SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Proposed Public Realm Enhancement Scheme, Cloonfad Village, Co. Roscommon

Version: 30-08-22

ecofact
Environmental Consultants

Tait Business Centre,
Dominic Street,
Limerick City, Ireland
(061) 419477

info@ecofact.ie
www.ecofact.ie

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name	Proposed Public Realm Enhancement Scheme in Cloonfad Village, Co. Roscommon
Project Description	New footways including pedestrian access, pavement and cladding of existing blockwork. Canopy tree structure, landscaping, resurfacing of carpark including line marking and signage, lighting, seating, pedestrian railings and all associated site and ancillary works
Potentially Affected Natura 2000 Sites	None
Pathways for Significant Effects (Yes/No)	No
Source(s) of Potential Impacts	None
Pathway(s) for Potential Impacts	None
Receptor(s) for Potential Impacts	None
Pre-assessment Screening	The proposed development site is located within the Lough Corrib SAC. All other Natura 2000 sites are located a considerable distance from the proposed development site. The River Cloonfad is located flows under a bridge at the prospect development site. The existing site is a hardstand area with some single trees. The works involved repaving areas, providing and new footpath and other pedestrian amenities along with landscaping and a tensile tree canopy. These works are considered minor in scale. The most significant works involve the resurfacing and the provision of a new footpath. According to the DoEHLG (2010) "*As with development requiring planning permission, some works will clearly not require an AA, e.g. repaving an already surfaced area."* The proposed development site is already paved. The proposed landscaping is set back from the River Cloonfad. There is a wall that separates the river from the proposed development site which would act as a barrier for run-off entering the River Cloonfad. Due to what is stated in the DoEHLG guidelines regarding repaving existing paved areas along with the small scale of the proposed development it is considered that there is no potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on the Lough Corrib SAC. Any impact that may occur would have at most a de minimis effect. There is some concern regarding the definition of de minimis effects not being defined anywhere and the DoEHLG guidelines referring to developments that do not require planning permission. Due to this a consultation letter has been sent to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) of NPWS.
Mitigation Required (Yes/No)	No
Stage 2 (AA) is required (Yes/No) ***If Yes – a Natura Impact Statement must be prepared***	No

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Date	Revision	Status	Author	Reviewed By
29-08-22	1	Draft	GW	WOC

1. INTRODUCTION

Ecofact Environmental Consultants Ltd. have been commissioned to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for a proposed public realm enhancement scheme in Cloonfad Village, Co. Roscommon. This screening determines whether an NIS is required for the project. A Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) was also carried out which concluded that an EIAR was not required (Ecofact, 2022).

Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), in instances where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of European Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (1992) (SACs) or the Birds Directive (2009) (SPAs). Screening is a pre-assessment procedure which considers whether an assessment (i.e. appropriate assessment) is required or not.

1.1 Legislation

Part XAB of the 2000 Act and SI. No 477 of 2011 transpose into Irish law, Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). The 1997 Regulations were updated in 1998 by The European Communities (Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 1998 (S.I. No. 233/1998) to include the updated Council Directive 97/62/EC. The 1997 regulations were again updated in 2005, by The European Communities (Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 378/2005). This amendment served to consolidate the main nature conservation legislation enacted in Ireland, meaning The Wildlife Act 1976, The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997, The European Communities (Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 1998, and to draw direct reference upon Council Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds – '*The Birds Directive'*.

These Directives require Ireland to establish protected sites as part of a European wide network of sites (known in Ireland as European sites) for habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation. In Ireland, European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, including candidate SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) seeks to protect birds of special importance by the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) whereas the Habitats Directive does the same for habitats and other species groups with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SPAs and SACs, both of which will form part of Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the European Community.

