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# Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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## Bawn Street and Church Street, Strokestown Public Realm Enhancement

Doc No:  
Issue: 004  
Rev: B  
Date: August 2023

**BDP.**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

BDP has been appointed on behalf of the client, Roscommon County Council, to prepare this Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (also known as *Stage One* AA) to determine whether or not a Natura Impact Statement (NIS: *Stage Two* AA) is required for the proposed regeneration of the public realm in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, in accordance with the requirements of article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”). This report addressed both the construction phase and its operation upon completion.

## 1.2. Report Structure

This report sets out the legislative context for the assessment process with reference to relevant guidelines and highlight the experience and qualifications of the author. It then details the proposed scheme and the works associated with this which are then interrogated to identify any possible effects which may be ecologically relevant. Following this, the metrics for the assessment of ‘significance’ of these effects are explained and applied to each of the European sites identified to be ecologically connected to the proposed scheme area. This assessment is undertaken in view of the conservation objectives and known sensitivities of the qualifying interests and special conservation interests for each European site. Other plans and projects are then considered to identify any likely combination effects which may result in significant adverse effects to European sites.

## 1.3. Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of the habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designed to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. The two designations are collectively known as European sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

*‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public’.*

The AA process relates to the protection of species listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive which form the Natura 2000 network (Article 3(1)). Species breeding and resting places of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive are nationally protected in Ireland as per Articles 15 and 16 of the Habitats Directive. The species listed in Annex IV do not form part of the Natura 2000 network as they are not mentioned in Article 3(1) of the Directive which defines the Natura 2000 network.

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive states:

*'A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.*

AA is an assessment of the likely significant effects arising from a plan or project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, to assess if the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the European site concerned including implications in view of the European site's conservation objectives. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority in the formation of a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## 1.4. Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment Process

The Habitats Directive itself promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation, and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan or project making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential significant effects on the integrity of European sites remain, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan or project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for remaining adverse effects.

There are four main stages of the AA process.



### Stage One: Screening

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

### Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse effects mitigation measures are required to avoid or minimise potential effects. The details of these mitigation measures are then assessed in the context of ecological integrity of the plan/project characteristics to ensure no significant adverse effects on European sites. If this assessment process shows there are no residual significant effects, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impact remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

### Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

An examination of alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

### Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

## 1.5. Approach

The AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. The following guidance documents and sources of information were consulted:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2010 rev.) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities;
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- European Community Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) – The Habitats Directive (European Commission 1992);
- European Commission (2021) Commission Notice – Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (European Commission 1997);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018);
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management;
- European Community Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) – The Habitats Directive;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maps;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services online MapViewer;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services data (downloaded GIS shapefiles), and;
- To review other planning applications in Co. Roscommon – Roscommon Planning Viewer.

The ecological desktop study that has been completed for the AA screening of the proposed project comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15km of the site;
- Identification of European sites within 15km of the site with identification of potential pathways to specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the site;
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for European sites within 15km and for which potential pathways from the proposed site have been identified, and;
- Examination of available information on protected species.

### Source-Pathway Receptor Model

Ecological impact assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance of significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from proposed public realm project;
- Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats, and;
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

For the purpose of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the proposed Strokestown Public Realm Enhancement Project that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the proposed public realm project.

## 1.6. Author Details

This report has been produced by Anthony Nickson and Duncan Mackay (both of BDP).

Anthony Nickson is BDP's lead ecologist with over 14 years' experience working on major and local scale projects. Anthony graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2005 with a BSc degree in biological science, and in 2007 with a MSc degree in ecology.

Duncan Mackay is an Associate Town Planner with nearly 20 years' experience working in both local government and in the private sector. Duncan has particular expertise in the planning of major schemes and regeneration projects. He has extensive experience combining statutory planning expertise with practical knowledge of environmental assessments required to deliver planning consents. Duncan is the BDP lead consultant for environmental assessment and has lead SEAs and EIAs across the British Isles.

## 2. Description of proposed public realm project

### 2.1. Receiving Environment

Strokestown is a small settlement in an agricultural landscape. The town of Strokestown is located at the convergence of a number of regional and local roads – N5 National Primary Route, the R368 regional road, Bawn Street and Church Street (local roads). The main street is Church St (the N5) which turns into Bawn St at the roundabout, which is the second widest road in Ireland. Bawn St is bound by the Strokestown Park House and Gardens which is a preserved Georgian mansion with landscaped grounds which has become home to The National Famine Museum. The town centre remains the primary residential and retail area in Strokestown along with providing a range of services including a medical centre and school.

