APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PROPOSED FLOODLIGHTING INSTALLATION AND ASSOCIATED CIVIL WORKS AT WESTSIDE RUNNING TRACK, GALWAY CITY, CO. GALWAY ON BEHALF OF GALWAY CITY COUNCIL
ENV_GCC_WS001

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Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Envirico Ltd have been commissioned by Galway City Council to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of in respect of proposed floodlighting installation and civil works scheme at Westside Running Track, Galway City, in lands owned by Galway City Council (GCC). The proposed project will consist of the installation of 20 floodlights in total with fixed column positions, with heights of approximately 12m. A Full description of the proposed works is given in Section 4.2.

The purpose of this AA screening is to determine if the proposed development, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect (LSE) on a European site (European site); comprising of Special Area of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The proposed site is bounded by Siobhan Mc Kenna Road, Circular Road and Bóthar Le Cheile Road, in Galway City and situated approximately 2.04km northeast of Galway City Centre. The site is comprised of a hardtop running track, playing fields, amenity grassland areas, walkways, adventure playground, bottle bank and Westside Skate Park. Several sports clubs are based adjacent to the running track such as St. Michaels GAA Club, Corrib Rangers Football Club and Westside Basketball Hoops. The surrounding land is composed of residential and commercial properties.

1.2 Legislative Context for Appropriate Assessment

Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 437 of 2011) (as amended) transposes Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) into Irish law. The regulations require that where a public authority wishes to progress a project (which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site), a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the project must be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. AA screening is required under Article 6(3) of European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC (also known as the Habitats Directive), section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to 2018 and amendments (Amendment of Part XAB (appropriate assessment)).

In accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Member States have identified a network of sites of conservation importance, hosting habitats and/or species identified in the Directives as needing to be either maintained at or returned to

favourable conservation status. These sites are known as the European network and in Ireland, European sites comprise areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and candidate Special Protection Areas (cSPAs).

These Directives require that where a project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it shall be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives . Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

Article 6(4) states:

"*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [European] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of European is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*"

<u>This screening for Appropriate Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the following European Commission Guidance:</u>

Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. DoEHLG (2010);

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) (2010);

- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European sites Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2001);
- Managing European sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2000a);
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. European Commission, (2000b); and
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission (2002).

1.3 Statement of Authority

This Screening Report has been prepared by Maurice O Connor, Environmental Consultant. Maurice holds BSc (Hons) degree in Wildlife Biology from Institute of Technology Tralee and an MSc in Ecological Assessment from National University of Ireland Cork (UCC). Maurice is an experienced ecological consultant with over 10 years' professional experience in Ireland, working independently and within consultancy. He has strong generalist ecological field skills in terrestrial and riparian environments and through his experience can demonstrate undertaking a range of ecological surveys including habitat, invasive and protected species survey, delivering initial site appraisals and identification of ecological constraints to inform Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA) and AA. Maurice has undertaken ecological assessments and surveys on a variety of project types (e.g. road schemes, waste, water, energy, and housing) involving survey, mitigation and enhancement. During his time as an environmental consultant, Maurice has completed numerous AA assessments for both plans and projects.

2. The Appropriate Assessment Process

2.1 Stages in Screening and Appropriate Assessment

Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) is broken into four distinct stages, as outlined in the European Commission Guidance document (2001). Within these stages, the potential of significant impacts/effects upon a European site will be assessed and detailed. The four stages of an AA are summarised below. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, which details this assessment process, is implemented into law in Ireland through the provisions of Sections 177U and 177V of the 'Planning and Development Act 2000 to 2018'.

All potential effects between activities associated with the proposed development and the ecological components of European sites must be considered. This includes potential effects on mobile species notably, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and migratory fish.

If the prospect of LSEs occurring cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information, the project is taken forward to the next stage of the process, Appropriate Assessment. At Screening, the burden of evidence is to show, on the basis of objective information, and beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the project will have no LSEs on a European site. If the effect may be significant, or is not known, it would trigger the need for Appropriate Assessment. The entire process can be broken down into four stages (EC, 2001), as outlined below:

Stage 1 - Screening:

Screening for an AA, in relation to the construction, management/operation and decommissioning of a specific proposed plan or project, shall be completed in order to assess whether said development, either individually or in combination with others, is likely to have a significant effect upon European sites locally, regionally or nationally, in view of these site's conservation objectives.

Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment:

The competent authority detailing the AA shall, under Article 6(3) and Section 177V of the 'Planning and Development Act 2000 to 2018', make a decision as to whether or not the proposed development would affect or impact upon the integrity of a European site. Where there are adverse effects on site integrity identified, mitigation measures are proposed, as appropriate, to avoid adverse effects, and as such a Natura Impact Statement is then required. For projects, the AA process is documented within a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This is provided to the competent authority by the applicant, to facilitate an informed assessment of the project.

Stage 3 - Assessment of Alternative Solutions:

If following AA, including proposal of mitigation, adverse effects on site integrity remain, or uncertainty remains, an Assessment of Alternatives is required. This process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

Stage 4 - Assessment where no alternative solutions exist:

Where alternative solutions, locations, etc. are absent, or if such solutions are likely to have increased levels of impact upon European sites, the competent authority must establish whether or not the plan or project can be considered as necessary for Imperative Reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

3. Screening Methodology

3.1 Desktop Review

An ecological desk review was undertaken across various dates in August 2023 in order to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project, as detailed in Section 4.2 of this document. The purpose of this review is to collate available data and information relating to the site and relevant European sites. Within this review, sources, publications, and datasets that were consulted included:

- Details and qualifying interests of European sites
- Aerial photography and 1:50000 mapping
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Species and habitat records from the National Biodiversity Data Centre's