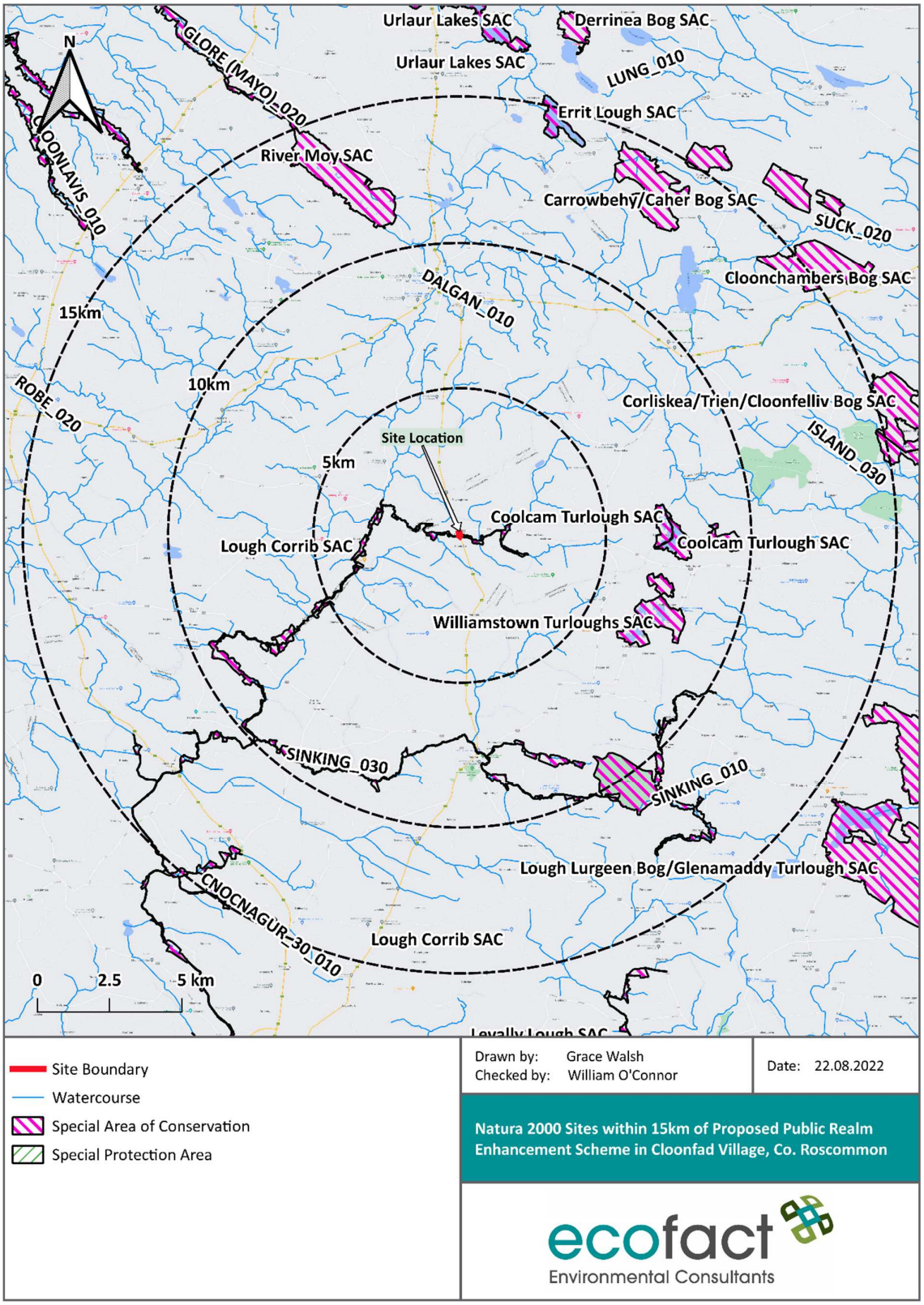

Figure 1 Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of Proposed Public Realm Enhancement Scheme in Cloonfad Village, Co. Roscommon.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The current Screening for Appropriate Assessment follows this guidance as relevant:

- DoEHLG, (2010). *'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities'*
- Office of the Planning Regulator, (2021). '*Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*.'
- European Commission, (2001). '*Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.'*
- European Commission, (2007). '*Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC: Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission."*
- European Commission, (2018). '*Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.'*

The European Commission guidance (2001) prescribes a staged process and the need for each stage being dependent on the outcomes of the preceding stage. These stages are: (1) Screening for Appropriate Assessment; (2) Appropriate Assessment; (3) Assessment of Alternative Solutions and (4) Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest test, and compensatory measures (EC, 2001).

According to DoEHLG (2010), Stage 1 Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive: (1) Whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and; (2) Whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

A project or plan may only pass at the Screening stage if there is no reasonable scientific doubt remaining as to the absence of impacts on the Natura 2000 network. DoEHLG (2010) states that any Natura 2000 site within a likely zone of impact should be considered, with a distance of 15km recommended, but this is evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, sensitivities of receptors and potential for in-combination effects. The threshold at the first stage is a very low one (as per Finlay Geoghegan J. in Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála 2013/802 JR). Screening must be approached on a precautionary basis with the safeguards set out in Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive triggered not by certainty - but by the possibility of significant effects.