The proposed public realm scheme site comprises Bawn Street, Church Street, and the R368 where these roads meet. The site is characterised by hard paved surfaces and surface level car parking with limited ecological value, aside from the street trees which line either side of Bawn St and Church St.

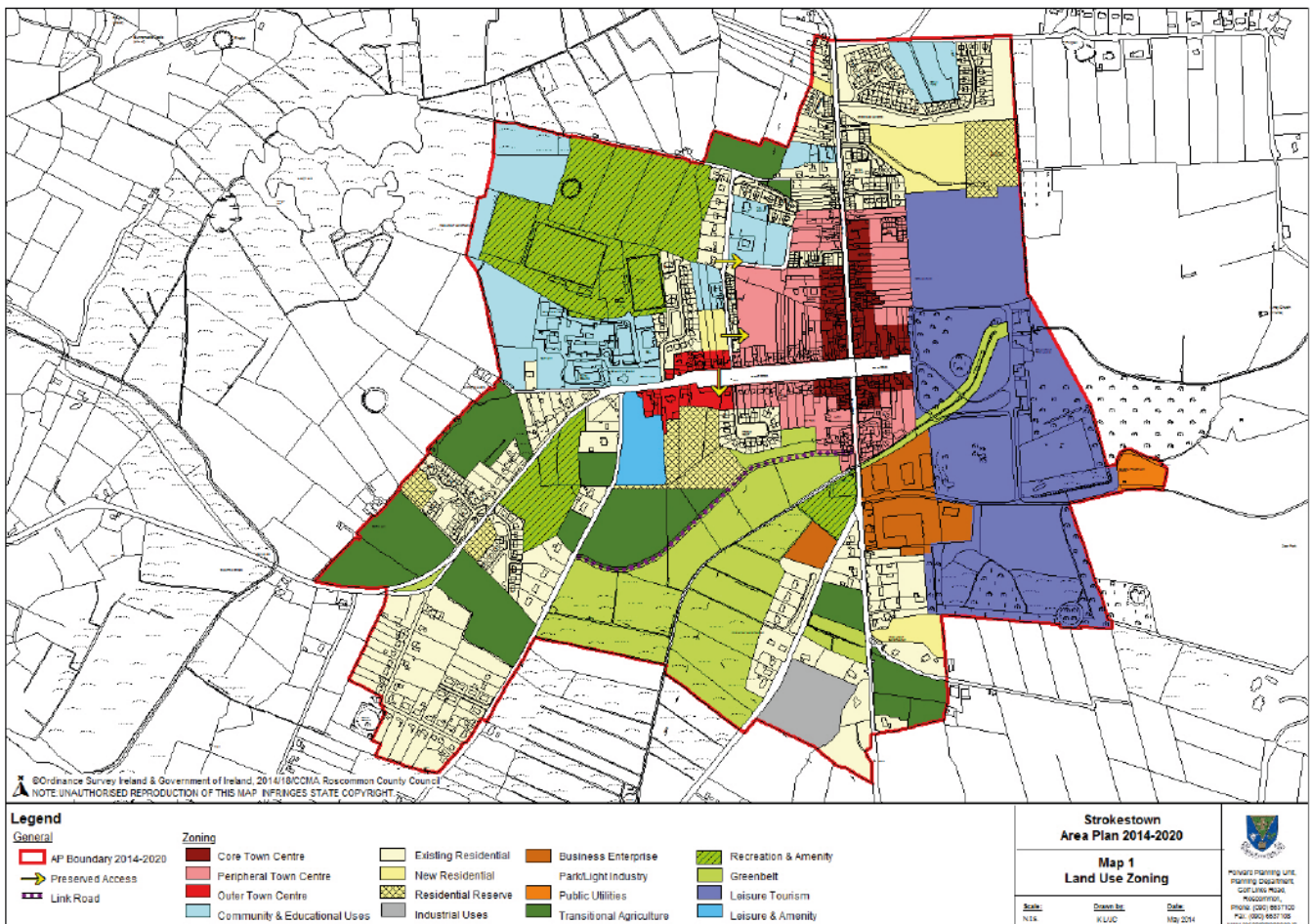


Figure 2.1.1. Strokestown Land Use Zoning, Strokestown Area Plan (Roscommon Council, 2014).