3.1.1 Websites and other Resources Consulted

- Environmental Protection Agency ENVision online maps http://maps.ie
- National Parks and Wildlife Service website, www.npws.ie map viewer
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.biodiversityireland.ie),
- https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol2_Habitats_Article17.pdf
- Conservation Status Assessment Reports [1] (CSARs), Backing Documents and Maps prepared in accordance with Article 17 of the Habitats Directive;
- Published and unpublished NPWS reports on protected habitats and species including Irish Wildlife Manual reports, Species Action Plans, and Conservation Management Plans; and
- Existing relevant mapping and databases e.g. waterbody status, species and habitat distribution etc. (sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency - http://gis.epa.ie/, the National Biodiversity Data Centre - http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie and the National Parks and Wildlife Services - http://www.npws.ie/mapsanddata/).
- Westside Running Track, Desktop Review and field surveys. Envirico Ltd 2023
- NPWS (2017) Conservation objectives for Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites, particularly Galway Bay SPA Site Code 004031 and Galway Bay Complex SAC Site Code 000268, both of which are in close proximity the proposed project
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Connemara Bog Complex SAC 002034. Version 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Ross Lake and Woods SAC 001312. Version 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: East Burren Complex SAC 001926. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Inner Galway SPA 004031. Version 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SPA 004042. Version 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Cregganna Marsh SPA 004142. Version 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

3.2 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence (ZoI) for a project is the area over which significant effects could occur to ecological features from the proposed project and associated activities. The determination of a ZoI for a project should be identified on a case-by-case basis as there may be an effect on European sites that are at a distance from the development site itself. For example, where there is a hydrological link between the development site and a European site.

Considerations when determining the potential ZoI include:

- Ecological features within and in proximity to the proposed development
- Migratory/mobile species within the area
- Construction/operational activities that may cause a significant effect
- Linkages to European sites or sensitive habitats connected to those sites

Current Irish departmental guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) on the ZoI to be considered during the AA process states the following:

"A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects".

Given the relatively minor footprint of the proposed development and that the effects during operation of the development are likely to be slight to negligible, it is concluded that the ZoI is likely to be significantly smaller than 15km.

3.3 European site and identification

The identification of European/European sites, which have the potential to be impacted as a result of the proposed development (either individually and or in combination with other plans or projects, proposed or in development) is an important step in the assessment of such impacts whether they be indirect or direct. All European sites are different; hold differing ecological features, Qualifying Interests, conservation objectives, functions and general structure. Each relevant European site should be evaluated in order to determine if the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on (EC, 2001).

The Qualifying Interests (QI) of each European site can be affected directly and indirectly. Direct effects include habitat loss and habitat fragmentation, which can occur as a result of development land-take, alteration of conditions within a protected site, etc. Indirect effects that have the potential to occur as a result of a project (either individually or in combination with others) can include the change of silt content of a system, alteration of groundwater flow, etc. These indirect effects have the potential to result in impact to Qualifying Interests which rely on optimum conditions within a specific area/catchment (EC, 2001).

4. Screening

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of Screening is to determine whether AA is required. This is done by examining whether;

- A plan or project which is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site can be excluded from AA.
- The potential effects of a plan or project, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, on a European site, in view of its conservation objectives and considering whether these effects will be significant.

4.1.1 The Likely Significant Effect test

Screening is underpinned by an interpretation of LSE as this interpretation provides the benchmark for a finding of likely effects. Any assessment of significance must satisfy the principles that underpin a satisfactory determination for LSE with regard to the accumulation of impacts and an understanding of the nature, probability, and severity of potential impacts. The terms 'likely' and 'significance' have been defined variously by governments and through the courts. The following sections seek to provide clarification on the current interpretation of these key terms as determined by recent guidance and case law.

4.1.2 An interpretation of 'likely'

European case law has established that the benchmark requirement of 'likely' should not be regarded as a measure of probability in the context of an AA. Rather, a LSE finding is an acknowledgment that the risk of a significant effect occurring exists. This approach is consistent with the findings in the Waddenzee judgement, which found that "*if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on that site*" then a LSE finding is appropriate.

More recently, this position was upheld in the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Case C-258/11 (Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála (Ireland), where the judgment interprets "likely" to mean "may". "*The test is set at a lower level*" and "*there is no need to establish such an effect; it is merely necessary to determine that there may be such an effect*". In cases where there is a determination that there is no significant effect, the Waddenzee judgment establishes that there must remain "*no reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of such effects*."

More recently the Kokott Judgement (Case C-721/21 Eco Advocacy CLG, (Request for a preliminary ruling from the High Court (Ireland)), delivered on 19th January 2023 states that;

"At the stage of screening the need for an appropriate assessment under Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as amended by Council Directive 2013/17/EU of 13 May 2013, features of the plan or project involving the removal of contaminants that may have the effect of mitigating a harmful effect on the protected site may be taken into account, where it is clear, on the basis of objective considerations, that those features were incorporated into the design as standard features irrespective of any effect on the protected site concerned, and all reasonable scientific doubt concerning their effectiveness can be ruled out."

4.1.3 An interpretation of 'significant'

It was clarified in the ECJ Case C-127/02 (the Waddenzee judgment) that the measure of significance should be made against the ecological objectives for which the site was designated: "where a plan or project is likely to undermine the site's conservation objectives, it must be considered likely to have a significant effect on that site".

The proposed project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of any European site therefore Screening for AA is required. This involves the following:

- Proposed development description
- European site(s) identification, Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives
- Ecology baseline conditions within and in close proximity to proposed development
- Assessment of likely effects
- Screening conclusion.
- CIEEM (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) Second Edition
- Fossitt, J. (2000). Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council
- NRA (2010). Guidelines on the Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads.

4.2 Description of the Proposed Development

The proposed project site is located within the established suburbs of Galway City Co. Galway. The proposed development site is the Westside Running Track, with the proposed works to consist of the installation of floodlights and associated civil works. The proposed site is bounded by Siobhan Mc Kenna Road, Circular Road and Bóthar Le Cheile Road in Galway City and situated approximately 2.04km northeast of Galway City Centre (refer to Figure.1).

The site is comprised of a hardtop running track, playing fields, amenity grassland areas, walkways, adventure playground, bottle-bank and Westside Skate Park. Several sports clubs are based adjacent to the running track such as St. Michaels GAA Club, Corrib Rangers Football Club and Westside Basketball Hoops. The surrounding land is composed of residential and commercial properties.

