
2129 Lanesborough Outdoor Theatre
Commons North,
Co. Longford

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Request for Further Information

DE BLACAM AND MEAGHER

August 2025

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	Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3	Issue 4	Issue 5
Date	29/08/2025				
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Summary

This Operational Plan document has been developed to provide details on how the proposed outdoor theatre, at Lanesborough, North Commons, Co. Longford, is to be run and that all events are managed in a manner which avoids adverse impacts on European designated sites or ecologically sensitive habitats and species.

Events are a workplace for some and a leisure activity for others. Negligence on the part of the owner of the premises and/or the organiser of the event can result in injury to either workers or patrons. Organisers have a common law duty of care toward persons involved with the event – including the audience, performers, suppliers, and event staff.

This Operational Plan is being submitted in tandem, and should be read in conjunction with, the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for details on sensitive receptors. A Commercial Plan has also been submitted and will deal with details for the governance model for running the amphitheatre.

1. Introduction

1.1 Outline of the Operational Plan

De Blacam and Meagher have been commissioned by Longford County Council to prepare an Operational Plan for the proposed outdoor theatre at the disused quarry in Lanesborough, North Commons, Co Longford. The purpose of the Operational Plan is to provide details on how and when events are to be run in the interest of avoiding adverse impacts on European designated sites and ecologically sensitive habitats and species. It also provides a guide to event organisers and outlines measures they can implement to provide a safe event. For details on the governance model for running the amphitheatre a Commercial Plan has been submitted.

This Operational Plan is subject to planning permission being granted for the development as per the drawings submitted. The Operational Plan is a live document subject to change based on the following:

- a. Comments from An Bord Pleanála,
- b. Final planning permission granted and conditions,
- c. Compliance requirements of Longford County Council,
- d. Concerns raised by residents affected by the works.

The final Operational Plan prepared for the development will be submitted prior to commencement of the relevant phase on site and will be subject to periodic review as part of the management of the construction process.

1.2 Structure of the Operational Plan

This Operational Plan is based on measures to ensure legal compliance and established good management practice onsite and includes the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Project Description
3. Access to Site
4. Recommended Frequency and Timing of Events
5. Sound System Strategy
6. Lighting Strategy
7. Responsibilities

2. Project Description

2.1 Project Outline and Site Context

The proposed development site has an area of approximately 6200m². It's located on the outskirts of Lanesborough, within an old quarry site in an area of mixed woodland on the shore of Lough Ree. The surrounding landscape to the north and west is a mixture of semi-rural, residential, and agricultural land; to the south lies an area of deciduous woodland composed mostly of ash and hazel.

- a) The development will consist of:
- Permanent tiered seating (500 seats)
 - Stage with canvas canopy and steel support structure.
 - Temporary public 'porta-loos' including 1 no. accessible 'porta-loo'.
 - 1 no. 20 foot container (14 sqm) modified for equipment storage.
 - 1 no. 20 foot container (14 sqm) modified to contain function services (temporary bar, first aid).
 - 1 no. Sound booth (7 sqm).
 - Site lighting.

- Associated landscaping and ancillary site works.

b) The proposed development is for an outdoor concert venue set in the former lime quarry (currently a council depot) in Commons North, Lanesborough, Co. Longford. It will comprise tiered seating (500 seats) in a landscaped embankment, with a stage with a canvas / steel canopy. The existing stone quarry face forms the backdrop to the stage. Site area: 6,180 sqm;

c) Ancillary accommodation (temporary toilets, bar, first aid, storage) are provided to service events;

d) Car parking is provided in the existing public car park adjacent to Lanesborough Bridge, from which existing pedestrian footpaths provide access to the venue site;

e) It is proposed that the amphitheatre will be used on an occasional basis (6-10 times per annum);

f) All landscaping including planting to be sensitive to existing trees and landscape, while integrating Landscape Architect's proposal.

g) Provision of 1no. ESB mini pillar.

h) Documents to be familiar with when reading this document

- i) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report & Natura Impact Statement and Report on Supporting Ecological Surveys - undertaken by CAAS
- ii) Planning Stage Noise Assessment and Request For Further Information, Noise Impact Assessment - undertaken by Allegro Acoustics
- iii) Hydrological Investigation - undertaken by AquaGeo Services
- iv) Commercial Plan – undertaken by Venture International Ltd.
- v) Level1/2 Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment - undertaken by Fearon O'Neill Rooney Consulting Engineers

