

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT HARRISTOWN, CASTLEREA, CO ROSCOMMON.



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This report refers, within the limitations stated, to the condition of the site at the time of the report. No warranty is given as to the possibility of future changes in the condition of the site. The report as presented is based on the information sources as detailed in this report, and hence maybe subject to review in the future if more information is obtained or scientific understanding changes.

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Traynor Environmental Ltd. were commissioned by Roscommon County Council, to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening of a proposed development at Brí Chaoilínne Halting Site at Harristown, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. Traynor Environmental Ltd have, as part of this commission, carried out this Screening for EIA to determine whether the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is required for the proposed development. The findings of the EIA screening assessment are presented in this report.

### **1.2 Proposed Development**

Permission is being sought for the works under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020.

### **1.3 Methodology**

This screening assessment has been carried out having regard to the following documents:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines for Consent Authorities Regarding Sub-Threshold Development (DEHLG, 2003);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening (European Commission, 2017); and
- Guidelines on information to be contained in EIS (Environmental Protection Agency, 2002).
- The following draft guidance document has also been consulted:
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Draft August 2017 (EPA, 2017)

### **1.4 Screening Conclusions**

The Project does not meet the thresholds for which the preparation of an EIAR is a mandatory requirement. The legislative requirements that deem whether an EIA is mandatory for a project are outlined in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020. Additionally, the thresholds listed in Part 2 (10) of Schedule 5 in relation to "Infrastructure Projects" are not met as the proposed development will not be:

(a) Industrial estate development projects, where the area would exceed 15 hectares.

- (b)
- i. Construction of more than 500 dwelling units.
  - ii. Construction of a carpark providing more than 400 spaces, other than a carpark provided as part of, and incidental to the primary purpose of, a development.
  - iii. Construction of a shopping centre with a gross floor space exceeding 10,000 square metres.

- iv. Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere.

The characteristics of the Project which must be considered to determine whether the Project should be subject to an EIA are outlined within Annex III of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, and include the following:

- a) The size and design of the whole project;
- b) Cumulation with other existing and/or approved projects;
- c) The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
- d) The production of waste;
- e) Pollution and nuisances;
- f) The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge; and
- g) The risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).

There are 14 Natura 2000 designated sites within 15km of the application site. A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) pursuant to Regulation 42(1) of the Habitats Regulations and Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) was prepared by Whitehill Environmental Ltd in accordance with current guidance (DEHLG, 2010). The AA Screening assessed and addressed all issues regarding the construction and operation of the proposed development in order to inform and allow the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

It has been concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge, that the proposed Project, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, does not have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on any Special Conservation Interests/ Qualifying Interests of any Natura 2000 sites. Significant effects are not likely to arise as a result of construction works for the proposed development and direct impacts can be objectively ruled out. The AA Screening concluded that the construction of the proposed development does not need to proceed to Stage II of the Appropriate Assessment process. Owing to the nature and scale of the Project and its location, the magnitude of the potential impact is moderate. It is clear that any effect on the site as a whole will be slight to moderate. Moreover, given that the timeframe for potential impacts is limited to the construction phase (e.g. disturbance), any effect on the site will be of a short duration. The proposed development will be designed and constructed in accordance with the Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines (EACG) and other best practice guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines will ensure that the likelihood of significant environmental effects will be minimised.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Brief**

The Proposed development is consistent with planning policy in the Roscommon County Development Plan 2014 - 2020. Having regard to the location of the proposed site in relation to Castlerea town area, the availability to public services, it is considered that the project is in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Therefore, once the proposed development complies with safety standards during the construction and operation of the development, it is not expected that the proposal would have significant environmental impacts.

This report has been prepared by Traynor Environmental Ltd in accordance with published guidance to document the Screening of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the development.

### **2.2 Methodology**

Screening is a process used to establish whether an EIA is required for a proposed development. There are a number of steps in the screening process. The mandatory requirement for an EIA is generally based on the nature or scale of a proposed development, as set out in the Directive and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2020, as amended.

The Regulations identify certain types and scales of development, generally based on thresholds of scale, for which EIA is mandatory. In addition, there is sometimes a requirement for EIA of 'sub-threshold' developments and, in this respect, it may be necessary to undertake a screening exercise to assess whether the proposed development requires the preparation of an EIAR.

A methodology was developed to formally screen the proposed development, which is based on 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development' (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2003). This screening exercise also takes account of the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU in relation to screening, as referred to in the 'Transposition of 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) in the Land Use Planning and EPA Licencing Systems: Key Issues Consultation Paper' issued by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) in May 2017.