The proposed project will consist of the installation of 20 floodlights in total with fixed column positions, with heights of approximately 12m. The floodlights around the running track of lighting of 276 Lux maintained average with uniformity of minimum/ average = > 0.71 and minimum/ maximum =>0.47, with maintenance factor of 0.95. The spill light is calculated with maintenance factor of 1.00. (refer to Figure.2).

- General site set up.
- Site hoarding to secure the site and will assist with the control of dust containment.
- Pre identified locations for storage of construction materials, located away from the boundary habitat in the interest of pollution prevention.
- No interference with the natural boundary.
- Groundworks for floodlight installation.
- Installation of floodlights.
- Restoration of site after completion of proposed works.

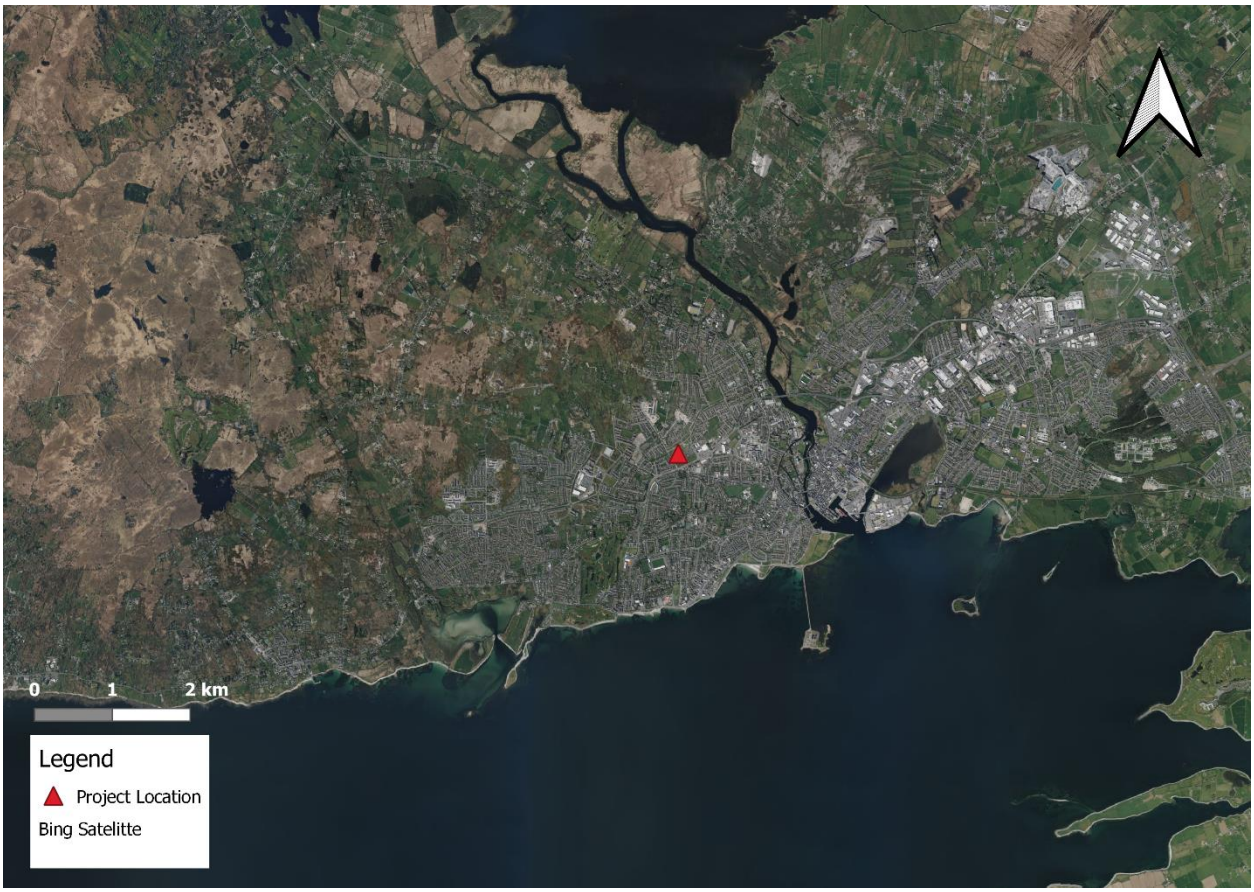

Figure 1: Location of proposed development site at Westside Running Track, Galway City