DoEHLG (2010) outlines that there are 3 potential outcomes of a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 DoEHLG (2010) potential findings and outcomes for Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

Finding	Outcome
Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of a designated site	Stage 2 (AA) is not required
No potential for significant effects	Stage 2 (AA) is not required
Potential for significant effects identified, or potential for impacts is uncertain	Stage 2 (AA) is required and a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared

2.2 Desk Study

A desktop study was undertaken to identify the extent and scope of the potentially affected designated Natura 2000 sites within the current study area. A full bibliography of information sources reviewed is provided in the reference section. Information sources reviewed include:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) site synopses
- NPWS Conservation Objectives and Natura 2000 Forms
- Protected species data on NPWS/National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) online databases
- Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Tool
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mapping tools (including AAGeoTool)
- Catchments.ie
- Online aerial imagery (Bing, Google Satellite).

3. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed public realm enhancement scheme is located in Cloonfad Village, Co. Roscommon. The proposed scheme is located on the national N83 road in Cloonfad Village. The area of the scheme is c. 0.003km^2. The proposed scheme involves the provision of new footpaths. These will include new pedestrian access points, paved hard surfaces and the cladding of existing blockwork wall with stone. A Tensile Canopy Tree Structure will also be installed. This will provide a covered outdoor space. Additional seating will be installed along with additional lighting, pedestrian railings and hanging flower baskets. The existing carpark on the site will be resurfaced. Line marking will also be carried out for the carpark and additional signage will be installed. Landscaping is also proposed. This will include an evergreen hedge, ornamental tree planting, tree planting, shrubs, grasses, perennials and ground cover, bulbs and nitrogen fixing plants. Landscaping will also use the All-Ireland Pollinator Wildflower Mix.