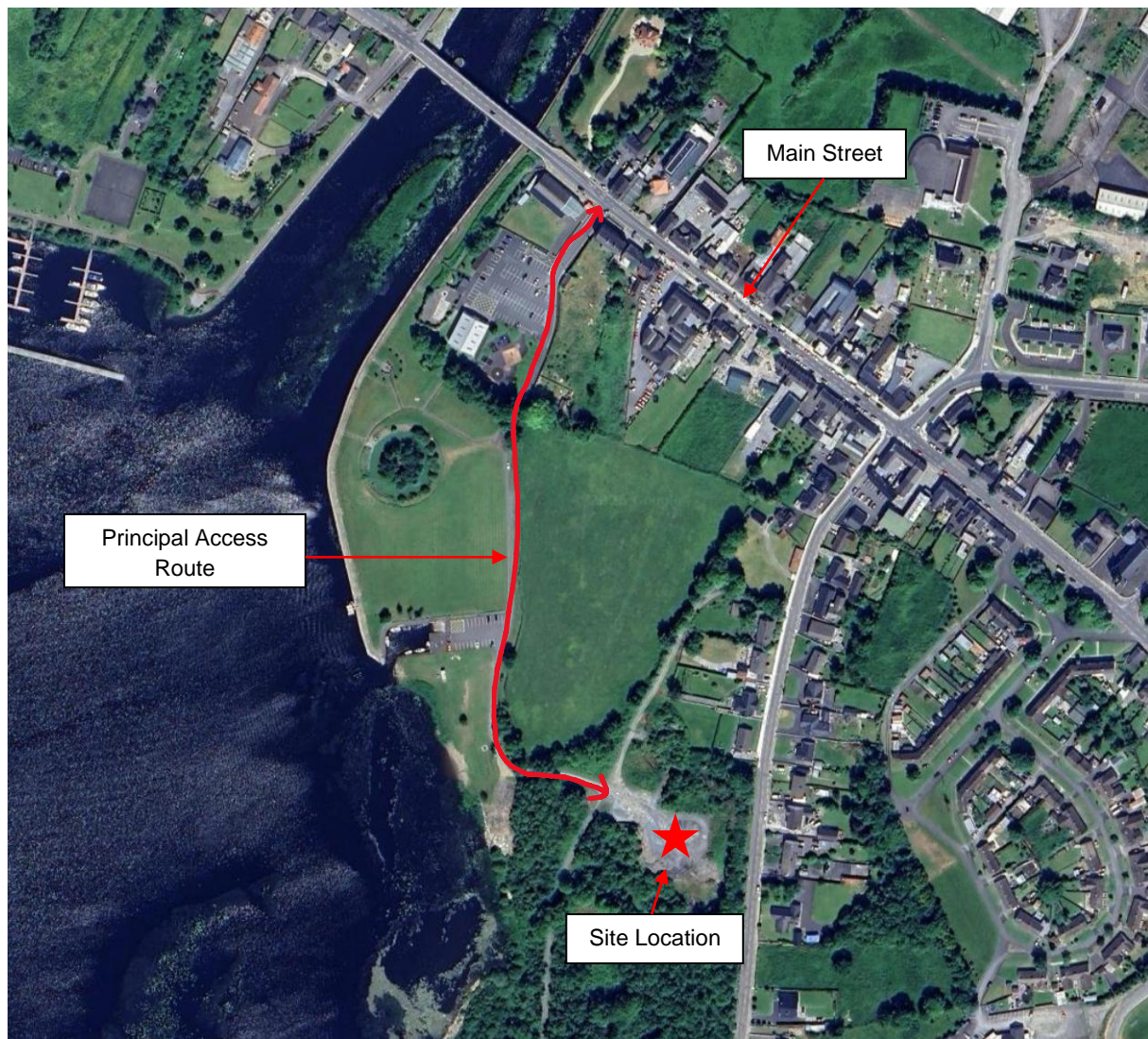


Figure 1: Site location at Rathcline Semi-Native Woodland and Recreation Area

3. Relevant Legislation

The application of certain common principles and standards of good practice can reduce the uncertainty associated with planning and organising for a safe and successful event. This document advocates a common-sense approach to event organisation by focusing on:

- Planning the event
- Providing a safe venue
- Staff organisation
- Preparing for the unexpected
- Documentation
- Event Stakeholders

In addition to the common law 'duty of care' owed to those attending the event there are several key pieces of legislation, which are applicable to events the most relevant include:

- The Safety, Health and Welfare at Works Acts of 2005 and associated regulations
- Part XVI Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2015
- Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003 (responsibility for fire safety on persons in control of premises)
- Waste Management Acts, 1996 and 2001

- Health and Welfare at Work (General Applications) Regulations 2007 to 2016
- Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013)

3.1 The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Acts of 2005

and associated regulations (e.g. Construction Regulations, General Application Regulations) applies directly to employers, employees, contractor and anyone who is affected by a work activity (member of the public, passer-by, trespassers).

An event organiser should satisfy themselves that their work activities are safe and do not endanger their employees, contractors, the general public or anyone affected by those activities. In the case of contractors or others working on the employer's behalf, the employer must satisfy themselves that those employers also manage their work, so it does not endanger anyone else. This would include the event organiser satisfying themselves that all workers (i.e. other employers) have safety statements and risk assessments.

3.2 The Planning and Development Act 2000: Part XVI (Licensing of outdoor events regulations)

is specific to outdoor displays of public entertainment comprising of an audience of 5000 or more. Organisers of such large-scale events should not place reliance on the advice offered in this booklet but should make themselves familiar with the relevant codes of practice, in particular the Code of Practice for Safety at Outdoor Pop Concerts and Other Musical Events (Dept. of Education – 1996).

3.3 The Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003

covers all aspects of fire safety and is applicable to both outdoor and enclosed venues. Event organisers have a responsibility to ensure that there are adequate means of escape for all persons in attendance. Particular attention should be paid to materials used in the decoration of the venue and the construction and use of temporary structures to ensure they follow fire safety standards.

Your attention is drawn to your responsibilities under Section 18(2) and associated penalties under Section 5(3) of the Fire Services Act, 1981, as amended by part 3 of the Licencing of Indoor Events Act, 2003:-

Section 18(2)

“It shall be the duty of every person having control over premises to which this section applies to take all reasonable measures to guard against the outbreak of fire on such premises provide reasonable fire safety measures for such premises and prepare and provide appropriate fire safety procedures for ensuring the safety of persons on such premises. Ensure that the fire safety measures and procedures referred to in paragraph (b) area applied at all times and ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of persons on the premises in the event of an outbreak of fire whether such outbreak has occurred or not”.

Section 5(3)

A person who is guilty of an offence under this Act, other than an offence referred to in subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both.

3.4 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890

Section 37 Safety of platforms etc erected or used on public occasions whenever large numbers of persons are likely to assemble on the occasion of any show, entertainment, public procession, open-air meeting or other like occasion, every roof of a building, and every platform, balcony or other structure or part thereof let or used or

intended to be let or used for the purpose of affording sitting or standing accommodation for a number of persons, shall be safely constructed or secured to the satisfaction of the surveyor of the urban authority.

In respect of all of the above it is the responsibility of the event organiser to ensure they are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the regulations and relevant legislation.

3.5 Vehicular Traffic

Event Organisers should familiarise themselves with the Traffic Signs Manual for Ireland as published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

4. Pre-event Planning

The Event Manager will organise their event in clearly defined phases. The specifics of each phase will depend on factors such as scale, duration, and planned activities. Factors such as venue are fixed, with a capacity of 500 people, covered stage and electrical supply. These known factors help to facilitate setup of events and reduce risk and organisational pressures. Every event will include aspects of each of the below phases, so it's important to identify which elements are relevant to your event and plan accordingly.

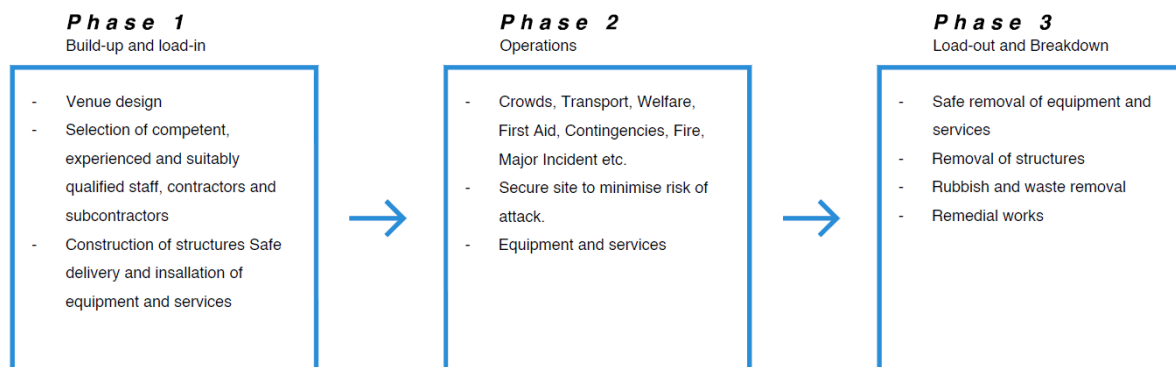


Figure 2. Event phases

4.1 Risk Assessment

There is a legal requirement for you to undertake a risk assessment of those hazards which could cause harm to your staff and/or members of the public attending the event.

A risk assessment is a systematic approach to the control of hazards and should be done in relation to the physical characteristics of the venue, likely audience behaviour, technical installations, nature of performance etc. It involves the identification of foreseeable hazards, evaluating the risks associated with them and considering what needs to be done to reduce the risks to an acceptable level. The process should be comprehensively documented and recorded.