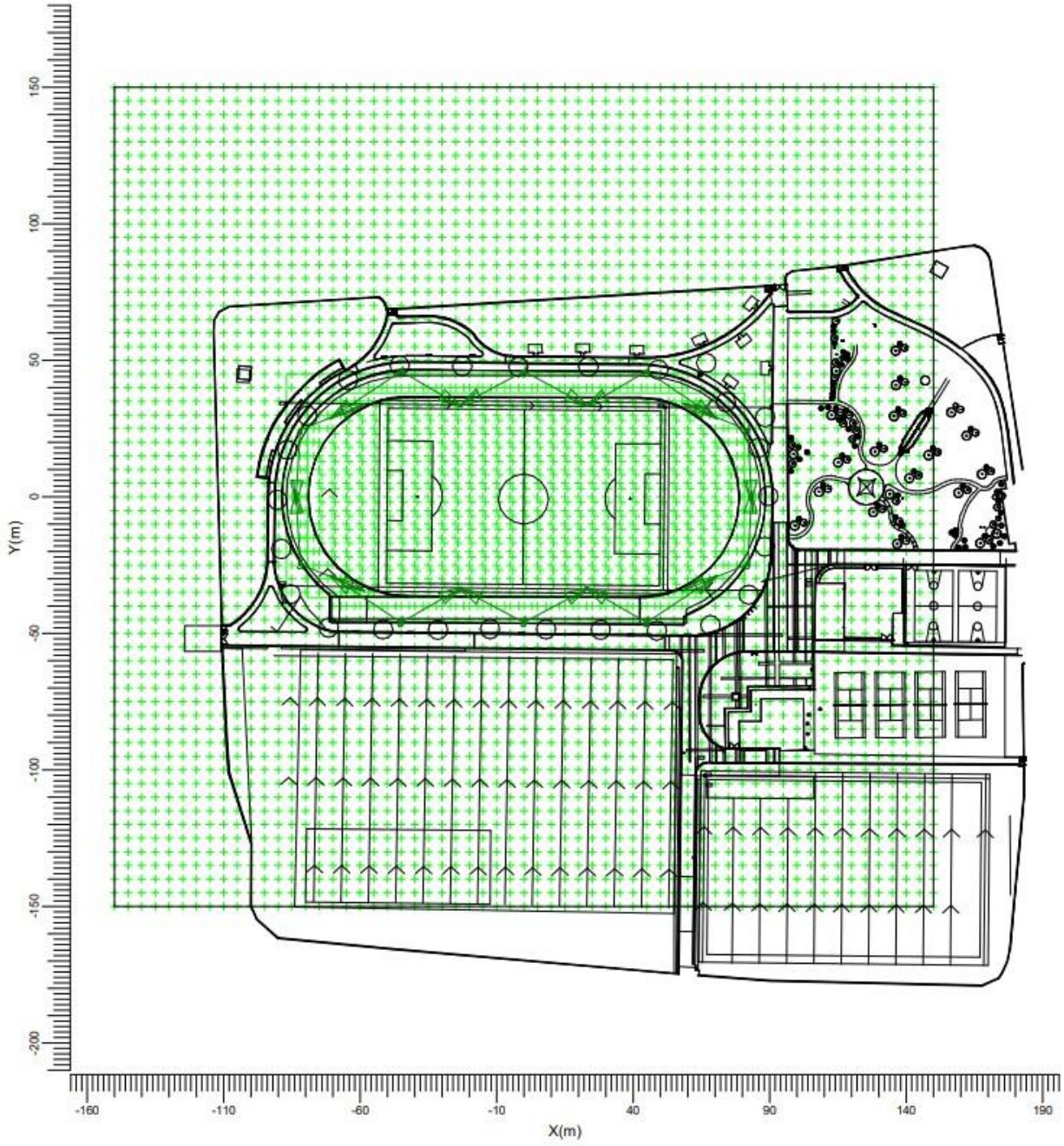

Figure 2: Project overview diagram for Westside Running Track (GCC, 2023)

4.3 Baseline Characterisation

4.3.1 Overview of baseline data

An Envirico ecologist carried out a detailed site walkovers on the 21st of August 2023 to inform the screening for Appropriate Assessment. This assessment included the identification of notable species, habitats, bat, bird, and mammal evidence. Resulting from the survey findings five habitats were identified Amenity grassland (GA2), Treelines (WL2), Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3), Horticultural land (BC2) and Hedgerow (WL1) were recorded in an urban setting.

The assessment of protected species and habitats and/or invasive species was undertaken in line with the following guidelines:

- CIEEM (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) Second Edition
- Fossitt, J. (2000). Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council
- NRA (2010). Guidelines on the Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads.

4.3.2 Habitats

The site is dominated by amenity grassland with buildings and artificial surfaces and horticultural land forming the majority of the remaining habitat within Westside Park. Building and artificial surfaces habitat type is present in the form of the running track and the footpaths or walkways present in Westside Park.

In total five habitat types were identified on site (refer to Figure.3). None of the habitats identified as priority Habitats and generally are common within the area, these habitats include:

Amenity Grassland (GA2)

A large portion of the site recorded within the survey area consisted of amenity grassland type of habitat. The majority of the amenity grassland habitat consisted of mown areas such as sports pitches and grass along walkways with young immature trees present along these areas. There was smaller percentage of un-mown areas grasses with bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), herbaceous plants and some flowering plants during the time of the field survey. Plants recorded included common species of broad-leaved herbs and grasses such as Common Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Dandelion (T*araxacum* agg)., Perennial Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Crested Dogs-tail Grass (*Cynosurus cristatus*).

Horticultural Land (BC2)

This particular habitat type situated on the north eastern corner of the site consisted of a planted garden, raised bed and young planted trees.

Treelines (WL2)

This habitat type was located along the northeastern boundary of the Siobhan Mc Kenna Road, outside the boundary of the site and consisted of immature trees. There were no mature trees present on the site.

Buildings and Artificial surfaces (BL3)

This particular habitat type consists of the outdoor athletics track, playground and the footpaths or walkways around Westside Park.

Treelines (WL1)

There was an immature hedgerow present along the south to south eastern boundary of the site, approximately 1m in height consisting of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

Figure 3 Habitat map for Westside Running Track, Co. Galway.

4.3.3 Invertebrates

No investigation of invertebrates or micro-organisms was undertaken on the day of site survey. The desk study search of NBDC records for the 1km squares encompassing the site (M2725 and M2825) yielded approximately 50 species of invertebrate species; Of which, one record of the vulnerable species Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja)* and two records of the near threatened species, Large Red-tailed Bumble Bee (*Bombus (Mekanobombus) lapidaries)* were identified.

4.3.4 Avifauna

The desk study search of NBDC records for the 1km squares encompassing the site (M2725 and M2825) yielded approximately 2 records of species European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis)* and European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula).*

During the course of the survey the following species were recorded Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes***),** Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).

4.3.5 Invasive Species

The desk study search of NBDC records for the 1km squares encompassing the site (M2725 and M2825) yielded approximately 2 invasive faunal species New Zealand Flatworm (*Turbellaria)* (*Arthurdendyus triangulates)* - a high impact invasive species, and flatworm (*Australoplana sanguinea) – a medium impact species* ; And 1 invasive floral species Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonia),* a high-impact. Schedule 3 invasive species.

During the field survey, no invasive floral species were recorded within Westside Park boundary.