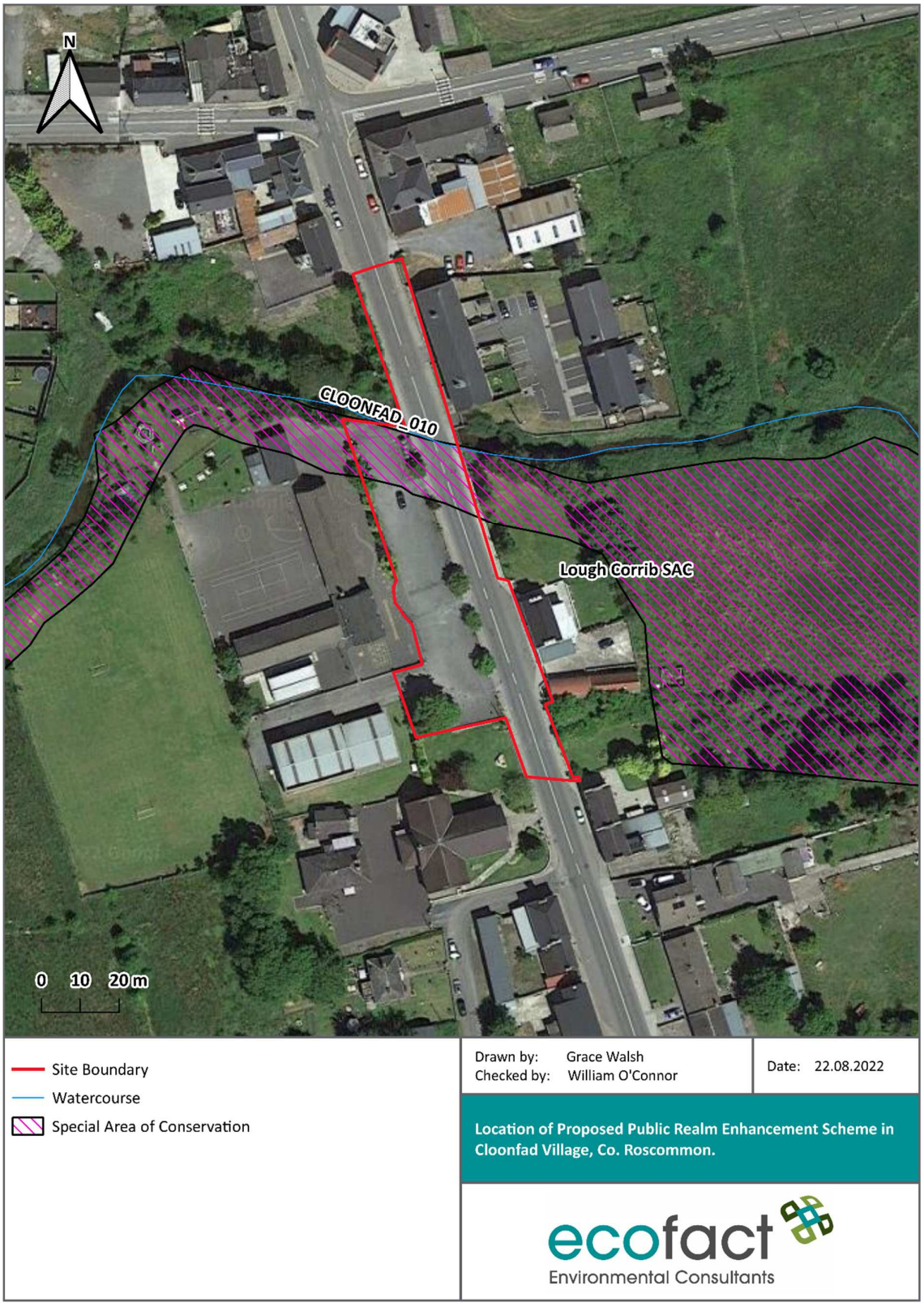

Figure 2 Location of Proposed Public Realm Enhancement Scheme in Cloonfad Village, Co. Roscommon.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITES

The location of the development in the context of the Natura 2000 network is indicated in Figure 1 above. The SACs and SPAs within 15km of the development are considered in the current screening and are listed in Table 2. The closest Natura 2000 Sites are the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC and the Tralee Bay Complex SPA. The fencing is located within these designated sites.

Table 2 Designated Natura 2000 Sites and associated Qualifying Interests within 15km of the development.

Natura 2000 Site	Distance (km)
Lough Corrib SAC	0km
Williamstown Turloughs SAC	c. 6.3km southeast
Coolcam Turlough SAC	c. 6.6km east
Croaghill Turlough SAC	c. 8.8km east
River Moy SAC	c. 10.8km north
Carrowbehy / Caher Bog SAC	c. 12.5km north northeast
Errit Lough SAC	c. 13.9km north northeast
Cloonchambers Bog SAC	c. 13.9km northeast
Corlisha / Trien / Cloonfelliv SAC	c. 14.7km east

4.1 Lough Corrib SAC (000297)

The Lough Corrib SAC is selected for orchid-rich calcareous grassland, raised bog (active), *Cladium* fens, petrifying springs, limestone pavement and bog woodland, priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, 1992. The SAC is also selected for oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals, oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters, hard standing waters, floating river vegetation, *Molinia* meadows, degraded raised bogs, Rhynchosporion vegetation, alkaline fens, old oak woodlands, Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*) and Slender Green Feather-moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*). The site synopsis for the Lough Corrib SAC is included in Appendix 1.

5. POTENTIAL FOR EFFECTS

Table 3 Designated Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of the development, the location of qualifying interests in relation to the development, potential pathways for impacts and potential for significant impacts.

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
Lough Corrib SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]	This habitat occurs in Lough Corrib c. 38km from the proposed development site (NPWS, 2017)	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	These habitats do not occur at the proposed development site or in the immediate vicinity and therefore no potential for direct impacts. There are no interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts.
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]	This habitat occurs in Lough Corrib c. 38km from the proposed development site (NPWS, 2017)					
	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp. [3140]	This habitat occurs in Lough Corrib c. 38km from the proposed development site (NPWS, 2017)					
	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]	Not mapped in the conservation objectives of the SAC and distribution is unknown. The ESM maps show no record of this habitat nearby. Potential for it to occur downstream.	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	This habitat is not mapped in the conservation objectives for the SAC. Therefore, taking the precautionary principle it may occur near the proposed development site. However, given the nature of the proposed development site already being a hardstand area and the works being minor in scale there is no

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
							potential for direct or indirect impacts. The most significant works involve some resurfacing and the provision of a new footpath. According to the DoEHLG (2010) "*As with development requiring planning permission, some works will clearly not require an AA, e.g. repaving an already surfaced area."* The proposed development site is already paved. Some landscaping will occur also, but this is set back from the River Cloonfad. There is a wall that separates the river from the proposed development site which would act as a barrier for run-off entering the River Cloonfad. Due to what is stated in the DoEHLG guidelines regarding repaving existing paved areas along with the small scale of the proposed development it is considered that there is no potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on this habitat in the Lough Corrib SAC. Any impact that may occur would have at most a de minimis effect.
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-*	Not mapped in the conservation objectives of the SAC. Terrestrial habitat that doesn't occur at the site.	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	These habitats do not occur at the proposed development site or in the immediate vicinity and therefore no potential for direct impacts. There are no interactions between the development and

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
	Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]						these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts.
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]	Not mapped in the conservation objectives of the SAC. Terrestrial habitat that doesn't occur at the site.					
	Active raised bogs [7110]	Located c. 35km south of the proposed development (NPWS, 2017)					
	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Located c. 35km south of the proposed development (NPWS, 2017)					
	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]	Located c. 35km south of the proposed development (NPWS, 2017)					
	Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* [7210]	Not mapped in the conservation objectives of the SAC. Terrestrial habitat that doesn't occur at the site.					
	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220]	Not mapped in the conservation objectives of the SAC but suitable habitat occurs on the shores of Lough Corrib c.					