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

#### 3.1 Overview

Roscommon County Council have indicated their intention to apply for planning permission for a proposed development at the Brí Chaoinne Halting Site at Harristown, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. Permission will be sought under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020.

The proposed development will consist of:

- *Alterations to two existing semi-detached housing units to convert these into two separate five-bed detached houses. Works will involve the demolition of internal dividing walls and the dividing outside garden walls to create a single housing unit on each site. Plans also include for all ancillary and associated site works.*

All works will take place within the existing footprints of the semi-detached houses.

#### 3.2 Site Location and surrounding environment

The application sites are approximately 0.1 hectares each. They are located in a rural area, within the Brí Chaoinne Halting Site, which is on the outskirts of Castlerea town, approximately 2km south of the town centre. The sites are accessed via an existing entrance into the halting site that is located just off the National Road, the N60.

**Figure 1 – Site Location Map (Site is Indicated with Red Dot)**



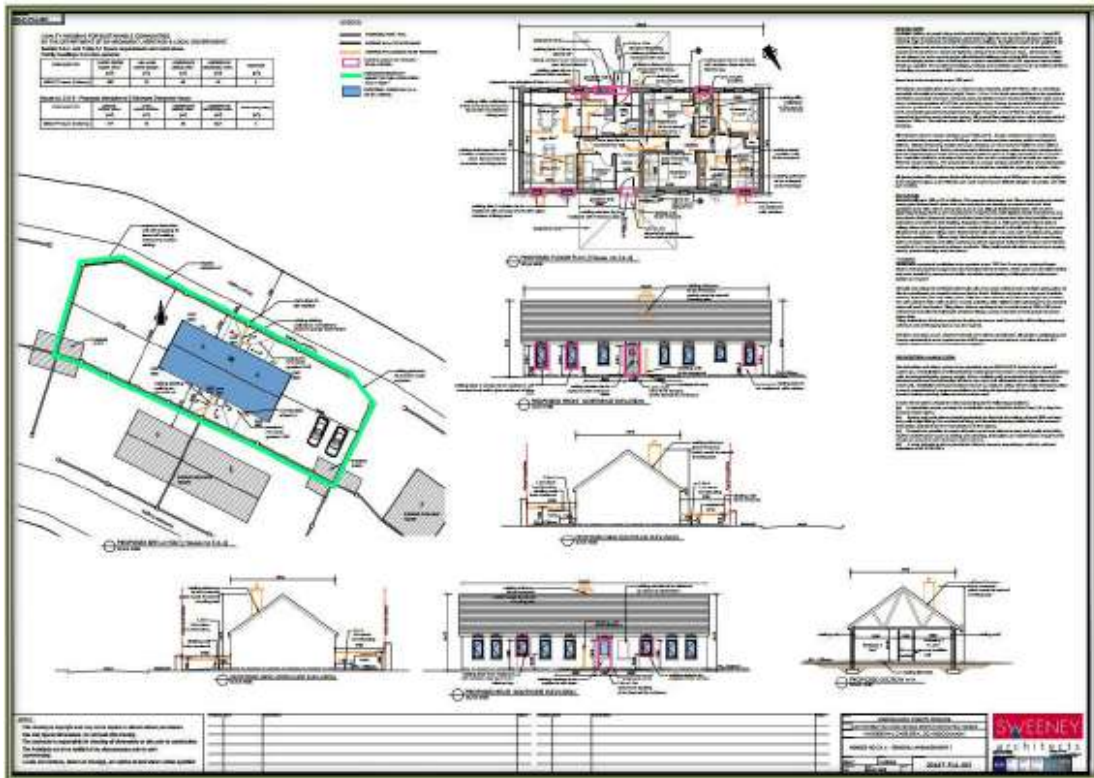
**Figure 2– Site Location Map (Site is outlined in red)**