4.3.6 Mammals and aquatic Species

The desk study search of NBDC records for the 1km squares encompassing the site (M2725 and M2825) returned records for one terrestrial mammal, West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus)* – a protected species under the Wildlife Act. The walkover survey carried out on the 21st August 2023 found no evidence of mammals. No bat foraging or roosting habitats are present on site.

4.3.7 Aquatic Habitats

No aquatic habitats, drainage ditches or obvious culverts, ponding or any water features were noted on site. However, the site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16).

Figure 4 WFD River Network in the wider vicinity of proposed development site - Westside Running Track, Co. Galway

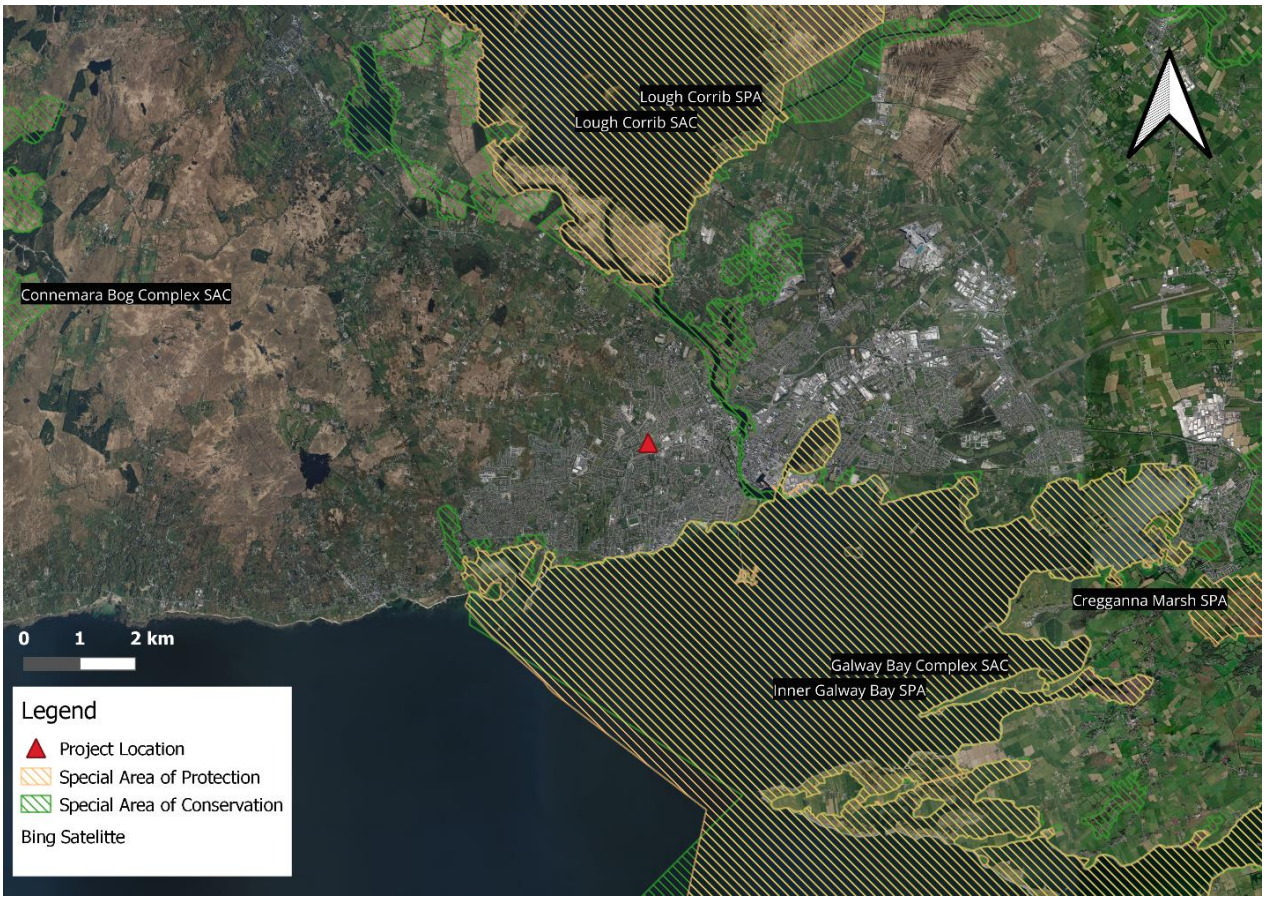

Figure 5 Proposed project location in relation to nearby European/ Natura 2000 sites in Terryland, Galway City

4.4 Identification of European Sites

Within 15 km of the development site, eight European sites were identified. Table.1 (Section 4.4) details each European/Natura site within 15km and its distance in relation to the proposed development. Table.2 (Section 4.4) details the potential effects which could occur as a result of the proposed development, describing the effect and indicating where this impact is likely to occur within the detailed Zone of Influence (ZoI). These sites are then assessed against the detailed impacts in Table.3 (Section 4.5).

