

PART 8

EIA PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION / SCREENING PROCEDURE

Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 10

PA ref.: P8 / MH178 **Date of Display:** 12 / 12 / 2024
(*to be completed and attached to file on date of display)
Proposing Department: Rural Regeneration
Responsible Officer: Pat Shore (TRO/SEO)
Planning Case Officer: Wendy Bagnall (Senior Executive Planner)
Proposed Development: Playground in Athboy
Site Location: Fair Green, Townparks, Athboy, Co. Meath

1. (a) Is the development of a type set out in Part 1 of Schedule 5:

No

(b) If 'Yes', specify which Class and notify Responsible Officer of requirement to proceed to Article 117 scoping and/or Section 175 application to An Bord Pleanála, as necessary:

N/A

2. (a) Is the development of a type set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5:

No

(b) If 'Yes', specify which Class and notify Responsible Officer of requirement to proceed to Article 117 scoping and/or Section 175 application to An Bord Pleanála, as necessary:

N/A

3. (a) Is the development of a type set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in respect to the relevant class of development:

Yes

(b) If 'Yes', specify which Class and proceed to Question 4:

Sub-threshold Development – Preliminary Examination (Step 1)

4. Provide a preliminary examination of the proposed development in accordance with Article 120(1)(a) referencing its nature, size and location:

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000- 2022 (Part XI) and Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024 (Part 8), Meath County Council proposes to undertake the following development in the Townland of Townparks, Athboy, County Meath. The proposed development will consist of:

A new playground which is accessible to pedestrians via the existing entrances and footpaths along the Fair Green in Athboy.

1.2m high safetop weldmesh fencing, galvanised and powder coated green, will be installed to the perimeter of the play area as shown.

5 no small/semi mature trees to be relocated within the park – no mature trees to be removed

All associated site works

The proposal seeks to relocate the existing playground (at Town Parks, Clifton, Athboy) to the Fair Green, Athboy. There are a number of issues with the location of current playground due to lack of visibility to / from public area and lack of passive surveillance, which has led to reports / complaints of anti-social behaviour etc at this site.

The proposed playground will comprise of some of the play equipment shown on the indicative equipment drawing contained with the Part 8 application documents. In order to maximise existing playground equipment stock, Meath County Council will assess the usability of the existing playground equipment in the existing playground site and anything that is certified suitable for reuse will be transferred to the new proposed location in the Fair Green (subject to planning approval being achieved). The Playground will be enclosed with a 1.2m high metal fence.

The proposed works include removing the existing soil for the footprint of the proposed playground and building back up with precast stone foundation and surfacing. A permeable surface will be provided for surface water drainage.

5 no small/semi mature trees will need to be relocated within the boundary of the Fair Green. Location of same to be agreed with the trustees of the Fair Green, Mature trees within the Fair Green will not be impacted by the proposed development.

The proposed development in terms of its overall size and nature is well below/exempt of any relevant thresholds reference above and there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment as a result of the proposed development

Preliminary Conclusion

there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, and an EIA is not required [Article 120(1)(b)(i)]

there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and the information specified in Schedule 7A is required for the purposes of a screening determination [Article 120(1)(b)(ii) – proceed to Q. 5] ¹

there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and an EIAR is required in respect of the development [Article 120(1)(b)(iii)] ²

Specify reason(s)

Signatures

1.	 Philip Trappe (Executive Engineer)	08 / 12 / 2024
2.	 Pat Shore (SEO)	11 / 12 / 2024
3.	 Dara McGowan (Director of Services)	11 / 12 / 2024

¹ Notify Responsible Officer of requirement to provide Schedule 7A information.

² Notify Responsible

³ Officer of requirement to provide an EIAR and proceed to Article 117 scoping and/or Section 175 application to An Bord Pleanála.

Sub-threshold Development – Screening Determination (Step 2)

5. Provide a screening determination of the proposed development in accordance with Article 120(1B) with reference to the criteria listed in Schedule 7 and the information submitted pursuant to Schedule 7A, where applicable:

See attached determination sheet

Screening Determination

- there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and an EIA is not required [Article 120(1B)(i)]
- there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and an EIAR is required in respect of the development [Article 120(1B)(ii)]¹

Specify reason(s)

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000- 2022 (Part XI) and Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024 (Part 8), Meath County Council proposes to undertake the following development in the Townland of Townparks, Athboy, County Meath. The proposed development will consist of:

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All associated site works

The proposal seeks to relocate the existing playground (at Town Parks, Clifton, Athboy) to the Fair Green, Athboy. There are a number of issues with the location of current playground due to lack of visibility to / from public area and lack of passive surveillance, which has led to reports / complaints of anti-social behaviour etc at this site.