### 2.2. Overview of the proposed public realm project

In line with the emerging Town Centre First Plan, the vision for Strokestown is to rejuvenate the town as a unique cultural, tourism and heritage destination through the further development of its physical, economic, and social infrastructure.

The Bawn Street and Church Street Public Realm project will provide the following opportunities for Strokestown:

- Creation of a reimagined public realm scheme developed for Bawn Street and Church Street which will provide a visual and physical link to Strokestown Park House recognising the traditional/period character of the house and sympathetic to this in terms of lighting, street furniture, materiality and style.
- Space for events, festivals, markets and outdoor dining.
- Shared surface arrangements including redesigned formal off-street parking areas, recognising the need for safer vehicular and pedestrian movements.
- Clear and appropriately sited public information and way-finding signage.
- Landscaping and street furniture.
- Upgrading of all associated services and utilities.
- Address the function and form of the existing roundabout, associated crossing points, infrastructure, and signage.
- Creation of a “transition” between the new public realm on Bawn St and the existing Church St area.

## **2.3. Details of Proposal**

The proposal aims to enhance the existing streetscape of Bawn St and Church St and their connectivity to Bridge St and Elphin St. The proposals include (Figure 2.3.2):

- Alternation to existing road carriageway widths & roundabout dimensions
- Provision of footpaths, along with shared pedestrian & cycle routes
- Provision of controlled & uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facilities
- Relocation of Bus Stops Provision from Bridge Street to Church Street
- Alteration to existing parking provision to include the provision of disabled parking spaces.
- Soft Landscaping work to include provision of trees, shrubs & green space through the scheme.
- Provision of street furniture throughout the scheme to include, benches, seating, picnic tables, bollards, cycle stands, etc
- Provision of new road & wayfinding signage, road marking & public lighting
- All other ancillary site works.





Figure 2.3.1. Site Plan



### Figure 2.3.1 Proposed Plan

### 3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

#### 3.1. Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects on European sites from the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked in order to determine:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "conservation objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that threats to the ecological/environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment. Site-specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', paragraph 4.6(3):

*"The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site's conservation objectives."*

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis of the Appropriate Assessment where they were deemed relevant to the European sites and their QIs/SCIs.

#### 3.2. Identification of relevant European sites

This section of the screening process describes the European sites which exist within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) of the site. The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends that a 15km zone to be considered. On a precautionary basis this radius has been adopted for this AA. A review of all sites within the ZOI has identified that in absence of significant hydrological links, the characteristics of the proposed public realm project will not impose effects beyond 15km. Sites beyond 15km which are designated for vagile species are identified to use isolated resources across the landscape; therefore, potential effects to such species at this scale are not identified to be significant due to the broad home range available to these species and the availability of alternate resources.

European sites that occur within 15km of the proposed public realm project are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in the Figure below. Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Annaghmore Lough SAC [IE001626] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Cloneen Bog SAC [IE002348] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Forbes Complex SAC [IE001818] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC [IE000440] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SPA [IE4046] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Callow Bog SAC [IE000595] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [IE0004101] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Mullygollan Turlough SAC [IE000612] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [IE004096] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Mongan Bog SAC [IE000580] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC [IE001776] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Suck Callows SPA [IE004097] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE000216] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE000216] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Shannon SAC [IE002165] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Little Brosna Callows SPA [IE004086] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for All Saints Bog SPA [IE004103] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for All Saints Bog and Esker SAC [IE000566] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Redwood Bog SAC [IE002353] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg, North-east shore SAC [IE002241] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [IE004058] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Barrougher Bog SAC [IE000231] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [IE004077] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Loop Head SPA [IE004119] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Kerry Head SPA [IE004189] Version 1.

In order to determine the potential effects of the proposal, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats to site integrity pertaining to any potentially affected European sites has been reviewed. Background information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species that was used during this assessment included the following:

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "*Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*" (NPWS, 2019).
- Site Synopses<sup>1</sup>; and
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms<sup>2</sup>

The assessment takes consideration of the SSCOs of each of the sites within the ZOI. Since the conservation objectives for the European sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process has focussed on assessing the potential effects of the proposed public realm project against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site have been consulted throughout the assessment process.

