

# Roscommon County Council



## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Elphin Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement & Redevelopment of the Former Courthouse to Provide a Cultural/Community Centre**



**17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Report Prepared by Brian Farragher, A/Senior Executive Planner, Regeneration Team,  
Community and Enterprise, Roscommon County Council.**



### **Screening for Appropriate Assessment:**

**Table 1: Project Details**

<b>Development Consent Type</b>	Part 8 – Local Authority Own Development
<b>Development Location</b>	Elphin Town Centre, Chapel Street and Main Street, Co. Roscommon.
<b>Description of the Project</b>	Elphin Town Centre public realm enhancement and redevelopment of the former Courthouse to provide a Cultural/Community Centre.

**Table 2: Identification of Natura 2000 Sites (SACs and SPAs) which may be impacted by the proposed development**

Please answer the following questions in order to determine whether there are any Natura 2000 sites which could potentially be impacted by the proposed development.

#### **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**

##### **Impacts on Habitats**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Impacts on Freshwater Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> <b>Mullygollan Turlough SAC</b> (Site Code: 000612) Distance from Site: 11.23 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No significant impacts on these Natura sites are likely</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Impacts on Bog Mires and Fens Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Bog Mires and Fens habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> <b>Cloonshanville Bog SAC</b> (Site Code: 000614) Distance from Site: 11.43 km Designated features: Active raised bogs (#7110), Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (#7120), Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (#7150)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No significant impacts on these Natura sites are likely</p>

	<p><b><u>Bellanagare Bog SAC</u></b> (Site Code: 000592)  Distance from Site: 13.32 km  Designated features: Active raised bogs (#7110), Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (#7120), Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (#7150)</p> <p><b><u>Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC</u></b>  (Site Code: 001626)  Distance from Site: 5.11 km  Designated features: Alkaline fens (#7230)</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Impacts on Forests Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Forests habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  <b><u>Cloonshanville Bog SAC</u></b> (Site Code: 000614)  Distance from Site: 11.43 km  Designated features: Bog woodland (#91D0)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No significant impacts on these Natura sites are likely</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Impacts on Grasslands Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Grasslands habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  None</p>	N/A
<b>5.</b>	<b>Impacts on Heath and Scrub Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Heath and Scrub habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  None</p>	N/A

<b>6.</b>	<b>Impacts on Rocky Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Rocky habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A
<b>7.</b>	<b>Impacts on Dunes Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Dunes habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A
<b>8.</b>	<b>Impacts on Coastal Habitats</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Coastal habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A

#### Impacts on Species

<b>1.</b>	<b>Impacts on Amphibians</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Amphibians, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A

2.	Impacts on Anthropods	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Anthropods or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  <u><b>Bellanagare Bog SAC</b></u> (Site Code: 000592)  Distance from Site: 13.32 km  Designated features: Euphydrias aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) (#1065)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No significant impacts on these Natura sites are likely</p>
3.	Impacts on Fish	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Fish, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  None</p>	<p>N/A</p>
4.	Impacts on Mammals	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Mammals, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  None</p>	<p>N/A</p>
5.	Impacts on Mollucs	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Mollucs, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  <u><b>Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC</b></u>  (Site Code: 001626)  Distance from Site: 5.11 km  Designated features: Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) (#1013)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No significant impacts on these Natura sites are likely</p>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Impacts on Non-vascular Plants</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Non-vascular plants, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A
<b>7.</b>	<b>Impacts on Reptiles</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Reptiles, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A
<b>8.</b>	<b>Impacts on Vascular Plants</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Vascular Plants, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b> None</p>	N/A