4.2 Licenses and Permissions

During the advance planning stage the Event Manager should determine if you or your suppliers require a particular licence or statutory agency approval to conduct the event and/or a specific aspect of the event. As the event organiser, it is your responsibility to ensure that (where required) you are in possession of the appropriate approval on the day of the event. To this end you should seek information from the relevant agencies and notify in advance of committing to an event activity. It is also your responsibility to ensure that your suppliers possess

(where required) a current licence or approval, and you should verify they are in compliance with the licence or permission and any conditions attached.

When planning for an event at the Outdoor Theatre, Longford Planning Authority should be notified in advance, as well as the Roads Authority and the Gardaí.

Table 1: Licenses and permissions

License or Permission	Issuing Authority	Criteria	Requirements
Use of public space for event	Longford Planning Authority Roads Authority Gardaí	- Event activities to take place either whole or in part on public property. Includes roadways/footpaths, parks.	- Notify Planning Authority, Roads Authority and Gardaí in advance of event.
Intention to sell alcohol	Department of Justice and Equality Longford County Council	- Temporary facilities for the sale of alcohol: Occasional Liquor Licence - The consumption of alcohol in a public place – Intoxicating Liquor Bye-Laws	- Application to a Justice of District Court for Licence. - Application 6 weeks in advance to Local Authority to relax provisions of bye-laws
Fireworks display	Department of Justice and Equality	- Importation of fireworks Storage of fireworks - Use of fireworks - Pyrotechnics	- Fire Authorities input required before permission granted - Consultation process with Fire Authorities
Event trading	Longford County Council	- Casual Trading at an event or events specified in the licence or at or in the immediate vicinity of the place where and on the days on which the event takes place	- Submit application for licence approval - Scale of charges per trader, per day. - Casual Trading Act and byelaws

4.3 Management Structure

The organisational structure outlined below is that recommended for large scale events and can be modified dependent on the needs of the event. In all cases the responsibilities attached to an appointment must be clearly set out, there should be no duplication, overlaps or gaps. Any doubts about who is responsible for what should be openly discussed in pre-planning meetings so that no potentially dangerous assumptions are made – responsibilities must be expressed explicitly.

The following event management organisational structure shows the relationship with the key statutory agencies for event planning and emergency response purposes:

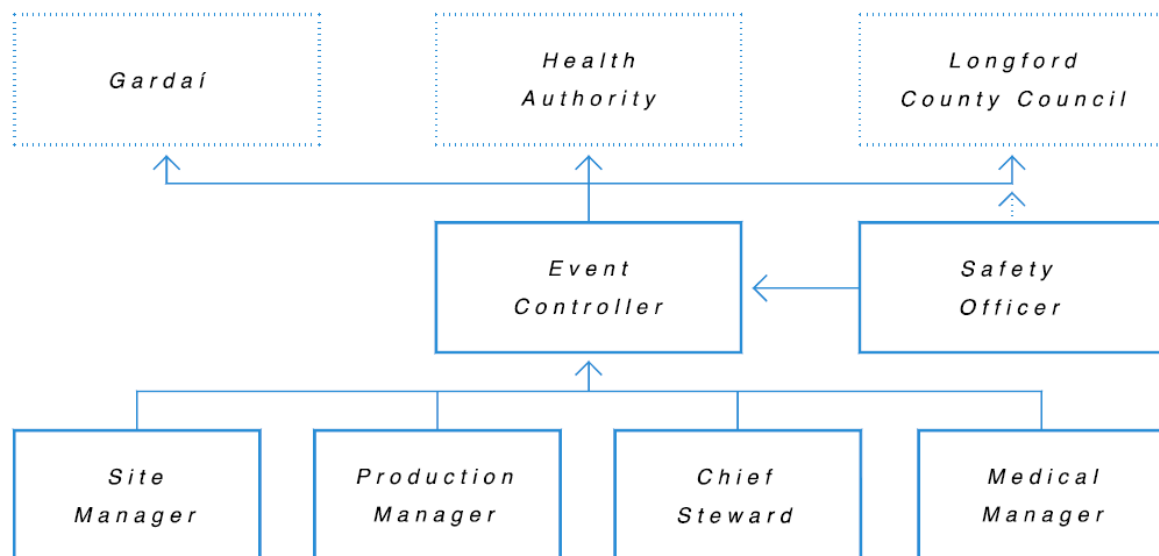


Figure 3: Event Management Structure

The persons appointed to the positions indicated should have the knowledge and experience to be competent in undertaking their task. Deputies should be appointed to key positions to ensure continuity in the control of the event in the absence of key personnel and to facilitate events of long duration. For smaller events some positions may be combined during the operation of the event; however, it is essential that a designated competent person have responsibility for all aspects of safety at the event. The event controller, safety officer, chief steward and medical manager are the key positions involved with the management of safety at an event, however all staff should be encouraged to take responsibility for safety matters within their area of event operations.

4.4 Documentation

Whether hosting a large-scale event or a smaller gathering, organisers must document all planning decisions and manage administrative tasks. Incident forms, checklists, and safety protocols should be prepared to support briefings, staff coordination, and equipment handling. In compliance with workplace safety regulations, all accidents must be recorded, and serious injuries require formal reports.

The cornerstone of event planning is the Event Management Plan (EMP)—a dynamic document outlining how the event will be managed, identifying risks, detailing logistics, and ensuring coordinated emergency responses. It evolves through proposals, consultations, and revisions, and must be clear, accessible, and shared with all involved parties. Input from statutory bodies and emergency services should be integrated.

A comprehensive EMP includes four key sections:

- Event Details
- Event Safety
- Emergency Action
- Appendices

The depth of each section depends on the event's scale and complexity. Once drafted, the EMP supports safety agencies in reviewing and approving the event, forming part of the licensing process.

Table 2. Event Management Plan Template

Event Management Plan Template	
- Section 1: Event Details	
Overview of the event	(summarise what the event will consist of and where it will take place)
Event location	Lanesborough Amphitheatre, Commons North, Co. Longford (give short synopsis)
Event schedule & timings	(set out the dates of operation, opening and closing times)
Attendance profile	(expected attendance, age range, nature of audience)
Admission arrangements	(ticket or otherwise)
Event management structure	(set out the key management personnel)
Functions of key personnel	(Event Controller, Safety Officer and Chief Steward)
Event control and communications	(location of central control room, who will be there, what means of communication will be used for reporting)
Any particular arrangements	(special needs spectators, pre launch ceremonies etc)
Overview of large equipment and temporary structures	(staging, sanitary facilities, lighting etc)
- Section 2: Event Safety (Select where required)	
Safety policy statement	(what it is and who should know)
Event risk assessment	(set out in tabular form)
Signage	(information service provided)
Crowd management	(number of stewards, responsibilities, location etc)
Entry & exit arrangements	(routine and designation of emergency routes and assembly areas)
Fire precautions	(means of escape, safe holding capacity calculations, fire safety equipment)
Structures	(schedule of completion, certifying engineer)
Electrical installations	(lighting, auxiliary power provision)
Environmental issues	(noise, sanitation, catering, litter & waste, drinking water, etc)
Vehicular access and exit	(transport plan for site traffic and car parking arrangements)
Medical/First Aid Provision	(numbers required, location, ambulance, equipment)
On site traffic management	(where deliveries will be made, any parking etc)
- Section 3: Emergency Action (Select where required)	
Definitions	(state clearly the situations which will require emergency response, categorise into minor & major)
Emergency incident organisation	(set out the structure for liaising with the emergency services, and personnel responsibilities)
Emergency communications	(state the code word to be used to notify all event staff of an imminent emergency situation, and set out the communication structure)
Action required	(state the actions of key personnel in the event of an declaration)
Emergency routes	(should be identified and agreed with the statutory agencies)
Rendezvous points	(designate location where it will be possible to brief the emergencies services on arrival to an incident)
Key Public Address Announcements	(formulate announcements for emergencies, lost children and other priority information)