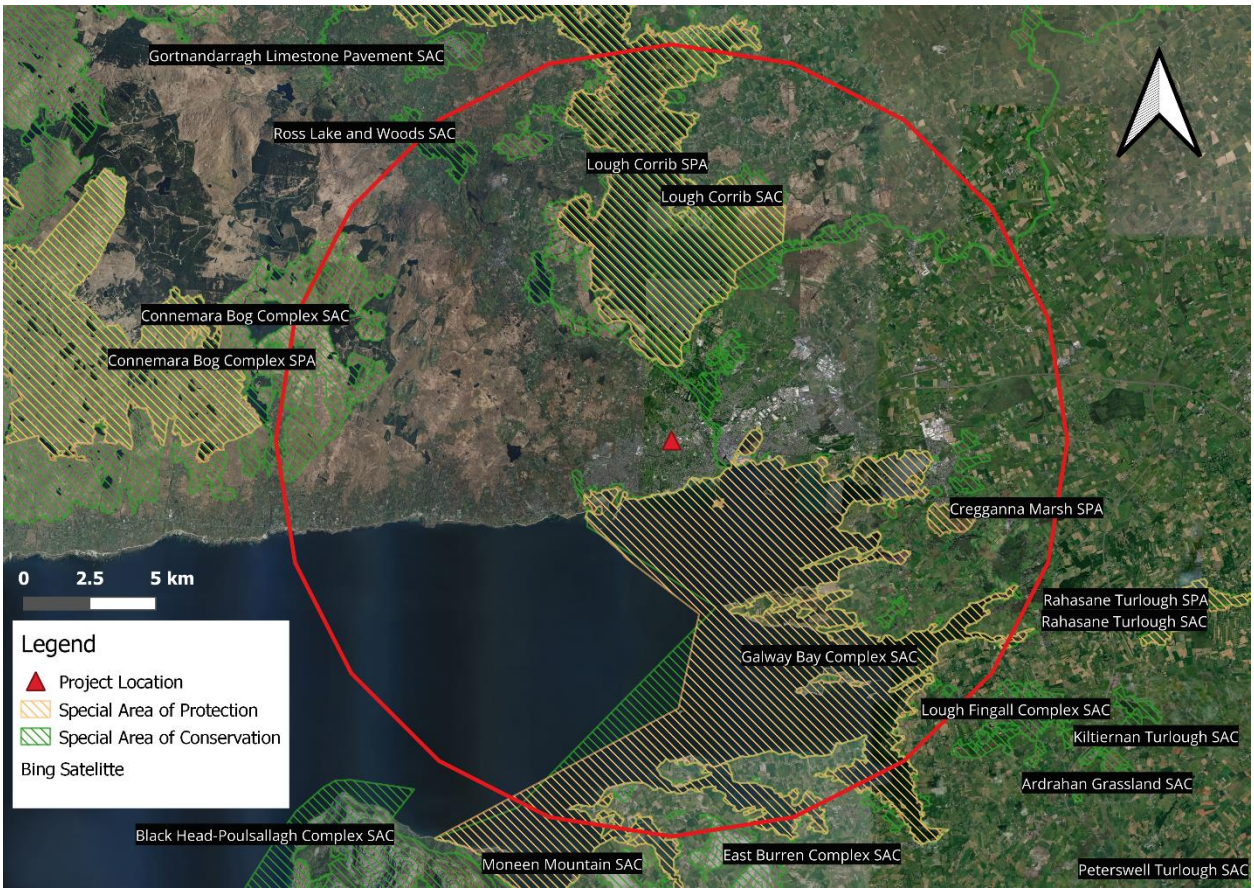

Figure 6 Proposed development site in relation to European/ Natura 2000 sites within 15km buffer zone, Westside Running Track, Galway.

Table 1: European/European sites within 15km of the proposed development

European Site	Site Code	Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests (QIs and SCIs)	Approximate Distance from Proposed Area	Potential receptor links between proposed development & the European site.	Likely to Occur on site, in area or adjacent to European sites
Lough Corrib SAC	(000297)	**<u>Annex I Habitats</u>** Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]	1.47km	No potential direct, indirect or cumulative threats to qualifying interests of site. No loss of habitat or disturbance	No hydrological connection

		3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.[3140] Water courses of plain to montane levels with *the Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Active raised bogs* [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae** [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)* [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements* [8240] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Bog woodland* [91D0] **<u>Annex II Species</u>** Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)* [1096] Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)* [1095] Lesser Horseshoe Bat *(Rhinolophus hipposideros)* [1303]			

		Salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106] White-clawed Crayfish *(Austropotamobius pallipes)* [1092] Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)* [1029] 1355 Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355] Slender Green Feather-moss *(Hamatocaulis vernicosus)* [6216] 1833 Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833]			
Galway Bay Complex SAC	(000268)	**<u>Annex I Habitats * denotes priority habitat</u>** Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Estuaries [1130] Coastal lagoons* [1150] Large shallow inlets & bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410] Turloughs* [3180] Juniperus communis on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous	1.61km	No potential direct, indirect or cumulative threats to qualifying interests of site. No loss of habitat or disturbance	No

		substrates (*Festuco-Brometelia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of *the Caricion davalliannae** [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements* [8240] **<u>Annex II Species</u>** Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355] Harbour Seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365]			
Connemara Bog Complex SAC	(002034)	**<u>Annex I Habitats</u>** Coastal lagoons* [1150] Reefs [1170] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150] Alkaline fens [7230] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] **<u>Annex II Species</u>**	11km	No loss of habitat or disturbance due to distance from proposed works	No hydrological connection

		Salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355] Marsh Fritillary *(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065]			
Ross Lake and Woods SAC	(001312)	**Annex I Habitats** Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.* [3140] **Annex II Species** Lesser Horseshoe Bat *(Rhinolophus hipposideros)* [1303]	13.2km	No loss of habitat or disturbance due to distance from proposed works	No hydrological connection
East Burren Complex SAC	(001926)	**Annex I Habitats** Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Turloughs* [3180 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510]	14.22km	No loss of habitat or disturbance due to distance from proposed works	No hydrological connection

		Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae* [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements* [8240] Caves not open to the public [8310] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* [91E0] **Annex II Species** Marsh Fritillary*(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065] Lesser Horseshoe Bat*(Rhinolophus hipposideros)* [1303] Otter*(Lutra lutra)* [1355]			
Inner Galway Bay SPA	(004031)	**Birds** Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla brota*) [A046] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069] Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) [A162] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] A003 Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)* Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017] Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169]	1.6km	No potential direct, indirect or cumulative threats to qualifying interests of site. Amenity Grassland Habitat not utilised as a feeding site for Annexed Bird Species.	No

		Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)* [A142] Wigeon *(Anas penelope)* [A050] Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179] Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160] Black-throated Diver *(Gavia arctica)* [A002] Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140] Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157] Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052] Sandwich Tern *(Sterna sandvicensis)* [A191] Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137] Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] Grey Heron *(Ardea cinerea)* [A028] **<u>Annex I Habitats</u>** Wetlands			
Lough Corrib SPA	(004042)	**<u>Birds</u>** Pochard *(Aythya ferina)* [A059] Tufted Duck *(Aythya fuligula)* [A061] Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194] Common Scoter *(Melanitta nigra)* [A065] Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182] Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)*	2.78km	No potential direct, indirect or cumulative threats to qualifying interests of site. Amenity Grassland Habitat not utilised as a feeding site for Annexed Bird Species.	No