**Special Protection Areas (SPA):**

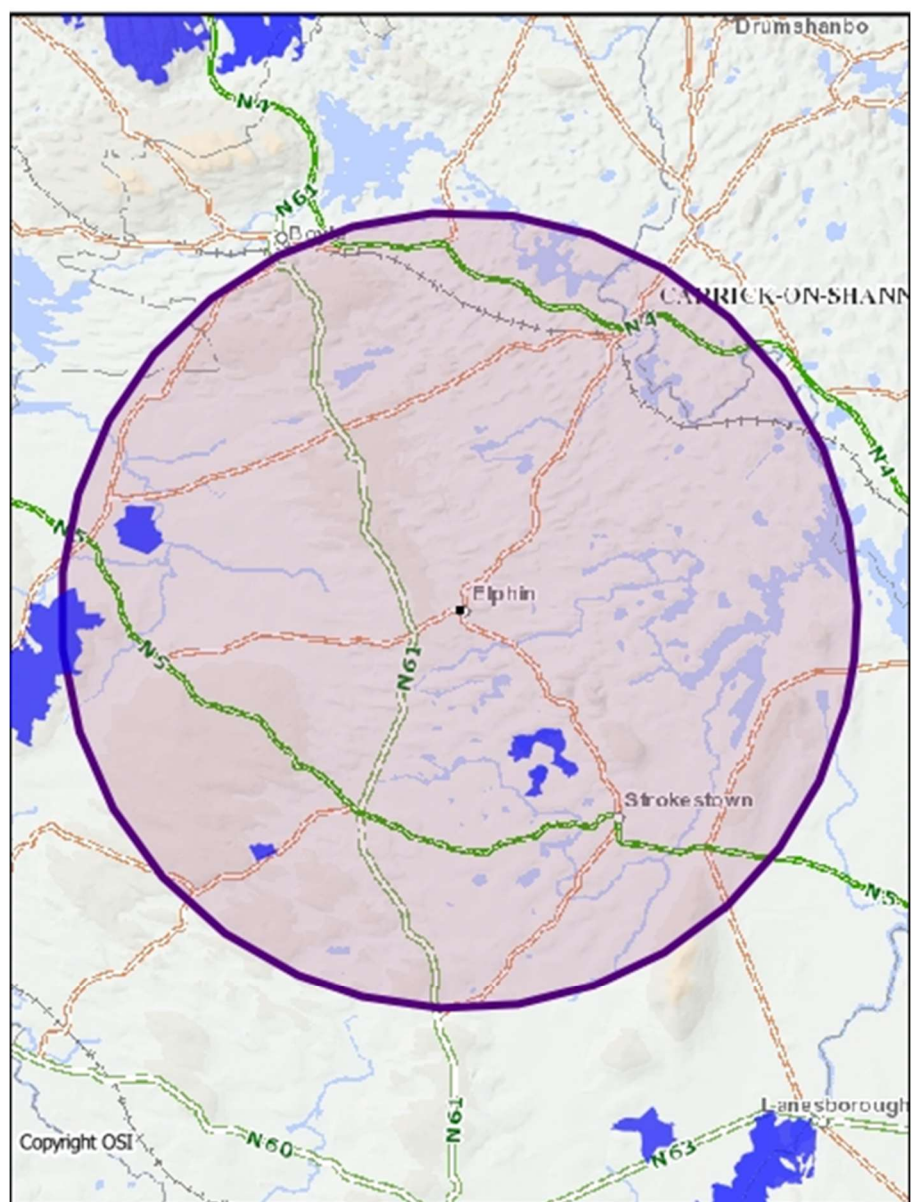
<b>1.</b>	<b>Impacts on Birds</b>	<b>Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)</b>
	<p>Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 1km of same?</p> <p><b>Sites to consider</b>  <b>Bellanagare Bog SPA</b> (Site Code: 004105)  Distance from Site: 13.33 km  Designated features: Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) (#A395)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No significant impacts on these Natura sites are likely</p>

All designated sites within a 15km radius of the subject site have been considered in this screening for Appropriate Assessment.

**Conclusion Table 2:** If the answer to all of these questions is no, significant impacts can be ruled out for Natura 2000 sites. No further assessment is required; proceed to the Habitats Directive Conclusion Statement. Please refer to tables 3 and 4 where the answer to any of these questions is yes.