- Section 4: Plan Appendices (Select where required)	
Traffic Management Plan	(in consultation with An Garda Síochána)
Medical Plan	(in consultation with relevant Health Authority)
Event Communications	(radio allocations and channels to be used by event staff in schematic format)
Schedules	(erection and tear down of temporary structures, staging etc.)
Emergency procedures	(the publication of these procedures should be restricted to event staff and the statutory agencies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stopping the event - Action in the event of a bomb scare - Action in the event of Fire or any other emergency incident - Evacuation of the venue
Contact details	Should include telephone numbers of key personnel and external agencies, such as the emergency services contacts and key suppliers.
Site layout maps	Dependent on the size and complexity of the event, the site layout map can range from a line drawing of the layout of the event to scaled drawings, which deal with each particular element of the event layout in detail. Included should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emergency response vehicle access routes & parking, medical facilities - location of rendezvous points and assembly areas - emergency scenarios - location of all temporary structures - pedestrian circulation routes - emergency evacuation routes - parking facilities - drinking water points, sanitary facilities and trading locations

5. Access to Site

Access to site will be made from Lanesborough, Main Street between St. Mary's Townhall and Lough Ree distillery. There are 91 carparking spaces in the main car park (closest to Main Street), 3 of which are disabled spaces. There is also 1 space dedicated to electric car-charging. There are an additional 20 spaces in a smaller carpark closer to the site. The total carparking spaces are 111 spaces. Lanesborough is also easily accessible by public transport. If it is deemed necessary to increase carparking capacity, the use of shuttle buses from other community facilities in Lanesborough and Ballyleague may also be an option.

Depending on the size of the event it will be the Event Organiser's responsibility to provide advice on public transport or parking facilities. It is best to keep as many vehicles as possible away from the site itself. The primary aim of a traffic management plan at any event is:

- To ensure pedestrians and vehicles are separated
- To minimise the impact of the event on routine traffic movement
- To ensure emergency vehicles can access the event venue

All likely types of vehicles requiring access to the immediate area of the event venue should be considered, including:

- construction vehicles during build up and take down
- supplies and maintenance vehicles during the event
- emergency services vehicles
- disabled vehicle access and/or drop off and pick up points
- invited guests and production vehicles
- media broadcast units and equipment carriers

If vehicles are to be allowed access to the site, then arrangements should be made to segregate them from pedestrians either by providing separate routes or by allowing vehicles onto and off the site at prearranged time slots. The operation of one-way systems within some sites can also reduce risks.

For large events, park and ride facilities using buses to shuttle people between the site and remote car parks can work well. Advice should be sought from the public and private transport companies for assistance in the provision of such a service.

Adequate signage in respect of diversions, parking etc. should be located where they are visible from a driver's perspective. In addition to signage ensure any stewards located at diversion barriers are familiar with designated alternate routes to limit the disruption on other road users who are going about their daily business.

Where there are traffic implications or where the Event Manager is considering a temporary road closure you will need to liaise with the Gardaí and the relevant Local Authority well in advance of the event. The Event Manager may also need to inform the residents and businesses in the area of any traffic diversions that may affect them.

For all events that take place, it will be the responsibility of the Event Manager to oversee the logistics of the event. The Event Manager will develop a comprehensive plan to address the above requirements.

6. Ingress and Egress

Approach to the venue will be made from Lanesborough, Main Street between St. Mary's Townhall and Lough Ree distillery. It should be well sign-posted from parking areas and public transport points. The plans for using the venue for a particular event must safeguard pedestrians from traffic movement in the vicinity of entry and exit points. Temporary stands or trading points must not be allowed to obstruct circulation. The Event Organiser should address the issue of what influence the event will have on the existing arrangements for traffic and pedestrian usage with the local Gardaí.

Entrances and exits should be sufficient in number to allow the desired rate of ingress to and egress from the venue, and should be as evenly distributed as is practicable. Inappropriate positioning, width or impeded flow rate may constitute a hazard by creating bottlenecks, which result in crowd congestion with possible tripping and crushing injuries. They should be clearly labelled in terms of where they lead to, and should provide a smooth flow within a time period, which will not cause frustration.

Avoid locating attractions in the pathway of persons entering or exiting the venue. Exits should not lead people into a place of danger, for example into traffic or where a heavy crush is likely through crowd build-up. Ensure wheelchair users and persons with mobility impairment have means of access. This may necessitate supplying ramps and the designation of access facilities wide enough to allow free movement.

Issues which can impede the safe operation of entrances and exits include:

- extra security checks, which can reduce flow rates.
- age of the audience may affect speed of entry or exit.
- persons with psychological or physical impairment can slow movement.

Events where activity ends at a given time will require planning to take account of the egress of people into surrounding areas. An exiting plan needs to be agreed between the event organiser and An Garda Síochána who have responsibility for managing off site movement. The provision of extra Gardaí to police an event may incur charges, which must be met by the event organiser.

7. Signs, Way-Marking and Circulation

Safety signs, way marking and labelling of entries and exits must be large, legible, unambiguous, and suitably elevated. Directional signage must be consistent with, and easy to relate to, information on tickets and ground plans. Way marking should help people to recover from mistakes and wrong turns and retrace their steps.

Clearly numbering exits and referencing them to a map or line drawing of the venue layout will assist stewards with their training in knowledge of the venue. Signage designating key items such as the location of first aid points, emergency exits, and fire equipment should be easy to see. Safety signage must be consistent with industry standards. Multi-ethnic audiences may be a feature at some events, and it is advisable when planning the signage requirements that you consider the use of pictograms to depict essential services.

Movement to and from attractions/seating should be unimpeded and should be along clearly defined routes, the aim is to ensure that a one-directional flow where practical is maintained throughout the venue. Examine areas where patrons are likely to congregate such as particular attractions or catering outlets and ensure sufficient space is provided to avoid congestion. The stewards at the event should be encouraged to monitor entrances, exits and circulation routes and event management should be prepared to alter circulation routes if required.