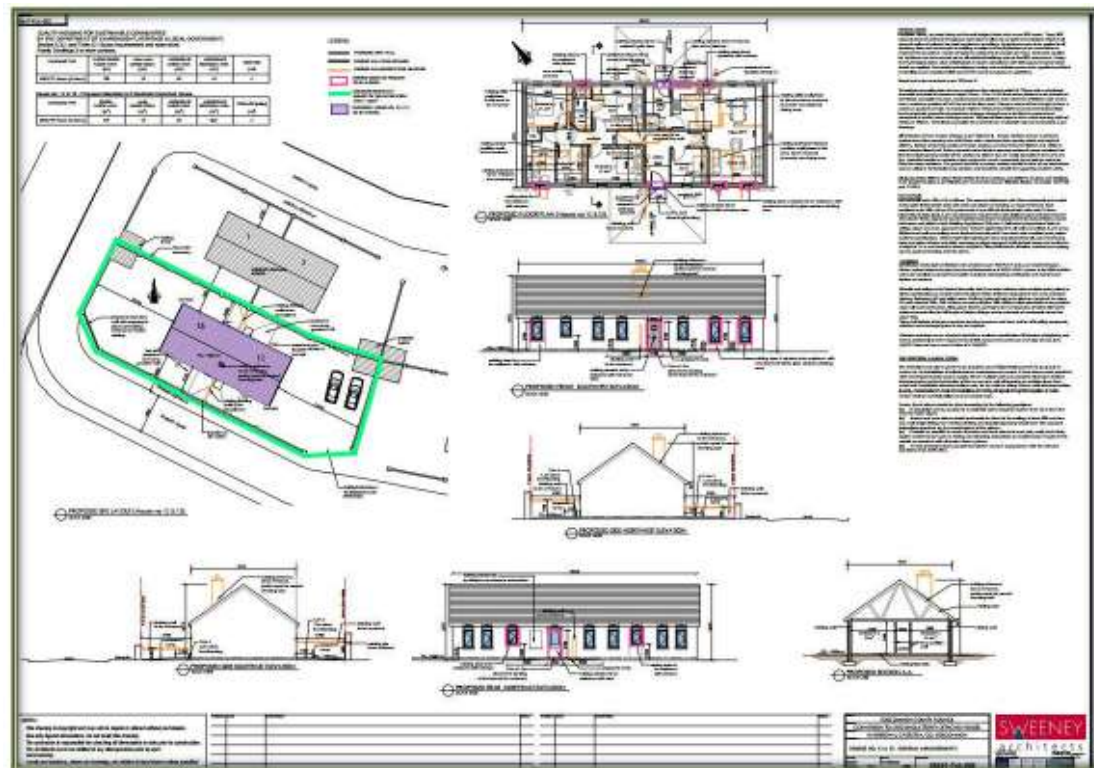
**Figure 3 – Aerial Photograph of the Site (Outlined in Red) and its Surrounding Habitats.**



**Figure 4– Extract from Planning Drawings for House 5 and 6 (as prepared by Sweeney Architects)**



**Figure 5– Extract from Planning Drawings for House 12 and 13 (as prepared by Sweeney Architects)**



### 3.3 Water Features and Quality

The application site is located within the Upper Shannon Hydrometric Area (26) and Catchment (26D), the Suck Sub-Catchment (010) and Suck Sub-Basin (030). There are no drains or streams within or adjacent to the application sites. The closest watercourse is a drain that is 22m south of House site 12 & 13. Water in this drain flows south towards the Harristown Stream, which is 258m south of the site. Water in the Harristown Stream then flows west, towards the River Suck, which is 1.2km west of the application sites. The River Suck is a tributary of the River Shannon.

The EPA have classed the ecological status of the Harristown Stream at points close to the application site as poor. The River Suck at its confluence with the Harristown Stream and upstream of that confluence is also classed as poor. However, further downstream

ecological status in the River Suck is classed as high. Under the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, all waterbodies must achieve good ecological status.

**Figure 6 – Local Watercourses and flow Directions (GIS EPA Maps)**



### 3.4 Construction Methodology

The construction sequence will generally be as follows:

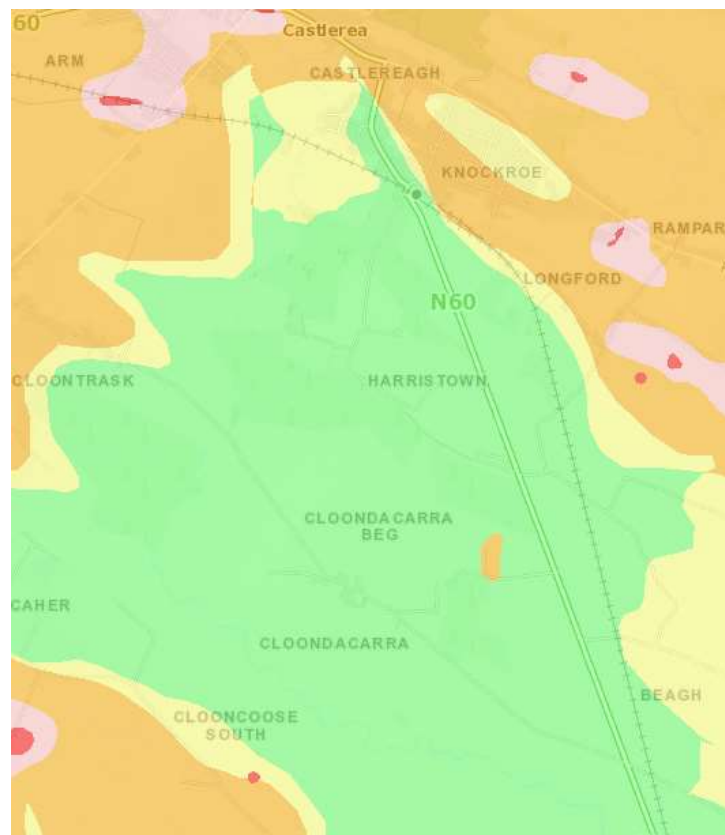
1. Site clearance;
2. Drainage works (including services);
3. Foundations;
4. Structural works; and,
5. Ground works, including surfacing and landscaping.