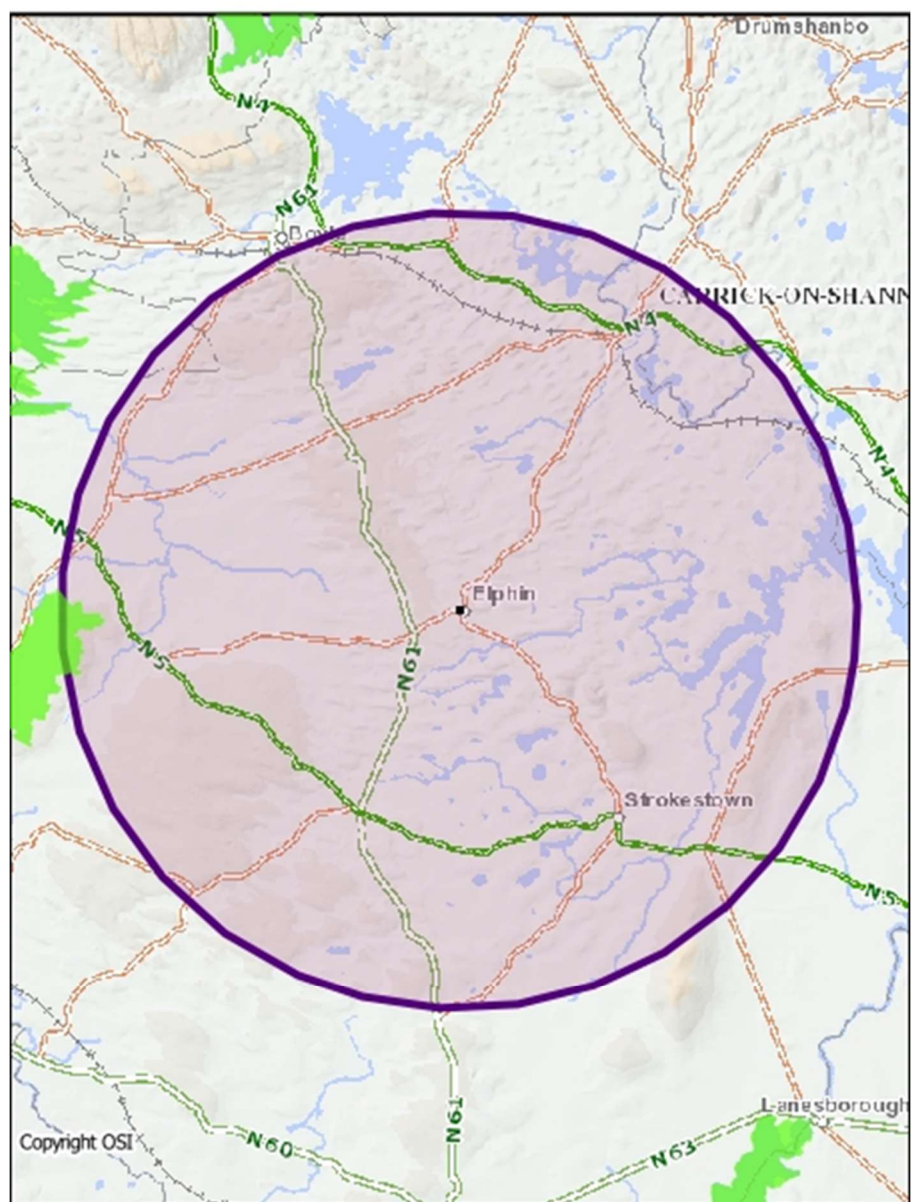
**Screening for Appropriate Assessment - Conclusion Statement**

<b>Development Consent Type:</b> Part 8 - Local Authority Own Development
<b>Development Location:</b> Elphin Town Centre, Chapel Street and Main Street, Co. Roscommon
<b>Natura 2000 sites within impact zone:</b> SAC:001626, SAC:000614, SAC:000612, SAC:000592, SPA:004105
<b>Description of the Project:</b> Elphin Town Centre public realm enhancement and redevelopment of the former Courthouse to provide a Cultural/Community Centre.
<b>Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 sites(s):</b> It is not considered that there will be any loss of habitat within any European Sites, nor any loss of any qualifying Annex 1 habitat outside designated sites. There is no evidence that any habitats proposed for removal within the subject lands are used by Qualifying Interests of any European sites. It is not considered therefore that there is any potential for cumulative habitat loss or disturbance impacts.
<b>If there are potential negative impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant, and if not, why not:</b> N/A
<b>Conclusion of Screening Assessment:</b> Following an assessment of the proposed development and any potential relationships with European Sites, it is concluded that either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, there would be no likely significant effects on any European Sites. Accordingly, there is no requirement for Appropriate Assessment.
<b>Documentation reviewed for making this statement:</b>  Roscommon County Development Plan 2014 – 2020  Elphin Area Plan – 2014 – 2020  County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017 – 2021  NPWS Site Synopsis, mapping and Conservation Objectives for the European Sites identified within this Screening Report.
<b>Completed by:</b>  Brian Farragher – A/SEP Regeneration Unit, Community and Enterprise.
<b>Date:</b>  17 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

