



Comhairle Contae **Lú**
Louth County Council

Part 8 Planning Report for Proposed Playground at The Glen Park, Drogheda, County Louth

April 2026



1.0 Introduction

This report supports a Part VIII application for the development of a new playground facility in The Glen Park, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The nature and extent of the proposed development are described herein.

2.0 Description of the Works

Louth County Council has given notice of its intention to carry out works in The Glen Park at The Glen, Drogheda, Co. Louth. The proposed playground will be located in an area known locally as The Glen. It is situated adjacent to the housing development of *Ardán an Bóther Ghlais*. This estate lies Northeast to the town centre of Drogheda, Co Louth and near The Glen Stream.

Louth County Council have identified this location due to its large catchment area and the high demand for play facilities in a growing population of Drogheda. The proposed works will also include traffic calming measures and street lighting on the main *Ascal A Trí* road at the junction of the proposed playground, along with the inclusion of carparking and bicycle parking. These will assist ease of access to the facilities.

The following is a breakdown of the proposed works:

- Civil works regarding the upgrading of the existing junction along the main road adjacent to the park. Road markings and lighting included.
- Upgrade existing paths to improve access to the proposed playground.
- Additional road gullies to aid road improvements.
- Site clearance works to facilitate the new playground.
- Provision of new play equipment throughout.
- New fencing to playground.
- Inclusion of a large parking bay to facilitate a minibus or 4no cars.
- Provision of new bike stands.
- Provision for disable parking.
- Provision for playground signage.
- Proposed planting to entrance of Playground.
- Re-seeding of embankments following earthworks.

Detailed drawings of the proposed works are included within the planning documentation.

3.0 Development Context

Drogheda is a large town situated on the Dublin-Belfast corridor with a population of approximately 44,000 (2022 census). As one of two regional growth centres in County Louth, there is an increased demand for recreational areas such as play areas to facilitate the growing population.

The site for this project is based at The Glen Park, Drogheda, where there is an existing open green space park. The park has good walking trails connecting Flaxmill Lane, Newfoundwell Road and Ascal A Trí. An area to the South of the park is laid out for a soccer pitch and is sometimes used by local teams for training and matches. In recent years Louth County Council have installed exercise equipment along one of the paths to the east of the proposed playground, at the bottom of the embankment.



Aerial Photo of The Glen Park looking Southeast

Louth County Council want to create a new playground facility to provide an exciting, inclusive play area which facilitates the growing population. The new playground will inspire imaginative play, adventure and movement, whilst providing new carparking for visitors to the playground. Pedestrian safety will be improved with the development of new pedestrian crossings. The playground will facilitate group play or individual play and provide a level of risk and challenge.

The proposed playground is located within walking distances of a number of residential developments and is well connected by footpaths. The proposal will be as per Section 2.0, which will create a new playground facility, increase carparking and provide enhance pedestrian safety to the park.

The following is a list of requirements for the playground design:

- The majority of the play equipment will cater for 0-12 years old.
- A minimum of 1 piece of play equipment will be provided for age group 12+.
- The play space will be inclusive for children of different abilities including wheelchair users.
- As a minimum 10% of the play equipment will be play inclusive.
- As a minimum the equipment must include an accessible roundabout, swings for both baby and up to 12 years and a bucket swing.
- An accessible route will be provided to accessible equipment, any benches, bins etc.
- The play areas will be durable and limit opportunity for anti-social behaviour.

4.0 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The proposal is not a development as listed in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and through an examination of the proposal it is the opinion of the Planning Authority that the environmental impacts of the project given its nature, size



and location are thought not to be significant and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) under current EIA legislation is not required in this instance.

5.0 Appropriate Assessment Screening

In accordance with the provisions of article 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations as amended, Louth County Council has carried out a screening of the proposed development to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effect on a European site. Accordingly, Louth County Council has determined that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

In conformance with the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (attached) was prepared by Mulroy Environmental, engaged by Louth County Council. The conclusion states as follows:

8 Screening Conclusion and Statement

A review of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Playground Development at the Glen, Drogheda indicates that individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, there will not be:

- *Any impact on an Annex I habitat;*
- *Any reduction in the area of a Natura 2000 site;*
- *Direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment in the Natura 2000 site;*
- *Serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which Natura 2000 is selected;*
- *Direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site; and*
- *Interference with mitigation measures put in place for other plans/projects.*

The findings and conclusions of the screening process are as follows:

- 1. No potential for significant effects/AA is not required.*

*Screening established that there is **no potential for significant effects** and the project/plan can proceed as proposed. However, no changes may be made after this as this will invalidate the findings of the screening.*

6.0 Planning Context

The Louth County Council Development Plan 2021 - 2027, identifies the land use zoning for the site as H1 Open Space. The proposed playground and ancillary works are acceptable and is compatible with the overall policy objectives for the zoning category. The proposed playground does not conflict with other aspects of the Development Plan and would otherwise be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The proposed playground is also consistent with the following policies of Louth County Council Development Plan 2021 – 2027

SC16 To support the provision of playgrounds in a variety of land use zoning categories where appropriate.

SC18 To maximise the range of public play opportunities available to all children.



7.0 Document Register

The Glen Playground - Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 8

- Planning Report
- Copy of advert
- Copy of site notice
- Site Location
- Existing Site Layout
- Proposed Site Layout 1:250
- Proposed Site Section 1:250
- Proposed Site Section
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report