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
		36km southwest of the proposed development (NPWS, 2017).					
	Alkaline fens [7230]	Not mapped in the conservation objectives of the SAC. Terrestrial habitat that doesn't occur at the site.					
	Limestone pavements [8240]	Located c. 46km south southwest of the proposed development.					
	Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]	Located c. 46km west of the proposed development.					
	Bog woodland [91D0]	Located c. 42.3km southwest of the proposed development.					
	Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Located in the Owenriff River c. 46.7km southwest of the proposed development.	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	This species occurs in the Owenriff River. There is no downstream hydrological connection between this river and the proposed development site. This species has not been recorded in the River Cloonfad. There is no potential for impacts on the species from the proposed development.
	Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	According to the NBDC maps this species was recorded c. 4.2km upstream of the	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Given the nature of the proposed development site already being a hardstand area and the works being minor in scale there is no potential for direct or

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
		proposed development. This species may occur in the River Cloonfad adjacent to the site.					indirect impacts. The most significant works involve some resurfacing and the provision of a new footpath. According to the DoEHLG (2010) "*As with development requiring planning permission, some works will clearly not require an AA, e.g. repaving an already surfaced area.*" The proposed development site is already paved. Some landscaping will occur also, but this is set back from the River Cloonfad. There is a wall that separates the river from the proposed development site which would act as a barrier for run-off entering the River Cloonfad. Due to what is stated in the DoEHLG guidelines regarding repaving existing paved areas along with the small scale of the proposed development it is considered that there is no potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on these species in the Lough Corrib SAC. Any impact that may occur would have at most a de minimis effect.
	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Sea Lamprey are blocked by several downstream barriers (NPWS, 2017). They may not occur in the river at the site but they do occur downstream.					
	Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	May occur in the River Cloonfad adjacent to the proposed development site					
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	May occur in the River Cloonfad adjacent to the proposed development site					
	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Species occurs to the north of Lough Corrib c. 42.5km west of the proposed development					
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	According to the NBDC maps there are two historical records of Otter adjacent to the proposed development site from 1982 and 1991. They	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Given the nature of the proposed development site already being a hardstand area and the works being minor in scale there is no potential for direct or indirect impacts. The most significant works involve some resurfacing and the

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
		may occur in the River Cloonfad.					provision of a new footpath. According to the DoEHLG (2010) "*As with development requiring planning permission, some works will clearly not require an AA, e.g. repaving an already surfaced area."* The proposed development site is already paved. Some landscaping will occur also, but this is set back from the River Cloonfad. There is a wall that separates the river from the proposed development site which would act as a barrier for run-off entering the River Cloonfad. Due to what is stated in the DoEHLG guidelines regarding repaving existing paved areas along with the small scale of the proposed development it is considered that there is no potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on Otter in the Lough Corrib SAC. Any impact that may occur would have at most a de minimis effect.
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	Located in Lough Corrib c. 36km west pf the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of these QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these species with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified;
	Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]	Located c. 43km southwest of the proposed development (NPWS, 2017)	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
							therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts.
Williamstown Turlough SAC (002296)	Turloughs [3180]	Located c. 6.3km southeast of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts.
Coolcam Turlough SAC (000218)	Turloughs [3180]	Located c. 6.6km east of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
Croaghill Turlough SAC (000255)	Turloughs [3180]	Located c. 8.8km east of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
							for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
River Moy SAC (002298)	Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510]	Located c. 10.8km north of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats and species with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
	Active raised bogs [7110]						
	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]						
	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]						
	Alkaline fens [7230]						
	Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]						
	Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0]						
	Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]						
	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]						

