Undergrounding of overhead electrical cables, installation of new public lighting and upgrading of existing public lighting.
- Development of associated drainage services and utilities across the entire project area.
- All associated site works.
- All other ancillary and associated site development works above and below ground level

4.0 STAGE ONE – SCREENING REPORT

4.1 Brief description of existing site

The proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme site at Gantly Road, Roscrea Co. Tipperary is approximately 0.39ha (**Figure 1.1**). The landscape of the study area is heavily urbanised in nature, with land use classifications for the surrounding area defined as 'Continuous urban fabric' (111, as per the 2018 CORINE landcover dataset).

Bedrock geology within the study area comprises dark muddy limestone, shale, as part of the Ballysteen Formation, according to the Geological Survey of Ireland. The site is situated in an area of high groundwater vulnerability, which means that the area is able to easily transmit pollution to groundwater.

There are no surface water features within or adjoining the proposed development site meaning that surface water pathways to European sites do not exist. The closest watercourse (Bunnow River, EPA code: 25B25) is located approx. 240m east of the proposed works area (**Figure 1.1**).

4.2 Brief description of the European sites within 15km of the development

The screening process has identified a total of seven European sites (or part thereof) within a 15km radius of the proposed development works area (see **Figure 4.1** and **Table 4.1** below).

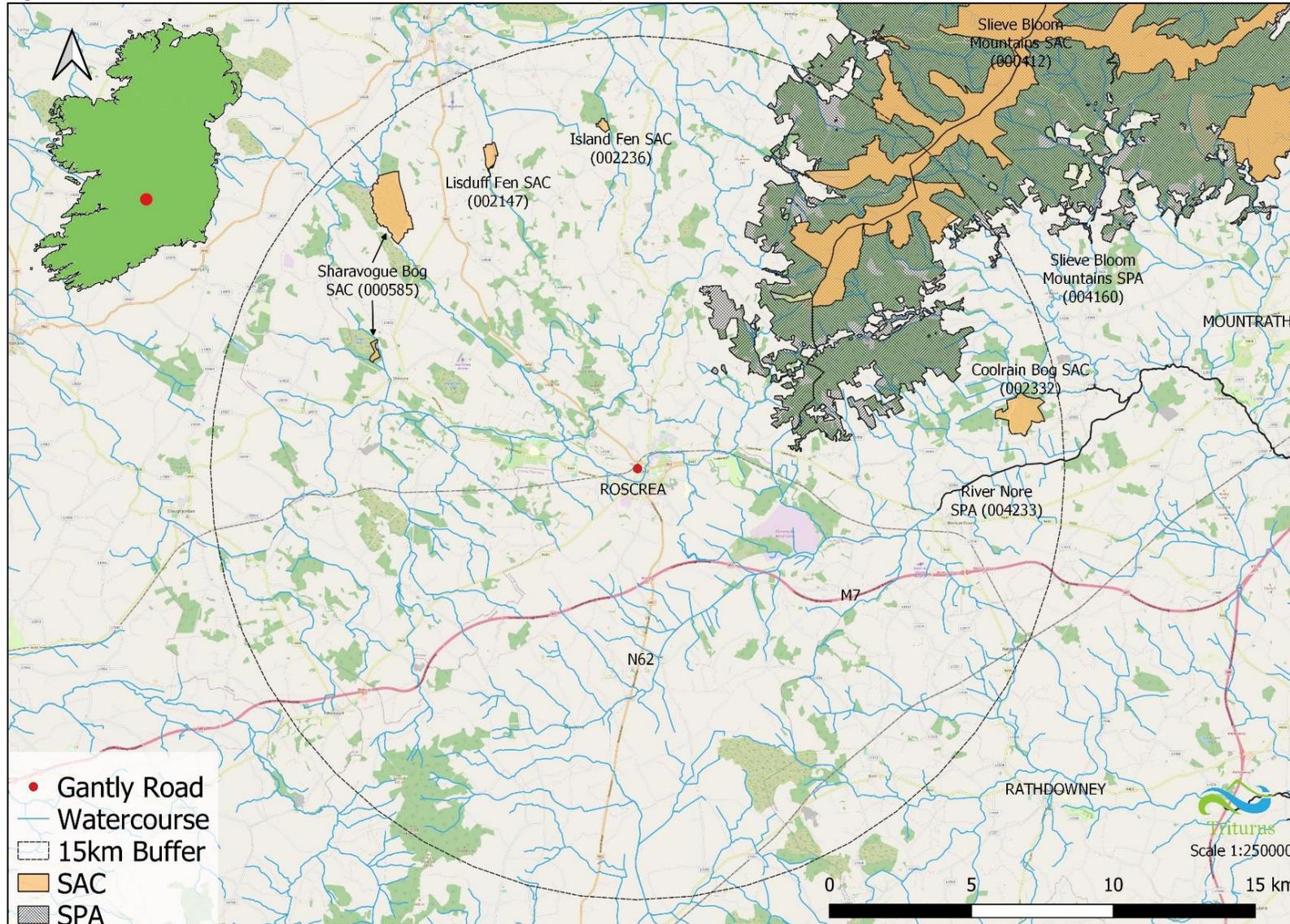
Table 4.1 lists the European sites located within 15km of the proposed works, including their qualifying interests, conservation objectives and known threats (according to information provided by the NPWS). The sites are as follows by order of increasing (direct) distance;

- Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160) – 4.2km east
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412) – 8.3km northeast
- Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585) – 9.8km northwest
- River Nore SPA (004233) – 10.6km southeast
- Lisduff Fen SAC (002147) – 11.5km northwest
- Island Fen SAC (002236) – 11.6km north
- Coolrain Bog SAC (002332) – 12.7km east

The proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme is not located within any of these European sites and there is no surface water or groundwater connectivity between the works area and any of the European sites. There are no surface waters within or linked to the proposed works area. Given the lack of direct connectivity, hydrological or otherwise, there was not considered to be any potential for the proposed works to directly impact a European site within a 15km radius.

In consideration of the above, the seven European sites can be screened out due to i) distance between the proposed development and the European sites; ii) the lack of downstream hydrological connectivity; and iii) the nature of proposed works (i.e. localised public road upgrades and modifications). Further details for screening out are discussed in Table **4.1** below.

Figure 4.1: Location of the proposed works area at Gantly Road, relative to European sites within a 15km buffer



Source: ArcGIS by ESRI under Licence

Table 4.1: Summary of European sites and distances from proposed works area at Gantly Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)	Approx. 4.2km east from works area.	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] 	<p>High risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B – Sylviculture, forestry <p>High risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B - Sylviculture, forestry • A04 - grazing <p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C01.03 – Peat extraction <p>Low risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D01.01 – paths, tracks, cycling tracks • E01.03 - dispersed habitation • D01.02 - roads, motorways • A04 – grazing <p>Low risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E01.03 - dispersed habitation 	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed works area is located >4km from the SPA and is located in a highly urbanised area that does not provide any suitable foraging habitat for breeding hen harrier. <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site’s qualifying interests.</p>

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412)	Approx. 8.3km northeast from works area.	To restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] 	<p>High risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I01 – fire and fire suppression • K02.01 - species composition change (succession) • J02.15 - Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions <p>High risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B02 – Forest and Plantation management & use <p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J01.01 – burning down • G05.01 - Trampling, overuse • A04.03 - abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing 	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No downstream hydrological connectivity (no surface water features or connectivity to same within development footprint) • Distance between site and proposed development is >8km with no habitat linkages, i.e. heavily urbanised buffer • Localised nature of the proposed works (i.e. not within European site) <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site's qualifying interests.</p>

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
				<p>Low risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H05.01 - garbage and solid waste • G01.02 - walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles • G01.03.02 - off-road motorized driving <p>Low risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C01 – Mining & Quarrying • G01.03.02 - off-road motorized driving 	
Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585)	Approx. 9.8km northwest from works area.	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] 	<p>High risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J02.15 - Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions <p>High risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J02.15 - Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions 	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No downstream hydrological connectivity (no surface water features or connectivity to same within development footprint) • Distance between site and proposed development is >9km

