

**Multi-use games area adjacent to**

**Dungarvan Sports Centre**

**Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report**

**1.Introduction**

The EIA Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended aims to determine the likely significant effects of a project on the environment. EIA Screening determines whether an EIA is required for a specified project. Projects requiring mandatory EIA are listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 , as amended. In the case of development which is under these thresholds , planning authorities are required under Article 103 of the 2001 Regulations, (as amended) to request an EIAR where it considers that the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the proposed development is sub-threshold for EIA. The proposed development is being screened as per Schedule 7 of the regulations to determine if there is likely to be significant effects on the environment. Screening involves appraisal of impacts from the proposed development according to three main criteria:-

1. Characteristics of the proposed development
2. Location of proposed development
3. Characteristics of potential impacts.

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), outlines the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a proposed development. These are: human beings, flora and fauna, soil and geology, water, air& climate, landscape, material assets, cultural heritage and the inter-relationships between the range of environmental criteria. EIA screening involves assessment of these criteria to determine if the proposed development is likely to significantly affect the environment.

**2. Screening Assessment**

**Table 1. Characteristics of proposed development**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Is the size and design of the proposed works significant ? | No. Multi-Use Games Area behind Dungarvan Sports Centre with tarmacadam/astroturf surface measuring 50m x 30m, and 2m wide walking /running track surround, for a variety of sporting uses. |
| Use of natural resources in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity ? | The project involves change of grassland habitat to hard surfacing with a potential loss of feeding ground for Brent Geese albeit outside the boundary of Dungarvan Harbour SPA. |
| Will the works produce waste ?  | Small scale construction waste during works |
| Will the works create a significant amount of pollution or nuisance ?  | Small scale and temporary inconvenience during works. |
| Risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the project including those caused by Climate Change in accordance with scientific knowledge ? | Providing best practice is followed the risk of accidents which are significant in scale is considered very low. |
| Risks to human health (water contamination , air pollution) | Providing best practice is followed the risk to human health is considered very low. |
| Potential for cumulative impacts with other existing and/or approved projects?  | Low risk of significant effects |
| Potential for combination of above factors to have significant effects | Low risk of significant effects |

**Table 2. Location of Proposed Development**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Environmental sensitivity of project in relation to existing and approved land use. | The project involves change of grassland habitat to hard surfacing with a potential loss of feeding ground for Brent Geese albeit outside the boundary of Dungarvan Harbour SPA. |
| Relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground. | Small scale of works with very low risk of significant effects. Brent Geese are known to feed on grassland in the adjacent Pitch and Putt Course and also on grassland in Duckspool. Given the existing level of human activity around the Sports Centre and availability of alternative areas of grassland and foraging grounds for Brent Geese it is considered the proposed development will not cause significant effects on the conservation objectives of the qualifying interests and in particular Brent Geese in Dungarvan Harbour SPA. |
| Absorption capacity of the natural environment including wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths, coastal zones and the marine environment, mountain and forest area. |  Loss of grassland vegetation to sports surfacing. Small scale of works with very low risk of significant effects.  |
|  Potential of works to impact directly or indirectly on sites designated for nature conservation (NHA/SAC/SPA) | It is considered there is no potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives of the SPA. AA screening has been carried out and has concluded no potential for significant effects.  |
|  Potential for impacts directly or indirectly on Habitats or Species listed on Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive | AA screening has been carried out and has concluded no potential for significant effects. |
| Potential for impacts directly or indirectly on Species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive | Small scale of works with very low risk of significant effects.  |
| Potential for impacts on breeding places of any species protected under the Wildlife Act ?  | No  |
| Potential to impact directly or indirectly on any listed ACA in the County and City Development Plan ?  | No |
|  Potential to impact directly or indirectly on any protected structure or recorded monuments and places of Archaeological Interest  | No recorded monuments will be impacted by the works. |
| Potential to impact directly or indirectly on Listed or scenic views or protected landscape in the County Development Plan ? | The site is not within a scenic view or protected landscape in the City and County Development Plan 2022-2028. |
| Potential to impact on areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure. | None arising. |
| Potential to impact on densely populated areas. | The site is located in at the edge of Dungarvan with low population density. |

**Table 3. Characteristics of Potential Impacts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Human Beings |  Positive impact for recreational users. |
| Flora and Fauna |  AA screening has been carried out and has concluded no potential for significant effects.  |
| Soils and Geology  | No protected geological heritage sites will be impacted.  |
|  Water | No direct hydrological pathway to Dungarvan Harbour. Not within a flood zone. |
|  Air & Climate | The proposed development will not negatively impact air quality.  |
| Noise & Vibration | Works will be temporary and short term in nature. |
| Landscape | The proposed development is located at the edge of Dungarvan and will not negatively impact on the existing landscape.  |
| Material Assets |  Works will be subject to and regulated by a waste management plan. |
| Cultural Heritage  |  No effects arising. |
| Interaction of Foregoing | Potential loss of feeding ground for Brent Geese but mitigated by availability of alternative grassland areas e,g. Pitch and Putt Course and at Duckspool. |

**Table 4. Discussion of Potential Impacts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Will a large geographical area be impacted as a result of the proposed works ? | No. Tarmacadam/astroturf surface measuring 50m x 30m, and 2m wide walking /running track surround, for a variety of sporting uses. |
| Will a large population be impacted as a result of the proposed works ? | Positive impact in games amenity for residents and visitors to Dungarvan >12,000 |
| Are any trans-frontier impacts likely to arise from proposed works? | No |
|  Is the magnitude of impacts associated with the proposed works considered significant ? | No localised impacts |
|  Is the intensity and complexity of impacts associated with the proposed works considered significant ?  | No |
|  Is there a high probability that the effects will occur ?  | No significant effects arising. |
| Will the effects continue for a long time ? | No significant effects arising. |
| Will the effects be permanent rather than temporary ? | No significant effects arising. |
| Will the impacts be irreversible? | No significant effects arising. |
| Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effects ? | No significant effects arising. |

**3..Conclusion**

The DoEHLG Guidance Document “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development” notes that “*The greater the number of different aspects of the environment which are likely to be affected and the greater the links between the effects, the more likely it is that an EIS should be carried out. Where complexity of impacts is deemed to apply in the case of a specific sub-threshold development proposal, there should be a predisposition towards the preparation of an EIS”.*

In consideration of the above involving appraisal of characteristics and location of proposed development and characteristics of potential impacts it is concluded that the project comprises small scale works with very low risk of significant effects. Brent Geese are known to feed on grassland in the adjacent Pitch and Putt Course and also on grassland in Duckspool. Given the existing level of human activity around the Sports Centre and availability of alternative areas of grassland and foraging grounds for Brent Geese it is considered the proposed development will not cause significant effects on the conservation objectives of the qualifying interests and in particular Brent Geese in Dungarvan Harbour SPA. The project will provide positive benefit for residents and visitors to Dungarvan through the addition of new multi-use games ground. Given the small scale of the proposed works an EIAR is not required.