		[A140] Hen Harrier *(Circus cyaneus)* [A082] A125 Coot *(Fulica atra)* [A125] Gadwall *(Anas strepera)* [A051] Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179] Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056] Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)* [A395] **Annex I Habitats** Wetlands			
Cregganna Marsh SPA	(004142)	**Birds** Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)* [A395]	10.08km	No loss of habitat or disturbance due to distance from proposed works	No hydrological connection

Based on the project description as set out in Section 4.2 and the ZoI over which the effect could occur, i.e. the distance at which the proposed development could have potential effects, using professional judgement and published guidance, potential effects can be identified. Table.4 focuses on the potential effects that could occur during the construction and operational phase of the proposed project.

Table 2: Potential effects

Potential Effect	Description of Effect	ZoI- likely area over which effect could occur
Construction		
Noise and vibration/unfamiliar visual stimuli (e.g. machinery/people).	Disturbance (e.g. noise/recreational etc.)	The nearest European/European sites are >1km from the proposed development site. Therefore, there is no potential for this impact to occur.
Sedimentation and pollution events	Indirect impacts on habitat (e.g. reduction in surface water quality/ introduction of invasive spp.)	The proposed development will be fully regulated to manage all on site activities including ERP for all on site events. The project site is not hydrologically connected to any European sites; no risk of pollution as a consequence of the proposed works are likely.
Operational	The operational phase to this project will be the management of the lights in Westside Park (maintenance and services) there are no operational impacts predicted to occur.	

4.5 Sites within the ZoI

It has been determined that none out of the eight sites within 15km of the proposed development site falls within the ZoI due to the small scale of operations being carried out, no hydrological features on or near the project site, landscaped environment offering little biodiversity services – e.g., no bat roosting sites; No likely significant effects are to occur to surrounding Natura sites.

Table 3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

European Site	Distance of site from project	Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests (QIs and SCIs)	Identification of potential effects and potential pathway	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE)
Special Area of Conservation (SPA)				
Lough Corrib SAC (000297)	1.47km	**<u>Annex I Habitats</u>** Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.[3140] Water courses of plain to montane levels with *the Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] Semi-natural dry grasslands and	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality. **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation.

		scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Active raised bogs* [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae** [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)* [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements* [8240] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Bog woodland* [91D0] **<u>Annex II Species</u>** Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)* [1096] Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)* [1095]		No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.

		Lesser Horseshoe Bat *(Rhinolophus hipposideros)* [1303] Salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106] White-clawed Crayfish *(Austropotamobius pallipes)* [1092] Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)* [1029] 1355 Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355] Slender Green Feather-moss *(Hamatocaulis vernicosus)* [6216] 1833 Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833]		
Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)	1.61km	**<u>Annex I Habitats * denotes priority habitat</u>** Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Estuaries [1130] Coastal lagoons* [1150] Large shallow inlets & bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:**

		Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410] Turloughs* [3180] Juniperus communis on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometelia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of *the Caricion davalliannae** [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements* [8240] **<u>Annex II Species</u>** Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355] Harbour Seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365]		No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation. No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.
Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034)	11km	**<u>Annex I Habitats</u>** Coastal lagoons* [1150] Reefs [1170]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16)

		Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150] Alkaline fens [7230] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation. No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.

		<u>Annex II Species</u> Salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355] Marsh Fritillary *(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065]		
Ross Lake and Woods SAC (001312)	13.2km	**<u>Annex I Habitats</u>** Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.* [3140] **<u>Annex II Species</u>** Lesser Horseshoe Bat *(Rhinolophus hipposideros)* [1303]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation. No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of

				foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.
East Burren Complex SAC (001926)	14.2km	**Annex I Habitats** Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Turloughs* [3180 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation. No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites.

		Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae* [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements* [8240] Caves not open to the public [8310] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* [91E0] **Annex II Species** Marsh Fritillary*(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065] Lesser Horseshoe Bat*(Rhinolophus hipposideros)* [1303] Otter*(Lutra lutra)* [1355]		No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.

Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)	1.6km	**Birds** Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla brota*) [A046] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069] Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) [A162] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] A003 Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)* Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017] Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169] Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)* [A142] Wigeon *(Anas penelope)* [A050] Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179] Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160] Black-throated Diver *(Gavia arctica)* [A002] Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140] Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157] Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation. No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.

		Sandwich Tern *(Sterna sandvicensis)* [A191] Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137] Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] Grey Heron *(Ardea cinerea)* [A028] **Annex I Habitats** Wetlands		
Lough Corrib SPA (004042)	2.78km	**Birds** Pochard *(Aythya ferina)* [A059] Tufted Duck *(Aythya fuligula)* [A061] Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194] Common Scoter *(Melanitta nigra)* [A065] Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182] Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140] Hen Harrier *(Circus cyaneus)* [A082] A125 Coot *(Fulica atra)* [A125]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation. No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely.

		Gadwall *(Anas strepera)* [A051] Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179] Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056] Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193] Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)* [A395] **Annex I Habitats** Wetlands		Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.
Cregganna Marsh SPA (004142)	10.08km	**Birds** Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)* [A395]	**Sediment and Pollution:** Sediment and pollution events from machinery used during the proposed works and potential impacts on surface water quality **Disturbance/Noise:** Disturbance (e.g. habitat removal, reduction, fragmentation noise/recreational etc.)	**Sediment and Pollution:** No. There are no surface water features present on the site. The site is located approximately 790m east of Knocknacurragh (EPA code: 31K16) The proposed development will not result in any measurable adverse effects on surface and groundwater quality, availability, flow or distribution. **Disturbance/Noise:** No – Works will be confined to the proposed development site and there will be no habitat loss. No – Works will be confined to the site and there will be no habitat fragmentation.