8. Event Control Facilities

The provision of a event control point is essential for the smooth operation of an event. Even small events should have a central point where the administration and coordination of the event takes place. Some of the reasons why the organisers should designate an event control room with limited access are:

- for display, collection, and distribution of information for key event staff
- for the collation of event documentation
- as a point of contact for persons visiting the event on business
- as a focal point for the Event Controller
- as a control point in the event of a major emergency

9. Barriers and Fences

Barriers may be required for several purposes including securing the site, controlling entrances and crowd movement, relieving crowd pressure, excluding people from unauthorised or dangerous areas, protecting the public from dangerous equipment and preventing climbing on structures. Types of barriers can range from simple rope and post to Heras fencing. Some hazards associated with barriers are included in Table 1 below.

Table 3. Hazards to note when using barriers

Barriers	
Sharp edges	Many steel structures, especially new barriers can have sharp edges, usually left from the galvanising process. These can be hazardous, and in the case of barriers, are often at face level for small children.
Finger traps	Gaps in lines of barriers, particularly on undulating ground, can constitute a finger trap. If a hazard exists, the area of concern can be taped or wrapped to eliminate it.
Openings and Gaps	Beware of openings or gaps in barriers that a child could fall through
Bars	Horizontal bars of barriers offer footholds for persons. Plywood lining to the sides (inside face) of walkways or ramps can eliminate gaps and footholds.
Fixing items to barriers	Only acceptable items are small signs, any other items affixed to barriers can cause them to blow over in high winds.
Weather	Adverse weather conditions and in particular, high wind can shift and alter stability of structure.

The basic design criteria for barriers are that they can withstand the load that is likely to be placed on them. The effective use of such systems will depend on the provision of sufficient numbers of trained stewards.

10. Lighting Strategy

The nature of outdoor events at this venue will differ from one event to another, as will lighting requirements. Lighting will only be used when required for events and there will be no lighting at other times. Therefore, this operational plan will set out parameters and criteria that access and stage lighting should achieve to avoid / minimise impact on sensitive receptors at the times they are in use.

Throughout this sensitive location accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres will be used to reduce light spill and direct light to where it is needed. Approach to procurement for lighting details as recommended by Irish GPP Criteria: Indoor & Outdoor Lighting include:

- Procure luminaires, lamps or light sources that exceed minimum luminaire efficacies.
- Encourage the use of dimming and metering to ensure that energy consumption of a particular lighting installation can be optimised and monitored in real time.
- Require that all luminaires have 0.0% upward light output ratio and, at comprehensive level, to ensure that 97% of all light falls within a downward angle of 75.5° to the vertical for the reduction of obtrusive light and glare.
- Encourage obligatory dimming in areas of concern and to set limits on the proportion of blue light (G-index) in lamp/luminaire output.
- Procure durable and fit-for-use lighting equipment that is repairable and covered by a warranty or extended warranty.
- Set minimum requirements for the person responsible for signing off the lighting installation.
- In parks, gardens and areas considered by the procurer to be ecologically sensitive, the G-index must be $\geq 1.5^*$. (The G-index value is directly related to blue light content, and so should be specified when light pollution effects on wildlife or on star visibility are a concern. If it is not possible to calculate the G-index, CCT may be used as an orientation, it always being understood that its use as a metric for blue light is not perfect. A G-index of ≥ 1.5 would generally (but not always) equate to a CCT of $\leq 3000\text{K}$.)

- A dimming programme must be implemented for parks and gardens that are open during night-time hours.
- A switch-off programme must apply to any relevant closing hours.
- A dimming and/or switch-off programme must be implemented for any other ecologically sensitive areas.
- The tenderer must provide measurements of the G-index.

11. Sound System Strategy

In the Planning Stage Noise Assessment Report, the number, placement, directivity pattern, and an example product for the modelled loudspeakers have been provided, along with the achieved sound pressure levels across the entire audience area in Section 4.3.3.2 [of Allegro Acoustic's Planning Stage Noise Assessment Report quoted below].

"A loudspeaker setup was modelled to represent the theatre during an amplified performance. As the final speaker setup has not been designed at this stage in the project, an indicative setup was used to obtain an appropriate music / speech level in the theatre (77-80dBA). The indicative setup included two loudspeaker arrays located at the stage and four loudspeakers located over the audience area. The speakers have been modelled using the directivity pattern of a D&B Y7P loudspeaker which were oriented towards the tiered seating." - Noise Impact Assessment, Allegro Acoustics

The predicted noise levels at noise sensitive receptors will remain similar as long as the recommended (or an equivalent) loudspeaker setup is implemented. [Allegro Acoustics] can update the environmental noise model and provide revised results, and recommend mitigation measures, if necessary, once the sound system design has been finalised and the loudspeakers have been selected.

The Planning Stage Noise Assessment Report outlines noise impact results of two different noise source representation. The first scenario (Scenario 1) consists of a 15minute period with 2.5 minutes of clapping and 12.5 minutes of talking for 500 occupants, which represents the "crowd-generated noise".

The predicted noise levels of crowd-generated noise have been provided in Section 4.3.3 [of Allegro Acoustic's Planning Stage Noise Assessment Report] for noise sensitive receivers and in Section 4.5 for ecological receivers. These predictions are based on the results of 3D Environmental Noise Model of the proposed Lime Quarry Theatre and of the surrounding area, developed using SoundPLAN Version 7.3 environmental noise modelling software.

For ease of reference, the locations of noise sensitive receivers and ecological receivers, together with the predicted noise levels are presented below:



Figure 4: Graphic showing the noise sensitive receiver locations.

Table 4: Predicted noise levels for crowd-generated noise at noise sensitive receivers

Modelled Noise Levels - Scenario 1: Talking and Clapping			
Model Receiver	Predicted Noise Levels (dB L _{Aeq})	Proposed Criteria (dB L _{Aeq})	Criteria Achieved
R01	42	≤55	Yes
R02	47	≤55	Yes
R03	47	≤55	Yes
R04	51	≤55	Yes
R05	52	≤55	Yes
R06	50	≤55	Yes
R07	44	≤55	Yes
R08	43	≤55	Yes
R09	51	≤55	Yes
R10	45	≤55	Yes
R11	33	≤55	Yes
R12	33	≤55	Yes
R13	37	≤55	Yes
R14	37	≤55	Yes
R15	41	≤55	Yes
R16	30	≤55	Yes

Additional receivers that were included in the noise model to assist an ecological survey are shown below:



Figure 5: Graphic showing the ecological receiver locations.

Table 5: Predicted noise levels for crowd-generated noise for the ecological survey.

Modelled Noise Levels - Scenario 1: Talking + Clapping	
Model Receiver	Predicted Noise Levels (dB L _{Aeq})
E01	43
E02	41
E03	44
E04	39
E05	38
E06	36
E07	35
E08	34

[Allegro Acoustic's] recommendations regarding the event noise management and operations are outlined below:

- Restrict event sound checks to daytime hours only.
- Ensure that no music events take place after 11:00 pm.
- Implement real-time noise monitoring at noise-sensitive locations during events.
- Undertake continuous measurement and record keeping to ensure that noise levels remain below the suggested limit of 55 dB LAeq.

