

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

In accordance with Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, the Agency has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites listed below.

Consent Details:

Reg. No.	R02732-01
Applicant Name:	Galway County Council
Type of Consent Sought:	Certificate of Registration
Location of Facility:	Kinincha Road, Gort, Co. Galway
Certificate of Registration Application Date:	08 November 2022
European Sites assessed:	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC (Site Code: 000252)
	Coole-Garryland SPA (Site Code:004107)
Date of AA Screening Determination:	03/04/2023

AA Screening Determination:

That the activities are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site and that it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European site and accordingly determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the activities is required. A Natura Impact Statement was submitted as part of the application for the Certificate of Registration.

This determination has been made in light of the following reasons:

- Due to the proximity of the proposed civic amenity site to two European sites. The proposed civic amenity site is located approximately 5.9 kms upstream respectively from the Coole-Garryland Complex SAC and Coole-Garryland SPA. There is a hydrological connection between the proposed civic amenity site and the Coole-Garryland Complex SAC and Coole-Garryland SPA. The Kinincha stream runs approximately 200m to the eastern boundary of the civic amenity site.
- There is potential for contaminated storm water run-off, from the proposed civic amenity site, to enter the groundwater or surface water via the Kinincha stream which flows into the Gort river and ultimately flows into the Coole-Garryland SAC and Coole-Garryland SPA. Contaminated run-off would have the potential to have adverse effects on water quality in these downstream European sites with the potential for effects on their water dependent qualifying interests. Information in relation to European Sites is available on www.npws.ie.
- The application documents, the revised Natura Impact Statement prepared by Roger

Goodwillie & Associates (October 2021), the Appropriate Assessment screening determination in An Bord Pleanála Inspector's report (dated 17 December 2021) of An Bord Pleanála for the planning permission for the civic amenity site (where it was determined that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required) were considered as part of this Appropriate Assessment screening. Account has also been taken of information on the European Sites in question on www.npws.ie and on the Agency's expertise.

- Taking all of the foregoing into account it is considered that significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interests due to potential contaminated storm water run-off from the facility cannot be ruled out at the screening stage and based on the precautionary principle this determination is that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

Documents relating to the certificate application are available on the Agency's website at www.epa.ie.



Niamh O'Carroll

Office of Environmental Sustainability

Date: 03/04/2023