### 3.5 Drainage

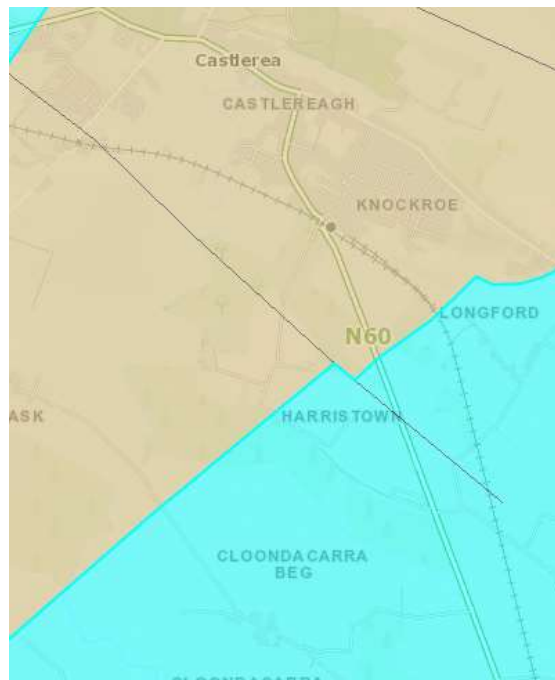
The proposed development consists of the alteration to existing houses, without extension to floor area. These houses form part of an overall existing housing development where both storm water and foul water is existing on-site. The foul water disposal is by an on-site treatment system and this has capacity for the additional loadings resulting from the works.

#### Figure 7: Vulnerability map (EPA GSI Maps)

The groundwater vulnerability map (GSI) indicates a low vulnerability.

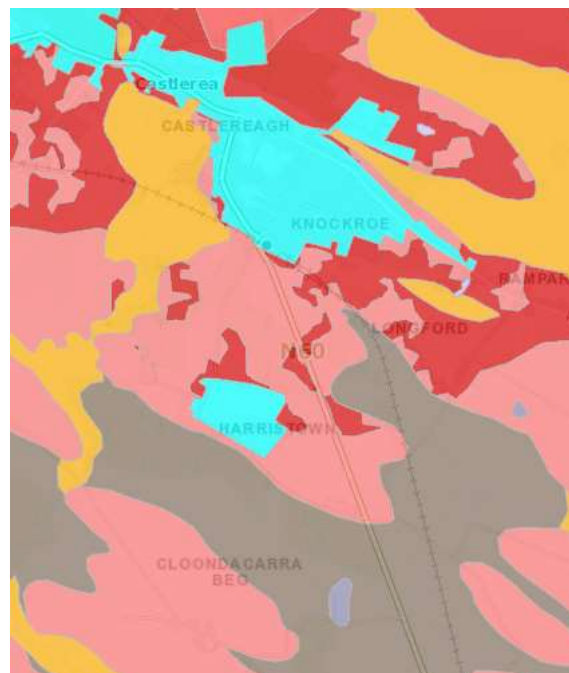


**Figure 8 – Ground water /Aquifer Map (GIS EPA Maps)**



The groundwater GIS Map (Figure 8) indicates this area is Rkc which is a Regionally Important Aquifer-Karstified (conduit)

**Figure 9: Teagasc Soils map (Teagasc SIS Map)**



Teagasc SIS Map indicates sub-soil permeability classification Till derived chiefly from Devonian sandstones.