- Design loudspeaker systems in line with the setup modelled in the assessment to minimise noise impact on surrounding sensitive receptors.

More details on acoustic testing can be found in Allegro Acoustic's original document submitted at planning stage Planning Stage Noise Assessment Report and Allegro Acoustic's RFI response report.

12. Electrical Systems

Only electrical equipment designed for outside use should be provided at outdoor events. The positioning of cables often causes problems where temporary supplies are used - where cables have to cross pathways and roadways, they should ideally be buried to protect them from damage and prevent tripping. Where this is not possible, cables should be covered with suitable matting or where there is a risk of vehicular damage be provided with additional sheathing or routed and supported overhead.

In all circumstances, inappropriate equipment and connections or inadequately protected circuits may cause electric shock and/or overloading, which can lead to lighting/sound failure or result in a fire.

A qualified electrician should check generators, including those, which have been brought to the venue by other persons such as caterers. Where necessary, they should be properly earthed and located away from public areas or surrounded with appropriate barriers.

13. Fire Prevention Equipment

An adequate number of the appropriate types of fire extinguishers and if required other types of fire suppression equipment should be provided in key positions, such as close to catering areas, power sources and fireworks firing zones. Fire extinguishers should conform to the requirements of IS EN3 and IS 291 or other standard approved by the Fire Officer, fire blankets should conform to BS EN 1869:1997 or BS7944 1999 as applicable.

The location and numbers of equipment required should be determined by a competent person and approved by the fire authorities.

Portable generators (diesel only)	CO2 or Dry Powder Extinguisher
Catering concessions	Dry Powder extinguisher and light duty fire blanket or heavy duty if deep fat fryers

Special care should be afforded the use of LPG cylinders at catering concessions, they should be caged, located in the outdoors and access should be limited to the user.

Dependent on the level of fire risk at an event you should consider designating a number of event stewards as a fire watch team. All stewards should know the location of the fire prevention equipment and how to use it. They should be trained to inform their immediate superior as soon as an outbreak of fire is confirmed and should only attempt to suppress a fire for a short time. In the case of fire the primary consideration is to evacuate those in danger and to inform the emergency services. Emergency action procedures for dealing with all outbreaks of fire should be written down and agreed with the Fire Authorities.

Event organisers should take advice from the Fire Authorities on all aspects of fire prevention including the type of safety equipment required.

14. Environmental Issues

Issues of public health at events such as: food hygiene, sanitary and drinking water provision and noise/air pollution are monitored and regulated by Environmental Health Officers. Environmental Health Officers with responsibility for monitoring the effects of noise and air pollution, drinking water provision and sanitary accommodation operate from within the local authority structure. The relevant Health Service Executive Environmental Health Officer has responsibility for all issues related to food hygiene at event catering concessions.

14.1 Noise

The design, layout and management of the amphitheatre have been carefully considered to minimise the environmental impact of noise. The location of the stage, the orientation of the speakers, the type of sound system, the control of sound power levels, and the duration and timing of the entertainment can all be engineered to reduce the noise impact. The noise control unit of the local authority will specify conditions and restrictions in a Notice under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 in order to prevent persons in the neighbourhood of the event being unreasonably disturbed by noise. This Notice will have regard to the criteria in the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise at Concerts issued by Croydon Borough Council (United Kingdom).

The maximum noise levels are as follows: The control limits set at the mixer position shall be adequate to ensure that the music noise level shall not, at any noise sensitive premises, exceed LAeq 75 dB over a 15 minute period throughout the duration of the concert/event. The control limits set at the mixer position shall be adequate to ensure that the music noise level shall not, at any noise sensitive premises, exceed LAeq 75dB over a 5 minute period throughout any rehearsal or sound check for the event.

Also of importance is the risk of damage to hearing, which can occur as a result of exposure to loud sound over a period of time. This risk is greatest for employees and performers. Where loud music is part of the entertainment you may need to provide hearing protection for staff that are located near the source of the sound.

Allegro Acoustics have provided a study in their Request for Information, Noise Impact Assessment to illustrate foreseen event noise impact.:

"In the Planning Stage Noise Assessment Report [1], the predicted noise levels for the second scenario (Scenario 2) shows the results of loudspeaker setup providing 77-80dBA throughout the entirety of the audience area which represents the *"amplified music events"*.

The predicted noise levels of amplified music events have been provided in Section 4.3.3 for noise sensitive receivers, and in Section 4.5 for ecological receivers. These predictions are based on the results of 3D Environmental Noise Model of the proposed Lime Quarry Theatre and of the surrounding area, developed using SoundPLAN Version 7.3 environmental noise modelling software [1].

According to the model results, noise levels at surrounding noise sensitive receivers are not expected to exceed the suggested limit of 55 dB LAeq, with the modelled number, placement, and directivity of loudspeakers. For ease of reference, the predicted noise levels are presented below." – 4. Raised Question 2, Response to Development Applications Unit Observations, Request for Further Information, Noise Impact Assessment, Allegro Acoustics

Table 6: Predicted noise levels for amplified music noise at noise sensitive receivers.

Modelled Noise Levels - Scenario 2: Amplified Performance			
Model Receiver	Predicted Noise Levels (dB LAeq)	Proposed Criteria (dB LAeq)	Criteria Achieved
R01	49	≤55	Yes
R02	52	≤55	Yes
R03	52	≤55	Yes
R04	52	≤55	Yes
R05	53	≤55	Yes
R06	52	≤55	Yes
R07	48	≤55	Yes
R08	47	≤55	Yes
R09	52	≤55	Yes
R10	47	≤55	Yes
R11	37	≤55	Yes
R12	36	≤55	Yes
R13	40	≤55	Yes
R14	41	≤55	Yes
R15	44	≤55	Yes
R16	37	≤55	Yes

Table 7: Predicted noise levels for amplified music noise for the ecological survey.

Modelled Noise Levels - Scenario 2: Amplified Performance	
Model Receiver	Predicted Noise Levels (dB LAeq)
E01	52
E02	50
E03	52
E04	44
E05	42
E06	39
E07	39
E08	38



Figure 6: Graphic showing the noise sensitive receiver locations.



Figure 7: Graphic showing the ecological receiver locations.

14.2 Catering and Food Safety

The event organiser should ensure that all caterers operating on their behalf are reputable, their staff are appropriately trained, and food handling and preparation techniques are safe. Caterers operating concessions

should be asked to produce food stall licences, occasional food permits (where appropriate) and where required a casual trading permit from the local authority.

The suppliers of catering outlets must have the facilities required in order to prevent the contamination of food. The main concerns of the Environmental Health Officer in relation to food safety are the provision of:

- suitable, sufficient and easily cleanable:
 - o surfaces for the preparation of food
 - o cooking equipment
 - o utensil wash-up facilities
 - o staff hand wash facilities which are separate to food preparation
 - o hot (> 63 C) and cold (< 5 C) holding facilities
 - o temperature checks and monitoring
 - o storage for dry goods
 - o removal of refuse
 - o supply of potable water and power supply
- separate sanitary facilities for catering staff to include:
 - o wash hand basin with hot and cold water
 - o antibacterial liquid soap
 - o paper towels for hand drying

14.3 Occasional Food Premises and Permits

https://www.fsai.ie/food_businesses/starting_business/home_business_food_stall.html

Every food business operator trading from a food stall must notify the local HSE environmental health office of each of their food stalls. This notification should be made on the prescribed notification form, which is available from the local HSE office in the area where the food stall is normally kept. Contact details for the relevant local HSE environmental health office are available from the FSai Advice Line at info@fsai.ie or on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/enviro/Contact.html>.