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
				<p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A08 – Fertilisation • I02 - problematic native species <p>Medium risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A08 – Fertilisation • I02 - problematic native species <p>Low risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J01.01 – burning down <p>Low risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J01.01 – burning down 	<p>with no habitat linkages, i.e. heavily urbanised buffer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised nature of the proposed works (i.e. not within European site) <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site's qualifying interests.</p>
River Nore SPA (004233)	Approx. 10.6km southeast from works area.	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229] 	<p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D03.01 – port areas <p>Medium risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p>	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No downstream hydrological connectivity (no surface water features or connectivity to same within

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
		Interests for this SPA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J02.01 – Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general 	<p>development footprint)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance between site and proposed development is >9km with no habitat linkages, i.e. heavily urbanised buffer Localised nature of the proposed works (i.e. not within European site) <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site’s qualifying interests.</p>
Lisduff Fen SAC (002147)	Approx. 11.5km southwest from works area.	To restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer’s Whorl Snail) [1013] 	<p>High risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A02.01 - agricultural intensification A08 - Fertilisation E05 - Storage of materials A04.03 - abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing <p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p>	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No downstream hydrological connectivity (no surface water features or connectivity to same within development footprint) Distance between site and proposed development is >11km

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J02.10 - management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes <p>Low risk threats & pressures inside the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E03.01 - disposal of household / recreational facility waste • A07 - use of biocides, hormones and chemicals • E03.03 - disposal of inert materials • A02.01 - agricultural intensification • J02.10 - management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes <p>Low risk threats & pressures outside the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C01 - Mining and quarrying 	<p>with no habitat linkages, i.e. heavily urbanised buffer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised nature of the proposed works (i.e. not within European site) <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site's qualifying interests.</p>

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
Island Fen SAC (002236)	Approx. 11.6km north from works area.	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] • Alkaline fens [7230] 	<p>High risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K02.01 - species composition change (succession) • A04.03 - abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing • A04.01 - intensive grazing <p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J02.01 - Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general <p>Low risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D01 - Roads, paths and railroads • F03.01 - Hunting <p>Low risk threats & pressures outside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C01 - Mining and quarrying 	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No downstream hydrological connectivity (no surface water features or connectivity to same within development footprint) • Distance between site and proposed development is >11km with no habitat linkages, i.e. heavily urbanised buffer • Localised nature of the proposed works (i.e. not within European site) <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site's qualifying interests.</p>

Designated site (site code)	Distance from development (km, direct distance)	Conservation objective(s)	Qualifying Interests	Threats	Screening rationale
Coolrain Bog SAC (002332)	Approx. 12.7km east from works area.	To restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) for which the SAC has been selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] 	<p>High risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B – Sylviculture & Forestry • C01.03.02 – mechanical removal of peat • J02.15 - Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions <p>Medium risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I01 - invasive non-native species • J01.01 - burning down <p>Low risk threats & pressures inside the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J02.01 - Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general • H05.01 - garbage and solid waste 	<p>This site is screened out because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No downstream hydrological connectivity (no surface water features or connectivity to same within development footprint) • Distance between site and proposed development is >12km with no habitat linkages, i.e. heavily urbanised buffer • Localised nature of the proposed works (i.e. not within European site) <p>No direct or indirect impact will occur on this site's qualifying interests.</p>

4.3 European sites with connectivity to the proposed works

As outlined in **Table 4.1** above, there are no European sites with downstream hydrological connectivity to the proposed works area at Gantly Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

4.4 Potential cumulative impacts

In theory, it is possible for negligible individual impacts to interact with the other developments to cause impacts that are more than just simple additive impacts of the developments considered in isolation. The predicted impacts of disturbance, run-off from construction work, and surface water drainage are indirect and localised given the local scale of the proposed demolition and rebuild works and geographic separation from any European sites. Therefore, potential for synergistic cumulative impacts may exist by itself or in combination with other plans and projects. To assess potential impacts the following information sources were reviewed;

- Roscrea Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended)
- Draft Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Tipperary County Council Online Planning Query System (map viewer)
<https://tipp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=460724c4b3de413cbbeb853111df588a>
- Permitted projects in the vicinity of the development
- Proposed projects in the vicinity of the development

No other projects of a scale or type that could act cumulatively with the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme are proposed or permitted in the areas overlapping and surrounding the proposed works area. Permitted and proposed developments in these areas are limited to one-off domestic/business premises developments, demolition, extension works, infrastructural and architectural upgrades.