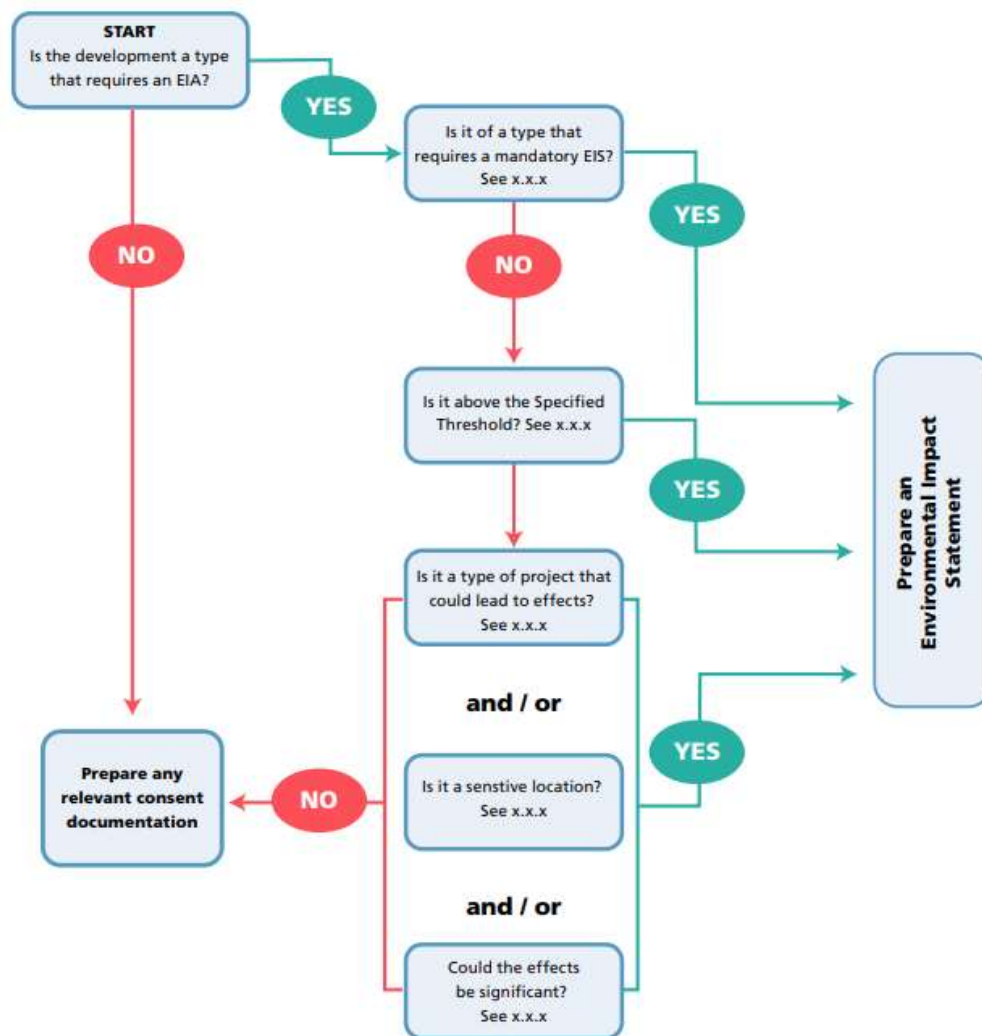
## 4.0 EIA SCREENING PROCESS

### 4.1 Introduction

This EIA Screening Report has been prepared by Traynor Environmental Ltd on behalf of Roscommon County Council, with the aim of documenting the significant environmental effects, positive and negative, which the proposed development is likely to have on the receiving environment. The reference documents used to inform the process are summarised in Section.

The Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on Screening (European Commission, 2017) provides a flow diagram of the Steps in Screening and this is the process generally followed in this Screening Report (Figure 9).

**Figure 10 - Flow Diagram of the Steps in Screening (Source: European Commission Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on Screening, 2017)**



#### **4.1.1 Legislation**

EIA requirements derive from Council Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC) and as codified and replaced by Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and as amended in turn by Directive 2014/52/EU.

The legislative requirements which deem whether an EIA is mandatory for a project are outlined in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020, as amended. All projects can be placed into one of the following two categories:

- Those that exceed the thresholds laid down and therefore have a mandatory requirement to prepare an EIAR; and
- Those projects that are sub-threshold and must be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

#### **4.2 Methodology**

Screening is the process of deciding whether a development requires an EIA. The mandatory and discretionary provisions within Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020 as amended deem whether an EIA is mandatory for a project.

#### **4.3 Mandatory EIA**

As per Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020, the proposed development does not meet the thresholds to require a mandatory EIA.

#### **4.4 Sub-Threshold Development**

Where a decision is being made on whether a proposed development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, regard must be given to the following project characteristics outlined in Annex III of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU:

- (a) The size and design of the whole project;
- (b) Cumulation with other existing and/or approved projects;
- (c) The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity.
- (d) The production of waste;
- (e) Pollution and nuisances;
- (f) The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;

- 
- (g) The risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).
  - (h) Additionally, the screening process can be aided using the checklists contained within the European Commission publication Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on Screening (2017). Table 1. the criteria are taken from Annex III of the Directive, Section 2.