				No - Previous and current disturbance and disruption to species is considered unlikely. Species for which the European sites have been designated are highly unlikely to utilise the Site or be influenced by the Site due to lack of foraging habitat and / or a lack of environmental connectivity between the sites. No noise disturbance or recreational pressures predicted due to the small scale and the temporary nature of the works.

5. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The determination of LSE is considered to be any effect that may possibly occur as a consequence of the project that would undermine the conservation objectives for the site's Annex I habitats or Annex II species. As shown in Table.3 (Section 4.5), the potential effects from the project on surrounding European Sites have been shown to be negligible and not likely to occur. It has been determined that there is no hydrological, physical or ecological links between the proposed development site and any European/European sites, therefore there is no possibility of LSE occurring on any European site.

5.1 In combination Effects

In order to take account of in combination effects, plans, and projects that are completed, approved but uncompleted, or proposed (but not yet approved) should be considered (EC, 2001). A search for relevant plans and projects within the surrounding area was undertaken for assessment of in combination impacts. The sources listed below were searched:

- Galway County Council
- An Bord Pleanala
- National Road Authority

The majority of proposed and permitted developments within the area surrounding the proposed development site over the previous five years are largely composed of private single dwelling developments, extensions, and demolitions. Two larger scale developments were also identified; Conditional planning was submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the permission to improve transport infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and public services i.e., buses; located in Galway City on the 1/9/2022 (File no. 311682). Developments are planned to take place on the Cross-City Link, University Road to Dublin Road and the applicant Galway City Council. The work comprises of: a) bus priority infrastructure; b) street infrastructure; c) cycling infrastructure; d) refurbishing of pedestrian facilities; e) reconstruction of traffic signals; e) reconfiguration and development of bus facilities; f) public works: landscaping, street furniture, lighting, walls and boundaries, drainage; g) removal and importation of materials.

Conditional planning was granted by An Bord Pleanála for the development of a new road to run from the existing R336 at An Baile Nua, west of Bearna, Co. Galway, North of Galway City, to tie-in with N6 at Coolagh, Briarhill, Galway. Submitted on the 15/10/2018 (File No. 302848) and the applicant Galway County Council. The work consists of: a) construction of a dual-carriageway; b) single carriageway; c) new link roads; d) the realignment of existing roads; e) diversion of electricity; f) ancillary and consequential works.

The developments outlined above were identified from the above sources within close proximity of the proposed development. Other large-scale applications in the area were rejected and therefore not included in the assessment. A number of smaller planning applications predominantly for extensions or alterations to existing residential dwellings were also identified. Given the nature of these developments and the scale of the proposed works in Westside Park, there is unlikely to be any in-combination effects from the proposed development.

6. Screening Statement and Conclusion

This assessment considers whether the proposed installation of floodlights and associated civil works at Westside Running Track Co. Galway, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of nearby European sites. Following examination of the proposed development, including the nature and location of works, it is concluded that there is no potential to impact on Annex I habitats or Annex II species associated with European Sites, namely Lough Corrib SAC [00297], Galway Bay Complex SAC [000268], Connemara Bog Complex SAC [002034], Ross Lake and Woods SAC (001312], East Burren Complex SAC (001926) Inner Galway Bay SPA [004031], Lough Corrib SPA [004042], and Cregganna Marsh SPA [004142]; all >1km in distance from the project site. As this assessment has not identified any potential significant impacts to nearby European sites, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and subsequent Natura Impact Statement are not deemed necessary.

The findings of this screening for Appropriate Assessment are summarised in the Findings of no Significant Effects Matrix hereunder:

Table 4: Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix

Findings of No Significant Effects Screening Matrix	
Name of project or plan	Galway City Council, installation of floodlights and associated civil works at Westside Park, Co. Galway.
Name and location of European site	**Lough Corrib SAC 1.47km E m W** **Galway Bay Complex SAC 1.61km S** **Connemara Bog Complex SAC 11km W** **Ross Lake and Woods SAC 12.6km** **East Burren Complex SAC 14.2km** **Inner Galway Bay SPA 1.61km S** **Lough Corrib SPA 2.78km S** **Cregganna Marsh SPA 10.08km SE**
Description of the project or plan	Installation of floodlights and associated civil works at Westside Running Track Co. Galway. • General site set up • Site hoarding to secure the site and will assist with the control of dust containment. • Pre identified locations for storage of construction materials, located away from the boundary habitat in the interest of pollution prevention. • No interference with the natural boundary • Groundworks for floodlight installation • Installation of floodlights • Restoration of site after completion of proposed works.
Land take	None from European sites and no further land take is required from the Site as the boundaries are already in place.
Resource requirements (Water abstraction etc.)	No resources from a Natura site are required or have been required.
Sediment and Pollution (disposal to land, water or air)	There are no sediment or pollution pathways to water that could have affected European sites. No surface water hydrological pathways have been identified between the Site and European sites
Excavation requirements	There are and have been no excavation requirements within the European sites or those that could affect European sites through source pathway modelling.
Transportation requirements	Transportation of materials to and from Site will not affect / would not have affected European sites in a way that would be measurable.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	No. Plans and projects within the local area are predominantly small scale residential and commercial developments.

The Assessment of Significance of Effects		
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the European site.	No likely effects determined. All potential impacts are determined as extremely unlikely.	
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	No impacts have been determined therefore there can be no alteration of the conservation condition or objectives of the European sites due to the proposed works.	
Data collected to carry out the assessment		
Who carried out the assessment?	**Sources of Data**	**Level of Assessment**
Maurice O'Connor Senior Project Manager Envirico Ltd. Robert Mc Namara, Project Ecologist Envirico Ltd.	Refer to Section 7. References	Desk study plus field assessment

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8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix I – Site Photographs

Photo 1: Immature Treeline bordering Running Track

Photo 2 Hedgerow bordering amenity grassland

Photo 3 artificial structures and amenity grassland

Photo 4 Artificial surfaces and existing lighting along footpath

Photo 5 Project site view

Photo 6 Park next to Running Track