A planning search limited to applications submitted within the areas overlapping and surrounding Gantly Road area during the previous 5 years was conducted. Recent developments within 0.5km of the proposed works area were restricted to permitted developments:

- **Planning Ref 16/601178** - Demolition of existing rear outhouse, retention of existing rear stores, conversion and extension of rear stores for domestic use in existing dwelling together with rear conservatory, connection to existing services, and all associated site works.
- **Planning Ref 17/600486** - Change of use of existing commercial premises to Dental Practice, alterations to existing shopfront and facade, relocation of existing entrance and stairs to first floor level and alterations to existing south elevation including associated siteworks.
- **Planning Ref 17/600570** - A partial change of use of existing retail shop to use as a takeaway and restaurant, toilets and all associated ancillary works.
- **Planning Ref 17/600666** - a) Demolition of existing single storey sunroom to the rear and construction of a new single storey extension to side and rear. b) Internal alterations to existing house c) Associated site development works.
- **Planning Ref 17/601052** - The erection of 3 no. temporary prefabricated classroom buildings, ancillary ramps and all associated site development works.
- **Planning Ref 17/601112** - Change of use of first floor commercial unit into a two-bedroom apartment.

- **Planning Ref 17/601326** - The change of use of existing commercial premises to food processing facility, including wholesale outlet, erection of signage, proposed pedestrian access from Main Street and all associated siteworks.
- **Planning Ref 17/601372** - A change of use from residential to retail at ground floor level and the change of retail to residential at ground floor area and the change of use of bed & breakfast unit to 7 no. residential units on ground and first floor, including all associated site works and services.
- **Planning Ref 18/600032** - A 2 no. apartment development as constructed and ancillary works. Previous planning reference no. 04510988 (This development is contained within the curtilage of a protected structure).
- **Planning Ref 18/600532** - A single storey extension to the existing dwelling house with internal and external renovations to the existing dwelling house, a new pedestrian gate in the front boundary wall and associated site works. The extended house is intended for use as a Community Dwelling managed by the Daughters of Charity Disability Support Service.
- **Planning Ref 18/600907** - Conversion of existing veterinary clinic and stables to residential unit including associated site works.
- **Planning Ref 19/600146** - Existing extensions to house.
- **Planning Ref 19/600306** - Front entrance porch to dwelling.
- **Planning Ref 19/600503** - For domestic shed and all associated site works.
- **Planning Ref 19/600504** - (a) Change of use from Office, Stock Room and ancillary facilities related to former retail occupier to Enterprise and Community Hub consisting of Offices, Training Spaces and Ancillary Facilities and (b) Building works consisting of elevational changes, external treatments, revised boundary treatments, site landscaping, signage and all associated works.
- **Planning Ref 19/601011** - a) Various demolition (834 sq m) of dilapidated, 20th century sheds and storage facilities to the property, namely the demolition of existing late 20th century one and two storey storage facilities and steel framed buildings, the 4 storey mid-20th century grain store abutting south face of existing building, the 19th century 3 storey store to west of the site abutting the existing building and the demolition of part of the stone boundary walls to Gaol Road, Malt Vale and Ayr Hill, (b) Refurbishment and change of use of existing Malt building from industrial/warehousing use to office and retail, (c) Construction of a 3-storey extension to existing north and south elevations of the Malt building to provide retail and office space with ancillary facilities, (d) Construction of a split level car park to the south of the site, (e) Construction of a new 3-storey Primary Care Centre (healthcare facilities) to the south of the site situated above the split level car park, (f) Alterations to the western and northern facades to provide for vehicular and pedestrian access to the facilities. Vehicular access will be provided from Ayr Hill and pedestrian access will be provided from Malt Vale (g) Connections to public foul and surface water sewers and public mains water (h) Bin stores, temporary site signage, landscaping, parking and all necessary and ancillary site works to complete the development. The proposed development involves works to a protected structure, Ref. No. RC099.
- **Planning Ref 19/601037** - Storage shed as constructed to rear of existing house.
- **Planning Ref 19/601325** - Of a reduced size single storey extension to the side of the existing dwelling house with changes to the internal renovations to the existing dwelling house and changes to the rear and side elevations and to the rear and side external works, following on from Planning Permission No 18/600532. The extended house is intended for use as a Community Dwelling managed by the Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services.
- **Planning Ref 19/601413** - Change of use from public house and dwelling to 2 no. two bedroom apartments and 1 no. one bedroom apartment including the demolition of a portion of single storey building to the rear and the construction of a single storey extension to the rear including internal and external alterations all with associated site works.

