

**Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment  
Screening Determination**

**Project: Clubhouse and Indoor Basketball Court, Carhookeal, Mallow, County  
Cork**



**Cork County Council**  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

**Completed by Tony Nagle**  
**Cork County Council**

**Date: 10/04/2024**

This document contains the Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination by Cork County Council in respect of a proposal to construct a Clubhouse and Indoor Basketball Court at Carhookeal, Mallow, County Cork. The determination is based on information provided in the Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report that has been prepared by Greenleaf Ecology on behalf of Cork County Council and which is appended to this document. This screening determination should be read in conjunction with the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.

<p><b>Name of the project.</b></p> <p>Construction of a Clubhouse and Indoor Basketball Court at Carhookeal, Mallow, County Cork.</p>
<p><b>Description of the project.</b></p> <p>The proposed development will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full size indoor basketball court,</li> <li>• Changing facilities including two dressing rooms,</li> <li>• Toilet &amp; shower facilities,</li> <li>• An activity hall,</li> <li>• A meeting room,</li> <li>• Reception/lobby area,</li> <li>• An equipment storage room,</li> <li>• Access road to clubhouse through site,</li> <li>• Associated groundworks including drainage, watermain connections and electrical ducting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Name and location of Natura 2000 sites identified for screening.</b></p> <p>Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (Site Code: 002170)</p>
<p><b>Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites listed above?</b></p> <p>No, the project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Blackwater River SAC.</p>
<p><b>Describe how the project (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site.</b></p> <p>The submitted Appropriate Assessment Screening Report includes an assessment of the possibility of negative impacts arising from the proposed development on the Blackwater River SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no direct connectivity via surface water to the Blackwater River SAC.</li> <li>• Surface water run-off as a result of heavy rainfall during the construction phase of the proposed development could, in theory, result in an increase in suspended solids reaching the ForestBear Stream and subsequently the Blackwater River. However, the ForestBear Stream and the Blackwater River SAC are buffered from the proposed development site by grassland to the east of the east of the proposed development, planted Hawthorn scrub and approximately 140m of agricultural grassland. This</li> </ul>

buffer zone will intercept and filter surface water runoff enabling percolation to ground water.

- Accidental spillage of hydrocarbons (fuel oil and lubricants) is a possibility during the construction phase but given the relatively small scale of the proposed development and the lack of direct connectivity to the ForestBear Stream and hence the Blackwater River, the possibility of hydrocarbon or chemical contamination emanating from the proposed development reaching the SAC is extremely unlikely.
- During the operational phase of the proposed development, surface water run-off will be directed to grass areas in the site where it can percolate and/or drain to a shallow drain/ditch on the east side of the site. The surface water will pass through a bypass interceptor before discharging and consequently the risk of deleterious matter reaching the Blackwater River SAC is extremely low.
- Foul water will connect to the existing network.
- A number of other projects and plans in the general area were assessed and none of these projects or plans alone or in combination with the Carhookeal development were found to have the potential to significantly affect the Conservation Objectives of any European Site.

The assessment concludes that the proposed Clubhouse and Indoor Basketball Court at Carhookeal, Mallow, County Cork, either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects, does not have the potential to significantly affect any European site.

**Explain why these effects are not considered significant.**

No potential for negative effects on any qualifying interest habitats or species has been identified.

- The proposed development at Carhookeal is not located within any European site, so therefore none of the Qualifying Interest habitats or species will be impacted by land take or habitat fragmentation.
- There is no direct connectivity via surface water. The site does slope towards a tributary of the Blackwater River, the ForestBear Stream, but this stream is approximately 240 m east of the proposed development site at its closest point.
- The proposed development site is a disused sports ground comprised of re-colonising bare ground and species poor dry meadows and grassy verges and hence, the site does not play a supporting role for Qualifying Interest habitats of the Blackwater River.

**Are there any other projects or plans that in combination with the project being assessed could affect a European site (provide details)?**

A number of other projects and plans in the general area were assessed including:

- Cork County Development Plan 2022
- Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027
- River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021
- Inland Fisheries Ireland Corporate Plan 2021-2025
- Mallow Community Running Track and Sports Ground (Ref: 204417)
- Carhookeal Sports Ground Part 8 Planning Application

None of these projects or plans alone or in combination with the proposed Carhookeal development were found to have the potential to significantly affect the Conservation Objectives of any European Site.

<p>No potential for significant impacts has been identified. Consequently, the risk of this project contributing to cumulative negative impacts to water quality in the Blackwater River SAC, when considered in combination with other projects, is screened out.</p>
<p><b>List of agencies consulted</b></p> <p>The AA Screening Report and this determination will be circulated to Statutory Consultees and will be available for review as part of the consultation documents.</p>
<p><b>Who carried out this assessment?</b></p> <p>Tony Nagle, Ecology Office, Capital Programme Implementation Unit.</p>
<p><b>Sources of data</b></p> <p>Scheme drawings. AA Screening Report.</p>
<p><b>Level of assessment completed</b></p> <p>Screening.</p>
<p><b>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?</b></p> <p>Part 8 Documents are available online.</p>
<p><b>Overall conclusion</b></p> <p>In accordance with Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in this report, it is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans/projects are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 site). It is therefore considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), is not required.</p>
<p><b>Explain how the overall conclusion of no significant effect on any European site was reached</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No interventions resulting from the proposed development at Carhookeal are proposed within any European site and the Blackwater River SAC in particular;</li> <li>• The proposed development site is sufficiently distant from the Blackwater River to be satisfied that there is no risk that activities associated with the project will cause negative impacts to habitats and species which are Qualifying Interests of the SAC;</li> <li>• Surface water run-off during the construction phase will be intercepted by existing buffer zones on site (grassland, Hawthorn scrub) and off site by 140m of agricultural grassland and therefore there is no feasible hydrological linkage to the Blackwater River;</li> <li>• Surface water run-off in the post construction phase will be managed through grassland and a bypass interceptor and all surface water is to be directed to ground. There will be no direct hydrological connection to the Blackwater River;</li> <li>• A number of additional plans and projects were assessed alone and in combination with the proposed development at Carhookeal and no significant effects were found that were likely to have significant negative impacts on the Blackwater River SAC.</li> </ul>