Food business operators must notify the HSE before beginning to operate the food stall. Where activities carried on from a food stall change from those set out in the notification form or confirmed by the environmental health officer who inspected the food stall, the HSE must be notified in writing. This would include a change in ownership/person responsible for the food stall. Once a food business operator has notified the HSE of the food stall, the food business operator can operate from the notified stall at any location around the country. As food stalls can be operated outside the area in which they have been registered, food stall operators should have confirmation of their registration available when operating. It is up to the organisers of events to ensure that all stalls are registered with the HSE and these details should be sent to the HSE in advance of an event.

14.4 Sanitary Facilities

The provision of such facilities is based on the anticipated numbers of persons attending the event. The maximum capacity of the amphitheatre is estimated at 500 people. When determining the sanitary accommodation required the organiser should also take into account:

- Male, female ratio expected
- Duration of the event

Temporary facilities should be in a suitable location, clearly marked and sufficient types provided to avoid unnecessary queuing. This will entail undertaking consideration of the actual male to female ratio present at the

event and the needs of people with disabilities or impairments. Facilities should be located to deter queues forming which could impede circulation near to entries, exits, steps etc. While they should not be in the vicinity of catering outlets they should be easily accessible from such outlets. Regular inspection and maintenance are very important, particularly for events of long duration. Non-slip flooring will reduce the risk of accidents and if it is necessary to locate sanitary accommodation in the open they should be protected from the weather. Separate sanitary facilities must be provided for food workers.

The minimum facilities recommended as per the Safety at Outdoor Pop Concerts and other Musical Events 1996 code of practice is 10 water closets per 1000 female patrons, 2 water closets and 8 urinals or 3.6 metres of slab urinals per 1000 male patrons. In addition there should be a minimum of 1 appropriate toilet facility per 13 disabled persons. Each unit must be provided with an integral hand wash facility and where individual urinals are provided. Hand wash units should be installed at a ratio of 1 per 5 urinals installed in the urinal accommodation area. For non-ticketed events a rule of thumb is to provide accommodation as recommended for each grouping of 1000 persons expected to attend at any one time. As there is a maximum capacity of 500 persons able to attend the amphitheatre the minimum figures can be halved to 5 water closets for females and 1 water closet and 4 urinals for male patrons. Two of the portable toilets provided during tier 1 events should be accessible.

All temporary sanitation units must be in-situ on an open venue site a minimum of 24 hours before the public are admitted. Any deviation from this timescale is at the discretion of the relevant Environmental Health Officer. Temporary drainage arrangements must be in accordance with Section 3 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977(1), which applies to the pollution of ground water and surface watercourses. On no account should waste be discharged into the ground.

14.5 Drinking Water

The provision of free drinking water is of particular importance at concert type events where the audience may assemble in cramped or hot conditions, with more lengthy concerts/festivals in such conditions dehydration can be a serious problem and can result in people fainting with the subsequent risk of being trampled.

A minimum of one drinking water point per 1,000 persons must be provided; drinking water where possible should be supplied from the rising main and should be dispensed through spring loaded standpipes. A suitable non-slip surface adequately drained must be provided to all drinking water supply areas. The provision of mains water is made available on site.

If the use of a mains supply for drinking water is impracticable, the event organiser must advise the Environmental Health Officers section of the location, date, and time of the filling of any tankers to ensure the water in question (via the appropriate tanker) remains of safe and potable quality. The event organisers must confirm the precautions to be taken to ensure that the water supply in any tankers is and remains fit for human consumption throughout the event.

All taps must be adequately sanitised/cleaned prior to the event. Each tap must be run for at least two minutes prior to the commencement of the event to ensure that any stagnant water is run out of the system. Disinfectant fluids such as 'Milton' or other such food grade solutions are acceptable for the purpose of sanitising taps.

14.6 Litter and Waste

Prevent Waste

Event organisers are encouraged to think about waste at every step. While recycling should be embraced, careful consideration should be given to reducing the amount of waste generated as part of any event:

- Promote Paperless: Registration and communication should be on-line – move away from paper.
- Supply plenty of segregated waste bins across the entire site (General Waste, Mixed Dry Recyclable and Food/compostable waste)
- Ensure signage is clear – use pictures and symbols rather than words
- Goody bags should not contain any flyers, single use disposable plastics.
- Avoid unnecessary packaging
- Avoid single use plastics

Water

- Introduce refill stations
- Consider alternatives to single use water bottles (provide reusable bottles at the start line/water stations/finish line).

Green transport

- Encourage participants to use sustainable transport to get to the event: car share, use public transport, cycle, or walk.
- Provide public service transport information.
- Provision of bike parking

Plan for the cleaning of the venue before, during and after the event. Arrange for adequate litterbins/refuse collection points to be positioned on the approaches and throughout the venue. Ensure that sufficient litter bins are located in the vicinity of catering outlets as the main accumulation of waste on the event site usually occurs around catering concessions.

At all phases of the event keeping the venue clean and tidy will aid in the prevention of trips and falls. Litter and waste generated at events includes such items as food and drink containers, plastic sheeting and paper, leftover food, and liquid wastes. Event medical facilities can generate hazardous waste, which must be disposed of in accordance with biohazard disposal regulations.

The organiser of outdoor events held on public property, such as parks, roads and streets have a duty to ensure roads and streets in the vicinity of the event are cleared of litter generated by persons attending the event. The local authority waste management services can offer advice on the collection and disposal of waste.

15. Recommended Frequency and Timing of Events

15.1 Commercial Plan

The following is information from Venture International Ltd.'s Commercial Plan, as they have been garnering information from local stake holders, client, and residents. Venture International Ltd offers consultancy support, particularly in the areas of strategy development; planning; facilitation; reviews/evaluations; training and appraisals.

In terms of commercial planning, it is proposed that the amphitheatre will be used on an occasional basis (6-10 times per annum) for Tier 1 and 2 events there was consistent feedback that it has the potential to provide services which support the functionality of the wider site on an all year-round basis. Primarily summer months are when the amphitheatre will be most in demand as well as holiday periods i.e. Halloween, Christmas and Easter. This recognises that it already serves the needs of:

- Individuals and families in Lanesborough (as a causal recreational amenity space and play area)
- Individuals and teams using the area for sports and physical activity including running and swimming and water sports (in Lough Ree)
- 55 boats moored at the marina in Ballyleague (adjacent and connected town in Co Roscommon)
- 650 per annum hire cruiser and private boats which exit the River Shannon
- Motorhomes stopping off in the carpark adjacent to Lough Ree (estimated at 300 stop overs per annum)
- Participants in existing events on the site (e.g. 700 people participate in Gaelforce per annum with an estimated 1500 spectators and support team in attendance)

Tier 1 events will be the main events per annum which will use the full extent of the 500 seat space e.g. concerts and drama/musicals. They are produced to attract patrons to the County and to the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands tourism sub region (11 local authorities in the middle of the county). This could be 1 or 2 days/evenings. Across the first three years. The target will be 3no. tier 1 events per annum (Soft Land and Learn approach). As an example, building on the current national Gaelforce swimming competition which attracts 700 competitors and circa 1500 spectators and supporters.