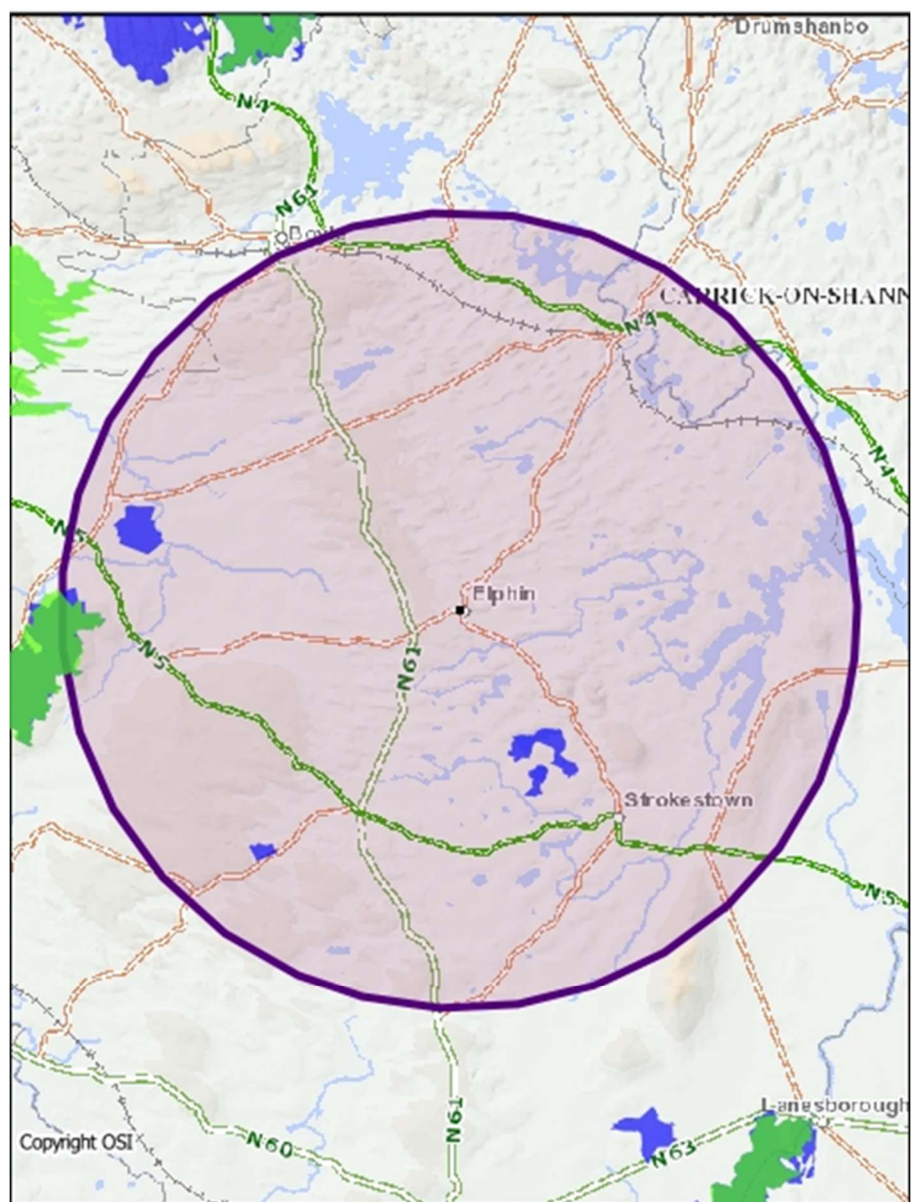


**SAC (blue) within 15km of Project Area**





**SPA (green) within 15km of Project Area**



**SAC & SPA within 15km of Project Area**