#### 4.5 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

**Table 1** - Criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

##### 4.5.1 Size of the Development

The application sites are approximately 0.1 hectares each and will comprise of a development under the Roscommon County Development Plan 2014- 2020.

#### 1. Characteristics of the proposed development

The characteristics of the proposed development, in particular:

- the size of the proposed development
- the cumulation with other proposed development
- the use of natural resources
- the production of waste
- pollution and nuisances
- the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used.

#### 2. Location of proposed development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to:

- the existing land use
- the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area
- the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
  - (a) wetlands
  - (b) coastal zones
  - (c) mountain and forest parks
  - (d) areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directive 79/40/EEC and 92/43/EEC
  - (e) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in EU legislation have already been exceeded
  - (f) densely populated areas
  - (g) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance

#### 3. Characteristics of potential impacts

The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:

- the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)
- the transfrontier nature of the impact
- the magnitude and complexity of the impact
- the probability of the impact
- the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact

#### **4.5.2 Cumulation with Other Projects**

Information on the site and the area of the proposed development was studied prior to the completion of this screening. The following data sources were reviewed in order to complete a thorough examination of all impacts:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service - Aerial photographs and maps of designated sites, information on habitats and species within these sites and information on protected plant or animal species; conservation objectives, site synopses and standard data forms for relevant designated sites.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- Information pertaining to water quality, and geology and licensed facilities within the area.
- Myplan.ie – Mapped based information.
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) – Information pertaining to protected plant and animal species within the study area.
- Sweeney Architects – Plans and Information Pertaining to the Development.
- Roscommon County Council (eplan website)– Information on planning history in the area in order to ascertain potential cumulative impacts.
- An Bord Pleanála website (planning searches)
- Web search for major infrastructure projects in the Castlerea Area.
- Roscommon County Development Plan (2014 - 2020)
- Traynor Environmental – Flood Risk Assessment for the Site

The cumulative impact of the development in combination with existing baseline actions is not significantly worse than any of the individual impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development.

#### **4.5.3 Use of Natural Resources**

While exact quantities of materials required during the construction phase have not been determined at this stage, the amount of aggregates and materials that will be imported to the site during construction will be moderate. No resources will be taken from any Natura 2000 site and there are no resource requirements that will impact upon any designated sites.

#### **4.5.4 Production of Waste**

Site clearance will be minimal in nature. The quantity of waste will be small and will not likely cause significant environmental effects. On this basis the waste generation will not be of a level of significance that would require EIA.

#### **4.5.5 Risk of Major Accidents and/or Disasters**

The risk of accidents associated with this development would not cause unusual, significant or adverse effects of a type that would, in themselves, require an EIA. During the construction stage, the likelihood of an accidental spillage of construction materials into the aquatic environment will be managed through the adoption of strict best practice construction management.

#### **4.5.6 Risk to Human Health**

Due to the location of this proposed development impacts to human health are likely to be minimal during the construction phase which will short term in nature, small in scale and therefore not considered to be significant.

#### **4.6 Location of Project**

The second criterion included in Annex III of the EIA Directive relates to the geographical location of projects, having regard in particular to:

- (a) The existing and approved land use
- (b) The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;
- (c) The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
  - (i) Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
  - (ii) Coastal zones and the marine environment;
  - (iii) Mountain and forest areas;
  - (iv) Nature reserves and parks;
  - (v) Areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to the Habitats Directive;
  - (vi) Areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
  - (vii) Densely populated areas;
  - (viii) Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

#### **4.6.1 Existing and Approved Land Use**

The land-use in the area is predominantly agricultural and improved agricultural grassland is the dominant habitat in the lands surrounding the sites. Forestry (mixed / coniferous) is also common in the area. Other habitats represented locally include neutral-wet grasslands, peatlands, hedgerows, treelines and watercourses.

#### **4.6.2 Relative Abundance, Availability, Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources**

The proposed development will have minimum impact on the quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area.

#### **4.6.3 The Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment**

#### **4.6.4 Overview**

The application sites are approximately 0.1 hectares each. They are located in a rural area, within the Brí Chaoilínne Halting Site, which is on the outskirts of Castlerea town, approximately 2km south of the town centre. The sites are accessed via an existing entrance into the halting site that is located just off the National Road, the N60.

The land-use in the area is predominantly agricultural and improved agricultural grassland is the dominant habitat in the lands surrounding the sites. Forestry (mixed / coniferous) is also common in the area. Other habitats represented locally include neutral-wet grasslands, peatlands, hedgerows, treelines and watercourses.

