

**Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment  
Screening Determination**

**Installation of PV Panels at Fermoy Swimming Pool**



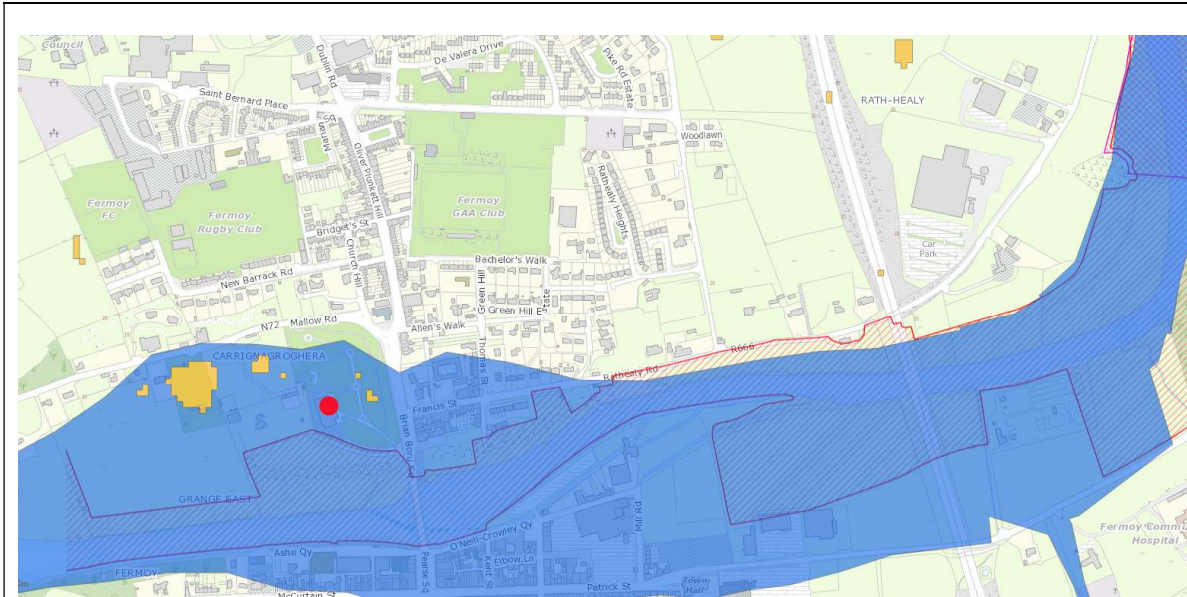
**Cork County Council**  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

**Completed by Kieran Murphy**

**Date: December 2021**

This document includes the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Screening Determination of Cork County Council in respect of the Installation of PV Panels at Fermoy Swimming Pool. The assessment is based on project drawings and details prepared by Finbarr Jones on behalf of Cork County Council.

<p><b>Name of the project</b> Installation of PV Panels at Fermoy Swimming Pool</p>
<p><b>Description of the project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit a new cladded roof membrane with thickness of approximately 150mm to 200mm complete with necessary fixing supports to over the existing roof structure in order to improve the thermal condition of the complex and to eliminate water ingress into the complex complete with new guttering system</li> <li>• Install PV panel solar array system on top of the portal roof structure or be integrated within the new cladding and link into electrical system within the building. It is expected the PV Solar system will be cover approximately 1,200m<sup>2</sup> of the roof.</li> </ul> <p>This project will improve the sustainability of the pool by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the installation of new cladded membrane, it will lead to a reduction of thermal losses through the roof, thus a reduction in thermal heating costs</li> <li>• With the PV Solar panel generating power, it will reduce the need to import electricity from the grid.</li> </ul> <p>No other works are being carried out and there will be no change to the wastewater and surface water systems already in place</p>
<p><b>Name and location of EU sites subject to screening</b></p> <p>There are two Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the project, namely the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code: 2170) and the Blackwater Callows (site code: 4094), see Map 1.</p> <p>The <b>Blackwater River SAC</b> is located approximately 10m from the Leisure Centre. It designated for 18 qualify interests. The SAC is designated for 18 qualifying interests. Known to occur in the vicinity of the site are Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>), Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) and Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>). The conservation objectives for those species are to maintain the favourable conservation condition for Salmon, and to restore the favourable conservation condition for Freshwater Pearl mussel, Sea Lamprey and Otter.</p> <p>The <b>Blackwater Callows SPA</b> is located 1.4km from the Leisure Centre. It is designated for Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>), Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) and Wetland and Waterbirds. The conservation objectives for these special conservation interests have not been specified.</p>



Map 1 - Location of the proposed project in relation to the Blackwater River SAC (red hatch), Blackwater Callow (pink hatch) and OPW draft PFRA fluvial - 100 year event (blue) mapping

**Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites listed above?**

No.

**Describe how the project (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site.**

Blackwater River SAC: The Leisure Centre is 10m outside the SAC. Although the Centre is located within the floodplain, the proposed works involve work to the roof only and will not increase any surface water run-off or stormwater loading to the existing public infrastructure. At construction, given the scale of the project, any surface water run-off that might be contaminated will construction related contaminants will be negligible and unlikely to give rise to significant impacts on the SAC.

Blackwater Callow SPA: Given the distance, absence of spatial overlap, and scale and nature of the project, I consider the potential for the proposed project to give rise to significant negative impacts on the SPA to be unlikely.

**Are there other projects or plans that together with the project being assessed that could affect these sites (provide details)?**

No potential for impact on any European site has been identified. As the project will not impact negatively on any European site, there is no potential for impacts associated with the project to contribute to 'in combination' effects on any such site.

**List of agencies consulted**

Internal Departments.

As the development is not located in an area of special amenity or obstructs any view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, there is no obligation to notify prescribed bodies such as Failte Eireann, Heritage Council, An Taisce etc of the application.

**Who carried out this assessment?**

Kieran Murphy, Assistant Ecologist, Cork County Council

**Sources of data**

Desk top review.

**Level of assessment completed**

Habitats Directive Screening Determination

**Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?**

This report.

**Overall conclusion**

In accordance with Section 177S of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in this report, it is concluded that the proposed project does not pose a risk of causing significant negative any EU site for the following reason:

- There is no spatial overlap with any Natura 2000 site and therefore no direct impacts to the SAC or SPA will occur;
- The scale of the works is relatively small and water quality impacts from construction related surface water runoff will be negligible;
- The location of the project is sufficiently distance from the SPA that disturbance related impacts on unlikely.

It is therefore determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 is not required.