¹ Notify Responsible Officer of requirement to provide an EIAR and proceed to Article 117 scoping and/or Section 175 application to An Bord Pleanála.

The proposed playground will comprise of some of the play equipment shown on the indicative equipment drawing contained with the Part 8 application documents. In order to maximise existing playground equipment stock, Meath County Council will assess the usability of the existing playground equipment in the existing playground site and anything that is certified suitable for reuse will be transferred to the new proposed location in the Fair Green (subject to planning approval being achieved). The Playground will be enclosed with a 1.2m high metal fence.

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The screening for Appropriate Assessment was carried out by Flynn Furney and their screening determination state that “ this report represents the information for the Authority to carry out a screening for Appropriate Assessment. A recommendation that a stage II is not required is made, based on the findings of this assessment. It is for the relevant Authority to reach one of the following conclusions:

1)A stage II AA of the proposed development is required if it *cannot* be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Designated Sites.

2)A stage II AA of the proposed development is not required if it *can* be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Designated Sites.

It is the conclusion of this report that the proposed development would not have a significant effect on European Designated Sites, and progression to a Stage II Appropriate Assessment **is not required**.

Accordingly, having carried out the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening, the competent authority may determine that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the proposed site investigation works is not required as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European site.

Having regard to Flynn Furney’s screening report, it is considered that Meath County Council can determine that the proposed development will not affect the integrity of any designated site.

The assessment as reported is adopted as the determination of Meath County Council

Signatures

Dated

1. 
.....
Philip Trappe (Executive Engineer) 08/12 / 2024
 2. 
.....
Pat Shore (SEO) 11 /12/ 2024
 3. 
.....
Dara McGowan (Director Of Services) 11/12/2024
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Sub-threshold Development – Screening Determination Sheet

1. Characteristics of Proposed Development

The characteristics of development must be considered having regard, in particular, to:

(a)	the size and design of the whole of the proposed development:	Playground approx. 740M2
(b)	cumulation with other existing development and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment:	No individual or accumulative affects
(c)	the nature of any associated demolition works:	No demolition works

(d)	the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity:	N/A
(e)	the production of waste:	N/A
(f)	pollution and nuisances:	N/A
(g)	the risk of major accidents, and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge:	N/A
(h)	the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution):	N/A

2. Location of Proposed Development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, having regard, in particular, to:

(a)	the existing and approved land use:	Open Space
(b)	the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground:	Large open green space with existing recreational / leisure walking paths/loops
(c)	the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:	
	(i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths:	N/A
	(ii) coastal zones and the marine environment:	N/A
	(iii) mountain and forest areas:	N/A
	(iv) nature reserves and parks:	N/A
	(v) areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive:	N/A

	<p>(vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>(vii) densely populated areas:</p>	<p>Fair Green is overlooked by existing residential unit on all 4 sides, separated by local and regional roads on 3 of the 4 sides</p>
	<p>(viii) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance:</p>	<p>N/A</p>

3. Types and Characteristics of Potential Impacts

The likely significant effects on the environment of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(l) to (v) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment report' in section 171A of the Act, and having regard in particular to:

(a)	the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected):	Playground proposal is approx. 740m ² within a 5.75 acre green field/park site
(b)	the nature of the impact:	Minimal
(c)	the transboundary nature of the impact:	None/ Minimal
(d)	the intensity and complexity of the impact:	Minimal
(e)	the probability of the impact:	Low
(f)	the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact:	Proposal will have minimal impact. It will blend in with its green surrounds and due to its low impacted, it can always be reversed /removed in the future if required/necessary

(g)	<p>the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment:</p>	<p>No accumulative effects</p>
(h)	<p>the possibility of effectively reducing the impact:</p>	<p>Proposing to re-use play equipment from another unsuitable playground in the Town of Athboy and reinstall them (if in good enough condition) in the new proposed playground</p>