

## Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

<b>Applicant Name:</b>	Carlow County Council
<b>Development Location:</b>	Firehouse Remote Working Hub (Formerly 'The Core'), Hacketstown, Co. Carlow
<b>Site Size:</b>	355 sq m
<b>Application accompanied by an EIS:</b>	No
<b>Application accompanied by an NIS:</b>	No
<p><b>Is the development a small extension/alteration to existing building not within an SAC/SPA or not within 250m of an SAC/SPA with no likely discharge of pollutants, nutrients or surface water of a significant nature within catchments of an SAC/ SPA as part of either its construction or operational phase. If the answer to the above question is;</b></p> <p><b>a) yes, then significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out. Proceed to complete 'Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement - Determination'.</b></p> <p><b>(b) no or not sure, then proceed with this Screening Report.</b></p>	
<b>Step 1: Management of Natura 2000 sites</b>	
<b>Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site?</b>	
No	
<b>Step 2: Description of the project</b>	
<b>2.1 Brief Description of the project or plan.</b>	
To develop the building formerly known as 'The Core', Hacketstown, County Carlow, into a Remote Working Hub which will be known as 'Firehouse'. The development will comprise of: renovation of existing structure; extension to include 2 no. offices and a covered entrance area; provision of an accessible toilet; provision of a Kitchenette; new building signage; site works including accessible ramp, exterior steps, boundary treatment and landscaping; alterations to site services.	
<b>2.2 Brief Description of the Natura 2000 sites (generally within 15km)</b>	
Slaney River Valley SAC (000781) Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122) Holdenstown Bog SAC (001757)	
<b>2.3 Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on Natura 2000 sites</b>	
No element of the proposed development is likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites	
<b>2.4 Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site;</b>	
No likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the proposed development on the Natura 2000 sites.	

<b>2.5 Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of: Reduction of habitat area, Disturbance to key species, Habitat or species fragmentation, Reduction in species density, Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.), Climate Change</b>	
No likely changes to the Natura 2000 network as a result of the proposed development.	
<b>2.6 Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site</li> <li>• Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</li> </ul>	
No likely impacts identified that will interfere with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site.	
<b>Step 3: Characteristics of the Site</b>	
<b>3.1 Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above.</b>	
None identified.	
<b>Step 4: Assessment of Significance</b>	
<b>4.1 Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.</b>	
On the basis of the information set out above the impacts are not likely to be significant.	
<b>Step 5. Conclusion</b>	
There is no potential for significant effects to Natura 2000 sites. See completed "Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement - Determination"	
<b>Completed By</b>	Brian O'Driscoll, FRIAI
<b>Date:</b>	31.05.2023

<b>Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement - Determination</b>	
<b>Planning File Ref</b>	
<b>Proposed Development:</b>	To develop the building formerly known as 'The Core', Hacketstown, County Carlow, into a Remote Working Hub which will be known as 'Firehouse'. The development will comprise of: renovation of existing structure; extension to include 2 no. offices and a covered entrance area; provision of an accessible toilet; provision of a Kitchenette; new building signage; site works including accessible ramp, exterior steps, boundary treatment and landscaping; alterations to site services.
<b>Development Location</b>	Firehouse Remote Working Hub (Formerly 'The Core'), Hacketstown, Co. Carlow
<b>Natura Sites within impact zone</b>	Slaney River Valley SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Holdenstown Bog SAC
<b>Description of the project</b>	To develop the building formerly known as 'The Core', Hacketstown, County Carlow, into a Remote Working Hub which will be known as 'Firehouse'. The development will comprise of: renovation of existing structure; extension to include 2 no. offices and a covered entrance area; provision of an accessible toilet; provision of a Kitchenette; new building signage; site works including accessible ramp, exterior steps, boundary treatment and landscaping; alterations to site services.
<b>Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 site(s).</b>	
Having regard to the limited extent of the proposed works no element of the proposed project alone or in combination is likely to give rise to any impacts on the Natura 2000 sites.	
<b>If there are potential impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant.</b>	
None	
<b>Conclusion of assessment</b>	
Having regard to the precautionary principle, it is considered that: Significant impacts can be ruled out and stage 2 AA is not required.	
<b>Documentation reviewed for making of this statement.</b>	
Planning Drawings	
<b>Completed By:</b>	Brian O'Driscoll, FRIAI
<b>Date:</b>	31.05.2023
<b>Note: Determination must be made available for inspection by the public</b>	