- **Planning Ref 20/610** - Extension to rear of existing house and all associated site works.
- **Planning Ref 20/923** - Extension to rear of dwelling and detached domestic shed to the rear of the site and for permission for extension to side of existing dwelling and all associated site works.

4.5 Screening assessment criteria

The information provided below in **Table 4.2** follows the guidance document '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). The standard 'Screening Matrix' and 'Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix' in Annex 2 of this same guidance document are also followed.

As set out in NPWS guidance (DoEHLG, 2009), the task of establishing whether a plan or project is likely to have an effect on a European site(s) is based on an evaluation using available information and data, supplemented, as necessary, by local site information and ecological surveys. This results in a determination by the competent authority as to whether there may be a significant effect on the designated site. A precautionary approach is required.

Examples of effects likely to be significant include, but are not limited to, any impact to Annex I habitat, direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply) in the European site, serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the European site is selected (e.g. increased noise) and/or direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations in the European site.

4.6 Screening matrix

Table 4.1: Summary of European sites and distances from proposed works area at Gantly Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Assessment criteria	Consideration of potential impacts
<p>Brief description of project or plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New kerb alignment and pavement surfaces on Gantly Road, including new alignment design for footpaths, parking areas and trafficked areas, new hard and soft landscaping, new pedestrian crossings, new street furniture, new bollards and new bicycle racks. • Installation of new public lighting and soft landscaping. • Alteration of on-street parking for Gantly Road. • Undergrounding of overhead electrical cables, installation of new public lighting and upgrading of existing public lighting. • Development of associated drainage services and utilities across the entire project area. • All associated site works. • All other ancillary and associated site development works above and below ground level

<p>Brief description of the European site assessment</p>	<p>There are no European sites within or adjacent to the proposed works. The following European sites are located within 15km of the proposed developments and have been screened out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160) • Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412) • Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585) • River Nore SPA (004233) • Lisduff Fen SAC (002147) • Island Fen SAC (002236) • Coolrain Bog SAC (002332) <p>The proposed development site is not located within a European site nor does it share any downstream hydrological connectivity with any of the seven European sites within a 15km buffer.</p>
<p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European sites</p>	<p>No other individual elements of the project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, are likely to give rise to impacts on the European sites identified above.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European site by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and scale; • Land-take; • Distance from European site or key features of the site; • Resource requirements; • Emissions; • Excavation requirements; • Transportation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation etc.; • Other 	<p>Size and scale, land-take and distance from European sites</p> <p>Potential impacts: none</p> <p>The proposed works area at Gantly Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary is separated from European sites by considerable geographic distances across a heavily urbanised landscape, i.e., closest site distance is approx. 4.2km (Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)). The majority of the seven sites within a 15km buffer are located >10km distance from the proposed works area. There is no downstream hydrological connectivity between the works area and any of the European sites in question.</p> <p>Due to the lack of downstream hydrological connectivity and the geographical distance between the proposed work areas and European sites there are no mechanisms for impact (i.e. source-pathway-receptor model). The lack of potential for Special Conservation Interests to be impacted (e.g. mobile species such as hen harrier) given the absence of habitats that can support such species in the urbanised environment of Roscrea, there are no likely significant negative effects to the European sites within 15km of the study area.</p>