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
	Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]						
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]						
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]						
Carrowbehy / Caher Bog SAC (000597)	Active raised bogs [7110]	Located c. 12.5km north northeast of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]						
	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]						
Errit Lough SAC (000607)	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Located c. 13.9km north northeast of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
	Active raised bogs [7110]		No	No potential	No potential		Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Interest	Location in relation to development site	Potential pathway for impacts (Yes/No)	Potential Impact & Source			Pre-assessment Screening
				Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	
Corliskea / Trien / Cloonfelliv Bog SAC (00)	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	Located c. 14.7km east of the proposed development		direct impact	indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
Drumalough Bog SAC (002338)	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Located c. 14.8km north northeast of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts
Cloonchambers Bog SAC (000600)	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Located c. 13.9km northeast of the proposed development	No	No potential direct impact	No potential indirect impact	No potential cumulative impact	Site is located outside the boundary of the SAC and none of the QIs are expected to occur at the site so no potential for direct impacts. No interactions between the development and these habitats with a large geographical separation so no potential for indirect impacts. No pathways for direct or indirect impacts identified; therefore, no potential for significant cumulative impacts

6. CONCLUSION

Table 4 DoEHLG (2010) potential findings and outcomes for Screening for Appropriate Assessment with Conclusions for Proposed Public Realm Enhancement Scheme at Cloonfad, Co. Roscommon.

Finding	Potential Outcome	Conclusion
Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of a designated site	Stage 2 (AA) is not required	
No potential for significant effects	Stage 2 (AA) is not required	✓
Potential for significant effects identified, or potential for impacts is uncertain	Stage 2 (AA) is required and a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared	

This report was prepared to provide the competent authority with the information required to complete the determination statement for the significance of effects. From examination of the information available, this reports concludes that there is no potential for significant direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to arise from the proposed public realm enhancement scheme at Cloonfad, Co. Roscommon. The existing site is already paved and the works are minor in scale. According to the DoEHLG (2010) repaving existing paved areas does not require a Natura Impact Statement. While there is some possibility for run-off containing suspended solids, silt and / or hydrocarbons to reach the River Cloonfad, this would be considered a de minimis effect. Relying on the DoEHLG guidelines and the de minimis impact concept a Natura Impact Statement is not required. However, that section of the DoEHLG guidelines refers to projects that do not require planning permission whereas the current development does. Also, the threshold for de minimis impacts has not been set. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluding statement must be made by the competent authority to decide the significance of effects.

Due to the above issues raised a consultation letter has been sent to the Development Applications Unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Once they have consulted this Screening for Appropriate Assessment can be updated.

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APPENDIX 1 NPWS SITE SYNOPSES

Site Name: Lough Corrib SAC
Site Code: 000297

Lough Corrib is situated to the north of Galway city and is the second largest lake in Ireland, with an area of approximately 18,240 ha (the entire site is 20,556 ha). The lake can be divided into two parts: a relatively shallow basin, underlain by Carboniferous limestone, in the south, and a larger, deeper basin, underlain by more acidic granite, schists, shales and sandstones to the north. The surrounding lands to the south and east are mostly pastoral farmland, while bog and heath predominate to the west and north. A number of rivers are included within the cSAC as they are important for Atlantic Salmon. These rivers include the Clare, Grange, Abbert, Sinking, Dalgan and Black to the east, as well as the Cong, Bealanabrack, Failmore, Cornamona, Drimneen and Owenriff to the west. In addition to the rivers and lake basin, adjoining areas of conservation interest, including raised bog, woodland, grassland and limestone pavement, have been incorporated into the site.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3110] Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals
[3130] Oligotrophic to Mesotrophic Standing Waters
[3140] Hard Water Lakes
[3260] Floating River Vegetation
[6210] Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland*
[6410] Molinia Meadows
[7110] Raised Bog (Active)*
[7120] Degraded Raised Bog
[7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation
[7210] Cladium Fens*
[7220] Petrifying Springs*
[7230] Alkaline Fens
[8240] Limestone Pavement*
[91A0] Old Oak Woodlands
[91D0] Bog Woodland*

[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)
[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)
[1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
[1096] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
[1106] Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)
[1303] Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)
[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
[1833] Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*)
[6216] Slender Green Feather-moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*)

The shallow, lime-rich waters of the southern basin of Lough Corrib support one of the most extensive beds of stoneworts (Charophytes) in Ireland, with species such as Chara aspera, C. hispida, C. delicatula, C. contraria and C. desmacantha mixed with submerged pondweeds (Potamogeton perfoliatus, P. gramineus and P. lucens), Shoreweed (Littorella uniflora) and Water Lobelia (Lobelia dortmanna). These Chara beds are an important source of food for waterfowl. In contrast, the northern