#### **4.6.5 Mountains and Forest Areas**

There are no mountains or areas of forestry within the study area of the proposed development.

#### **4.6.6 Nature Reserves and Parks**

There are no nature reserves or parks affected by the proposed development.

#### **4.6.7 Nationally Designated Sites & European Sites**

There are fourteen Natura 2000 designated sites within 15km of the application site. None of these sites are hydrologically connected to the application site. These designated areas and their closest points to the proposed development site are summarised in Table 2 and a map showing their locations relative to the application site is shown in Figure 10. A full description of these sites can be read on the website of the National Parks and Wildlife Service ([npws.ie](http://npws.ie)). There will be no reduction of designated habitat area. There will be no interference with the boundaries of any designated sites.

#### **4.6.8 Environmental Quality Standards**

There are no known areas in which the environmental quality standards shall be exceeded.

#### **4.6.9 Densely Populated Areas**

The development is not expected to affect any densely populated areas. The site is located on the outskirts of Castlerea. Given the scale of the development and the implementation of best practice guidelines, it is unlikely that there will be negative impacts to these areas from the construction of the proposed development. Impact on road users as a result of the proposed development is unlikely considering the scale of the proposed development any additional increase in traffic as a result of the development will be minimal.

#### **4.6.10 Landscapes and Sites of Historical, Cultural or Archaeological Significance**

There are no known archaeological sites within the site area or in the immediate environs of the site.

#### **4.6.11 Designated Focal Points/Views**

There will be no views, prospects or scenic routes affected by the proposed development.

### **4.7 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

#### **4.7.1 Extent of the Impact**

The sites in question is 0.1 hectares in area each. It is located on the outskirts of Castlerea town.

#### **4.7.2 Transfrontier Nature of the Impact**

There are no trans frontier impacts associated with the proposed development.

#### **4.7.3 Magnitude and Complexity of the Impact**

The nature of the building does not fall into the project types mentioned in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020.

#### **4.7.4 Air Quality and Climate**

It is considered that the scale of construction traffic required for a project of this size will have a minimal impact on the local air quality and climate. The proposed development may result in moderate generation of dust. A programme of dust monitoring should be put in place and mitigation measures carried out if works are to be carried out during dry weather.

#### **4.7.5 Noise and Vibration**

An increase in noise and vibration levels is expected during the construction phase but the impact is likely to be temporary in nature. Furthermore, construction works will be carried out in compliance with BS5228: Part 1 and the European Communities (Noise Emission by Equipment for Use Outdoors)

Regulations, 2001-2020 which will ensure a controlled level of noise during the construction phase. Once construction begins, it should be complete within two years. Operation of the site will be ongoing. Due to the scale of the project it is considered that the construction and operation of the project will not result in any significant levels of noise or vibration.

#### **4.7.6 Soils and Geology**

There will be no land-take from any designated sites. There will be no interference with the boundaries of any designated site. Material from site clearance will be reused where possible. Any remaining material will be disposed of in a responsible manner in a licensed facility away from any designated sites. Due to the small scale of the project and the nature of excavation required, it is anticipated that the likelihood of any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to soils and geology as a consequence of the construction / operation of the project are low.

#### **4.7.7 Hydrology**

The application site is located within the Upper Shannon Hydrometric Area (26) and Catchment (26D), the Suck Sub-Catchment (010) and Suck Sub-Basin (030). There are no drains or streams within or adjacent to the application sites. The closest watercourse is a drain that is 22m south of House site 12 & 13. Water in this drain flows south towards the Harristown Stream, which is 258m south of the site. Water in the Harristown Stream then flows west, towards the River Suck, which is 1.2km west of the application sites. The River Suck is a tributary of the River Shannon.

The EPA have classed the ecological status of the Harristown Stream at points close to the application site as poor. The River Suck at its confluence with the Harristown Stream and upstream of that confluence is also classed as poor. However, further downstream ecological status in the River Suck is classed as high. Under the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, all waterbodies must achieve good ecological status.

#### **4.7.8 Hydrogeology**

Hydrogeological assessment addresses the potential impact of the proposed project on groundwater features and groundwater flow regime. During construction plant and machinery will be required on site and as a result it is appropriate to adopt best working practices and measures to protect the underlying groundwater. Accidental spillage of fuels or chemical reagents on site pose a potential contamination risk.

#### **4.7.9 Biodiversity**

##### **Natura 2000 Sites Identified**

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, any Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed development have been identified and described according to their site synopsis, qualifying interests and conservation objectives. In

addition, any other sites further than this, but potentially within its zone of interest were also considered. The zone of impact may be determined by an assessment of the connectivity between the application site and the designated areas by virtue of hydrological connectivity, atmospheric emissions, flight paths, ecological corridors etc.