Tier 2 events are almost locally focused and will be much smaller scale. E.g., a seasonal event for Christmas, Halloween, School productions or club fundraising events.

15.2 Sensitive Receptors

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report & Natura Impact Statement report and a Survey on Supporting Ecological Surveys was undertaken by CAAS (Environmental Consultant) which outlines pathways with sources for potential significant effects and mitigation measures that will ensure sensitive receptors are not significantly affected. A Noise Impact Assessment was also created by Allegro Acoustics to inform the ecological surveys. The following is an extract from the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report & Natura Impact Statement:

"There are hydrological and hydrogeological connections between the proposed site and Lough Ree SAC and SPA via surface water run off sources through the karst limestone bedrock within the area. Lough Ree is designated for several species and habitats that are sensitive to pollution via groundwater. Therefore, there is a direct pathway for potential effects via surface run off from earthworks, siltation, dust, cement, in the construction phase through groundwater connectivity with Lough Ree SAC and SPA. There will be use of permeable gravel in the operational phase allowing rainwater to percolate, and there will be no wastewater or mains water services installed in the operational phase of the proposed development.

No wintering SCI species were recorded utilising any habitat types within the proposed development site. Considering this, and the habitat types recorded there in, it is considered that the proposed site is of negligible value for SCI species and thus there is no pathway for effect for SCI species regarding loss of habitat foraging or roosting habitat within the proposed development site.

Considering the proximity of the proposed development to Lough Ree SPA, the level of flight activity by various SCI species recorded above the proposed development site, and the nature of the operational phase, there are potential pathways for noise disturbance to

SCI species as a result of the proposed development in the operational phase. Bird populations can be sensitive to noise disturbance [Veon, J.T. and McClung, M.R., 2023. Disturbance of wintering waterbirds by simulated road traffic noise in Arkansas wetlands. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 87(4), p.e22387.], depending on the species, time of year, type of noise etc. (with research ongoing) [Engel, M.S., Young, R.J., Davies, W.J., Waddington, D. and Wood, M.D., 2024. A systematic review of anthropogenic noise impact on avian species. *Current Pollution Reports*, 10(4), pp.684-709.]. However, a noise assessment conducted by Allegro Acoustics (2025) of the current baseline ambient noise levels during the daytime and evenings at the proposed site, showed the current ambient LAeq levels at the proposed site range from 44 to 63 dB LAeq with most above 58 dB LAeq. As this is the current baseline at the site, it is expected that faunal species utilising or crossing the site on a regular basis are habituated to ambient noise level of 55dB.

It is proposed, through various management measures of speakers positioning and angles, to keep db levels produced as a result of music performance at that are received at ecologically noise sensitive locations at or below 55 db, which is below the current baseline levels measured as occurring at the site in 2025. These factors, combined with the intermittent nature of the events for the operational phase, will ensure that there is no source with a pathway for potential of significant effects on SCI species due to noise disturbance as a result of the proposed development.” – 5.1. Source-pathway-receptor model, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report & Natura Impact Statement, CAAS



Figure 8: Baseline Noise Survey Monitoring Locations.

Table 8: Measured Noise levels at the site of the proposed development

Measured Noise Levels									
Location	Meas No.	Start Time	Period	Duration	dB L _{Aeq}	dB L _{A90}	dB L _{A10}	dB L _{Amax}	dB L _{Amin}
NSL1	3	07/08/2025 17:44	Day	00:30:00	62	40	50	97	32
	8	07/08/2025 21:13	Eve	00:30:00	44	36	46	71	29
NSL2	4	07/08/2025 18:20	Day	00:30:00	59	39	60	82	32
	7	07/08/2025 20:31	Eve	00:30:00	60	34	61	81	31
NSL3	2	07/08/2025 17:08	Day	00:30:00	63	40	63	87	35
	6	07/08/2025 19:55	Eve	00:30:00	58	37	58	82	32
NSL4	1	07/08/2025 16:35	Day	00:30:00	60	39	61	82	34
	5	07/08/2025 19:13	Eve	00:30:00	61	37	61	82	33

It is recommended that the Event Organiser familiarise themselves with these documents when planning events at this venue and read this document in tandem with the sources of information outlined.

16. Sources of Information

- Code of Practice for Outdoor Pop Concerts and other musical events: Department of Education. 1996: available from Government Publications Office
- Code of Practice for Safety at Sports Grounds: Department of the Education 1996: available from Government Publications Office
- The Event Safety Guide (Purple Guide) a guide to health, safety and welfare at music and similar events: Health and Safety Executive UK second edition 2001: available from UK Health and Safety Executive HSE
- Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide): Department of Culture media and Sport: available from UK Stationery Office
- Guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Places of Entertainment and Like Premises: UK Home Office: available from UK Stationery Office Guidelines on Risk Assessments and Safety Statements: available on www.hsa.ie
- Guidelines on Risk Assessments and Safety Statements: available on www.hsa.ie Temporary Demountable Structures: available from The Institution of Structural Engineers
- British Standard BS 7671: 1992 Requirements for Electrical Installations: available from British Standards Institute
- Health Service Executive Requirements and Guidance for Outdoor Crowd Events April 2015.
- Fire risk assessment:- Open air event and venues. HMSO, There are a suite of risk assessment guides all available at www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk
- Use of Drones: <https://www/iaa.ie/general-aviation/drones>
- Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003
- Planning and Development Act, 2000, Part XVI.
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2015.
- S.I. No. 264 Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

17. References

Allegro Acoustics. (August 2025). Request for Further Information, Noise impact Assessment.

Allegro Acoustics. (December 2022). Planning Stage Noise Assessment.

CAAS Ltd. (August 2025). Appropriate Assessment Screening Report & Natura Impact Statement.

CAAS Ltd. (August 2025). Report on supporting Ecological Surveys.

EurGeol Bruno Teillard PGeo. (August 2025). Hydrological investigation. Aqua Geo Services.

Fearon O'Neill Rooney Consulting Engineers. (May 2025). LEVEL 1/2 SITE SPECIFIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT.

18. Conclusion

This Operational Plan has outlined the principles that will be adopted to ensure that potential environmental impacts and impacts to neighbouring inhabitants associated with the hosting events are effectively managed, minimised and / or eliminated. The plan details the roles and responsibilities of the applicant and future Event Managers and how these controls are to be implemented. The Operational Plan will require regular updating by Event Organisers from information they have learned from holding events at this venue.