	<p>There will be no land-take from any European site and no direct impact on the size and scale of any European site as a result of the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme.</p> <p>Resource requirements and excavation requirements</p> <p>Potential impacts: none</p> <p>There will be no resource requirements or excavation requirements from any European site as a result of the proposed works. Excavation requirements within the proposed site will be minimal.</p> <p>Transportation requirements</p> <p>Potential impacts: none</p> <p>There will be no transportation activities associated with the scheme's construction and operation including hauling of raw materials, increases in road traffic and associated emissions that would impact European sites. These activities would be consistent with busy evolving urban centres.</p> <p>Emissions</p> <p>Potential impacts: none</p> <p>There will be no emissions as a result of the proposed works that could impact European sites as there is no downstream hydrological connectivity between the proposed works area and any watercourses or European sites. Furthermore, emissions to air quality would be consistent with the existing baseline (i.e. busy urban centre).</p> <p>Duration of construction and operation</p> <p>Potential impacts: none</p> <p>Duration of works is expected to be short-term only and the operation of the site will follow existing day to day operations pre-works (i.e function as a public space with decreased road traffic)</p> <p>Cumulative impacts</p> <p>Potential impacts: none</p> <p>A planning search was conducted on 21st January 2022. No other planned or permitted projects of a scale which could act cumulatively with the proposed works were identified in the local area. Refer to section 4.4 above for cumulative impacts.</p>
--	--

<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance of key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value; • Climate change 	<p>There will be no direct or indirect reduction in habitat area or habitat fragmentation within any European site as a result of the proposed development (i.e. proposed works area not within, adjoining or connected to any European site).</p> <p>There will be no predicted impact via disturbance of key species or reduction of key species as a result of the proposed works given a lack of connectivity, geographic separation and unsuitability for mobile species of special conservation interest.</p> <p>There will be no predicted changes in key indicators of conservation value for the European sites within a 15km buffer due to the proposed works given a lack of connectivity and geographic separation.</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the European site as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site; • Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site. 	<p>There are no potential impacts on the key relationships that define the structure or function of any European site considered in this Appropriate Assessment Screening due to the proposed works.</p>
<p>Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss, • fragmentation, • disruption, • disturbance, • change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.). 	<p>No effects will occur due to geographical separation of the study area from European sites and no means for impact from the source-pathway-receptor model.</p>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>No significant impacts or impacts of unknown scale or magnitude, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, are predicted from the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme works.</p>

5.0 STAGE ONE SCREENING CONCLUSION

In consideration of the best available scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information specific to the conservation objectives and qualifying interests of the relevant European sites, and by applying the precautionary principal, it **can** be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme works, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on a European site within a 15km buffer.

No significant effects on any of European sites within the zone of potential influence are predicted. Therefore, the following seven European sites have been 'screened out' within the Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report:

- Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412)
- Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585)
- River Nore SPA (004233)
- Lisduff Fen SAC (002147)
- Island Fen SAC (002236)
- Coolrain Bog SAC (002332)

Consequently, it is recommended to the competent authority that Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of the proposed Gantly Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme.



Wessel Vosloo MIPI
Planning Department
PLACE+U

6.0 REFERENCES

- DEHLG (2009, rev 2010). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Department of the Environmental Heritage and Local Government.
- EPA (2013). *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual.* STRIVE Report Series No. 106 EPA STRIVE Programme 2007–2013. Prepared for the Environmental Protection Agency by Ainhoa González.
- European Commission (2000). *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (2000 and updated draft April 2015).*
- European Commission (2001). *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.*
- European Commission (2007). *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 (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.* Commission notice, November 2018.
- Fry & Scott (2011). *Developing IBIA: A standardised AA review package.* In *Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business & Industry: 31st Annual meeting of IAIA, Puebla, Mexico (Vol. 29).*
- Möckel, S. (2017). *The European ecological network "Natura 2000" and the appropriate assessment for projects and plans under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.* In: Möckel S (Ed.) *Natura 2000 appropriate assessment and derogation procedure – legal requirements in the light of European and German case-law.* *Nature Conservation* 23: 1–29.
- NPWS (2010). *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- NPWS (2019a). *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments.* Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill
- NPWS (2019b). *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments.* Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill
- NRA (2009). *Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines.* Published by the National Roads Authority.