basin contains more oligotrophic and acidic waters, without Chara species, but with Shoreweed, Water Lobelia, Pipewort (Eriocaulon aquaticum), Quillwort (Isoetes lacustris), Alternate Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum alternifolium) and Slender Naiad (Najas flexilis). The last-named is listed under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015, and is an Annex II species under the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Large areas of reedswamp vegetation, dominated by varying mixtures of Common Reed (Phragmites australis) and Common Club-rush (Scirpus lacustris), occur around the margins of the lake. Reedswamp usually grades into species-rich marsh vegetation characterised by Slender Sedge (Carex lasiocarpa), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica), Water Horsetail (Equisetum fluviatile) and Bogbean (Menyanthes trifoliata). Of particular note are the extensive beds of Great Fen-sedge (Cladium mariscus) that have developed over the marly peat deposits in sheltered bays, particularly in the southeast corner of the lake. Alkaline fen vegetation is more widespread around the lake margins and includes, amongst the typically diverse range of plants, the Slender Cottongrass (Eriophorum gracile), a species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015. Wet meadows dominated by Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea) occur in seasonally flooded areas close to the lake shore. These support species such as Sharp-flowered Rush (Juncus acutiflorus), Jointed Rush (J. articulatus), Carnation Sedge (Carex panicea), Devil's-bit Scabious (Succisa pratensis), Creeping Bent (Agrostis stolonifera) and Tormentil (Potentilla erecta), amongst others.

This large site contains four discrete raised bog areas and is selected for active raised bog, degraded raised bog, Rhynchosporion and bog woodland. Active raised bog comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat-forming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (Sphagnum spp.) is high, and where some or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, Sphagnum lawns, flushes and soaks. Degraded raised bog corresponds to those areas of high bog whose hydrology has been adversely affected by peat cutting, drainage and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration. The Rhynchosporion habitat occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge (Rhynchospora alba) and/or Brown Beak-sedge (R. fusca), and at least some of the following associated species, Bog Asphodel (Narthecium ossifragum), sundews (Drosera spp.), Deergrass (Scirpus cespitosus) and Carnation Sedge.

At Addergoole, on the eastern shores of Lough Corrib, there is an important area of western raised bog. This bog area is one of the most westerly, relatively intact raised bogs in the country. There are also other substantial areas of raised bog along various tributaries of the Corrib in east Co. Galway, namely Slieve Bog, Lough Tee Bog and Killaclogher bog. The active parts of these bogs mostly correspond to the wettest areas, where there are well-developed surface features with hummocks, lawns and pools. It is in such areas that Rhynchosporion vegetation is best represented. The dominant species is the aquatic bog moss Sphagnum cuspidatum, which is usually accompanied by Bogbean, White Beak-sedge, Bog Asphodel, Common Cottongrass (Eriophorum angustifolium), Bog Sedge (Carex limosa) and Great Sundew (Drosera anglica). Brown Beak-sedge, a locally rare plant of wet bog pools, has been recorded from a number of the bog areas within the site. At Addergoole a substantial bog lake or soak occurs and this is infilling with large rafts of Rhynchosporion vegetation at present. This area is associated with an important area of wet bog woodland dominated by Downy Birch (Betula pubescens).

The largest part of the uncut high bog comprises degraded raised bog. Degraded bog is dominated by a raised bog flora which tends to be rather species-poor because of disturbance and/or drying-out. The most conspicuous vascular plant species are usually Carnation Sedge, Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Cottongrasses, Cross-leaved Heath (Erica tetralix), Bog Asphodel and Deergrass. Bog-rosemary (Andromeda polifolia) and Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos), two species indicative of raised bog habitat, are frequent on both degraded and active areas of raised bog. Sphagnum cover is generally low within degraded areas due to a combination of drying-out and frequent burning.

Limestone pavement occurs along much of the shoreline in the lower Corrib basin, and supports a rich and diverse flora, including Herb-Robert (Geranium robertianum), Bloody Crane's-bill (G. sanguineum), Carline Thistle (Carlina vulgaris), Spring Gentian (Gentiana verna), Wild Thyme (Thymus praecox), Rustyback (Ceterach officinarum), Wood Sage (Teucrium scorodonia), Slender St. John's-wort (Hypericum pulchrum), Quaking-grass (Briza media) and Blue Moor-grass (Sesleria albicans). Areas of Hazel (Corylus avellana) scrub occur in association with exposed limestone pavement and these include species such as Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), Buckthorn (Rhamnus catharticus), Spindle (Euonymus europaeus), with occasional Juniper (Juniperus communis). Three Red Data Book species are also found in association with limestone scrub - Alder Buckthorn (Frangula alnus), Shrubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla fruticosa) and Wood Bitter-vetch (Vicia orobus), the latter is also protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015.