There fourteen Natura 2000 designated sites within 15km of the application site. None of these sites are hydrologically connected to the application site. These designated areas and their closest points to the proposed development site are summarised in Table 2 and a map showing their locations relative to the application site is shown in Figure 10. A full description of these sites can be read on the website of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (npws.ie).

**Table 2 – Natura 2000 Sites connected with the Proposed Site (within 15km of the proposed site)**

Site Name & Code	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential Impacts
Corliskea/Trien/ Cloonfelliv Bog SAC 002110	3km south-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the</li> <li>• Bog Woodland</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Cloonchambers Bog SAC 000600	4km north-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> <li>• Euphydryas aurina Marsh Fritillary</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Bellanagare Bog SAC 000592	6km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	<i>No hydrological connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.</i>

Bellanagare Bog SPA 004105	6.1km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris)</li> </ul>	No hydrological connectivity between the application site and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Drumalough Bog SAC 002338	6.2km north-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Kilsallagh Bog SAC 000285	9.6km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Croaghill Turlough SAC 000255	10.9km south-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turloughs</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Carrowbehy / Caher Bog SAC 000597	10.9km north-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.
Mullygollan Turlough SAC 000612	11.1km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turloughs</li> </ul>	No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.

Coolcam Turlough SAC 000218	12.2km south-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turloughs</li> </ul>	<i>No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.</i>
Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough SAC 000296	13.2km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turloughs</li> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still</li> </ul>	<i>No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there</i>
Williamstown Turlough SAC 002296	13.7km south-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turloughs</li> </ul>	<i>No connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.</i>
Cloonshanvill e Bog SAC 000614	14.5km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> <li>• Bog woodland</li> </ul>	<i>No hydrological connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.</i>
Errit Lough SAC 000607	14.9km north-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.</li> </ul>	<i>No hydrological connectivity between the application site and this SAC, therefore there is no potential for significant effects on this site.</i>



#### **4.7.12 Landscape and Visual Amenity**

The construction of the proposed development is not expected to have a significant effect on the visual amenity of the surrounding area. There are no protected views within the area that will be affected by the proposed development and while there may be impacts due to the construction phase, these will be short term in nature and are not likely to be significant. The closest of these is the Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfolliv Bog SAC and this is 3km south-west of the application site. There is no connectivity between the application site and this SAC and therefore significant effects upon this SAC can be ruled out.

#### **4.7.13 Population and Human Health**

The objective of any population and human health assessment is to examine the potential impact of the construction and operation of the proposed development on the local community and business activities in the local area. The construction phase of the proposed development should not have any direct impact on the population of the area or the subject lands noting the minor nature of the proposed works.

During the construction phase the influx of construction workers will be a positive contributing factor to the local economy due to the additional income and expenditure that will arise within the Castlerea Area.

#### **4.7.14 Resource and Waste Management**

The key phase with regard to resource and waste management is the construction phase. Due to the moderate scale of the proposed development, it is considered that there will not be a significant amount of waste generated during the construction phase and efforts will be made to re-use materials on site where possible, thus minimising waste.

**Overall: Environmental impacts associated with the proposed development will be minor and short term and therefore, significant environmental effects can be ruled out without the necessity for further surveys, investigations and assessments.**

#### **4.7.15 Interactions**

Whilst there will be interaction between the environmental topics, particularly between human beings and landscape, noise and vibration and air quality and climate, the small scale and nature of these interactions will not result in significant environmental impacts.

#### **4.8 PROBABILITY OF THE IMPACT**

During the construction stage, noise nuisances and air pollution may occur.

##### **4.8.1 Duration, Frequency and Reversibility of the Impact**

The potential impacts during the development will be associated with the construction stage. These impacts will be temporary and one-off.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 Summary**

This EIAR screening report has been carried out in accordance with a methodology that is based on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development (DEHLG, 2003), Guidelines on information to be contained in EIA (EPA, 2002) and The European Commission Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on Screening (2017). The Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Draft August 2017 (EPA, 2017) was also consulted.

### **5.2 Mandatory EIA**

Traynor Environmental Ltd have reviewed possible mandatory EIA schedules to identify if applicable.

### **5.3 Sub-Threshold EIA**

The proposed development is sub-threshold and was assessed in the preceding chapters of this screening report.

Should you require any further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Nevin Traynor

**Qualifications** BSc. Env, H.Dip I.T, Cert SHWW, EPA/FAS Cert.

For **Traynor Environmental Ltd**