Open areas of orchid-rich calcareous grassland are also found in association with the limestone exposures. These can support a typically rich vegetation, including many orchids such as Pyramidal Orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis), Common Spotted-orchid (Dactylorhiza fuchsii), Early-purple Orchid (Orchis mascula), Frog Orchid (Coeloglossum viride), Fragrant Orchid (Gymnadenia conopsea), Marsh Helleborine (Epipactis palustris), Greater Butterfly-orchid (Platanthera chlorantha) and Irish Lady's-tresses (Spiranthes romanzoffiana). The latter is protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015.

The Hill of Doon, located in the north-western corner of the lake, is a fine example of a Sessile Oak (Quercus petraea) woodland. The understorey is dominated by Sessile Oak, Holly (Ilex aquifolium) and occasional Juniper. There are occasional Yew (Taxus baccata) and Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), and a well-developed ground layer dominated by Bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus), Hard Fern (Blechnum spicant) and Wood Rush (Luzula sylvatica). Woodland also occurs on some of the islands in the lake.

A number of the rivers in the site support submerged and floating vegetation of the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion, including mosses. For example, in the River Corrib species such as Shining Pondweed (Potamogeton lucens), Perfoliate Pondweed (Potamogeton perfoliatus), Small Pondweed (P. berchtoldii), Yellow Waterlily (Nuphar lutea), White Water-lily (Nymphaea alba) and stoneworts (Chara spp.) occur.

The rare and Annex II-listed Slender Green Feather-moss (Hamatocaulis vernicosus, formerly known as Drepanocladus vernicosus) is found at the fen at Gortachalla, northeast of Moycullen. Here it is widespread around the margins, and this constitutes a large and significant population in the national context. A very large population of another rare moss, Pseudocalliergon trifarium, is also found in this area.

The lake is rated as an internationally important site for waterfowl. Counts from 1984 to 1987 revealed a mean annual peak total of 19,994 birds. In the past a maximum peak of 38,281 birds was recorded. The lake supports internationally important numbers of Pochard (average peak 8,600) and nationally important numbers of the following species: Coot (average peak 6,756), Mute Swan (average peak 176), Tufted Duck (average peak 1,317), Cormorant (average peak 110) and Greenland Whitefronted Goose (average peak 83). The latter species is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The Coot population is the largest in the country and populations of Tufted Duck and Pochard are second only to Lough Neagh. Breeding pairs of Common Scoter on the lake number 30-41 (1995 data), as well as breeding populations of Arctic Tern and Common Tern. Other bird species of note recorded from or close to the lake recently include Hen Harrier, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover and Kingfisher. All of these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

Otter and Irish Hare have been recorded regularly within this site. Both of these species are listed in the Red Data Book and are legally protected by the Wildlife Act, 1976. Otter is also listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Lough Corrib is considered one of the best sites in the country for Otter, due to the sheer size of the lake and associated rivers and streams, and also the generally high quality of the habitats. Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar) use the lake and rivers as spawning grounds.

Although this species is still fished commercially in Ireland, it is considered to be endangered or locally threatened elsewhere in Europe and is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Lough Corrib is also a well-known fishing lake with a very good Trout (Salmo trutta) fishery. The lake has a population of Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus), a scarce, though probably under-recorded species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri), also listed on Annex II, are also known from a number of areas within the site.

A population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera), a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, occurs within the site. White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes), also listed on Annex II, is well distributed throughout Lough Corrib and its in-flowing rivers over limestone. A summer roost of Lesser Horseshoe Bat, another Annex II species, occurs within the site - approximately 100 animals were recorded here in 1999.

The main threats to the quality of this site are from water polluting activities resulting from intensification of agricultural activities on the eastern side of the lake, uncontrolled discharge of sewage which is causing localised eutrophication of the lake, and housing and boating development, which is causing the loss of native lakeshore vegetation. The raised bog habitats are susceptible to further degradation and drying out due to drainage and peat cutting and, on occasions, burning. Peat cutting threatens Addergoole Bog and already a substantial area of it has been cut away. Fishing and shooting occur in and around the lake. Introduction of exotic crayfish species or the crayfish fungal plague (Aphanomyces astaci) could have a serious impact on the native crayfish population. The bat roost is susceptible to disturbance or development.

Despite these ongoing issues, however, Lough Corrib is one the best examples of a large lacustrine catchment system in Ireland, with a range of habitats and species still well represented. These include 15 habitats which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, six of which are priority habitats, and nine species which are listed on Annex II. The lake is also internationally important for birds and is designated as a Special Protection Area.