<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site, available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> (accessed 20th January 2023).

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2019) NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> (accessed 20th January 2023).



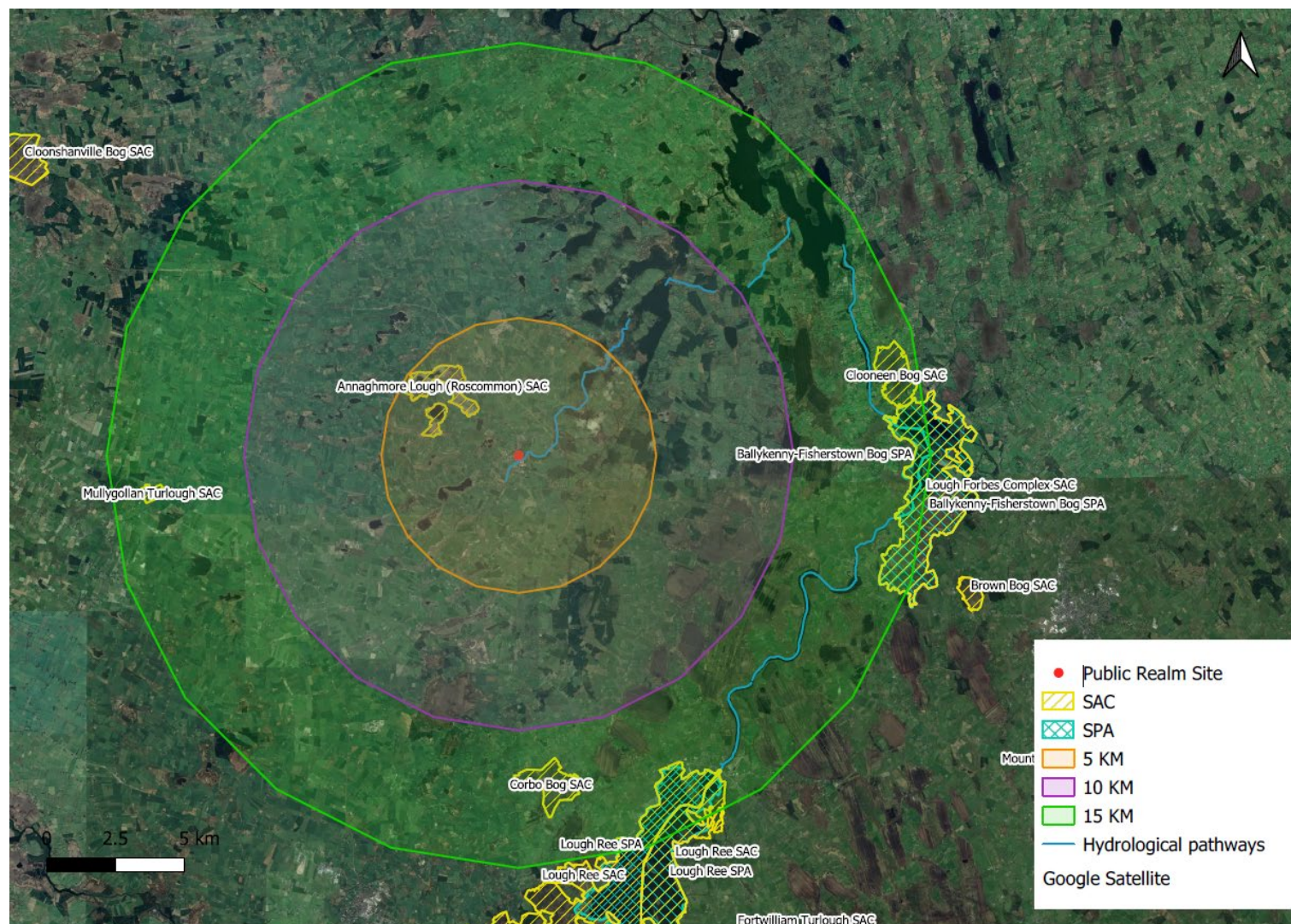


Figure 3.2.1 European sites within 15km of the proposed public realm site<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded January 2023).



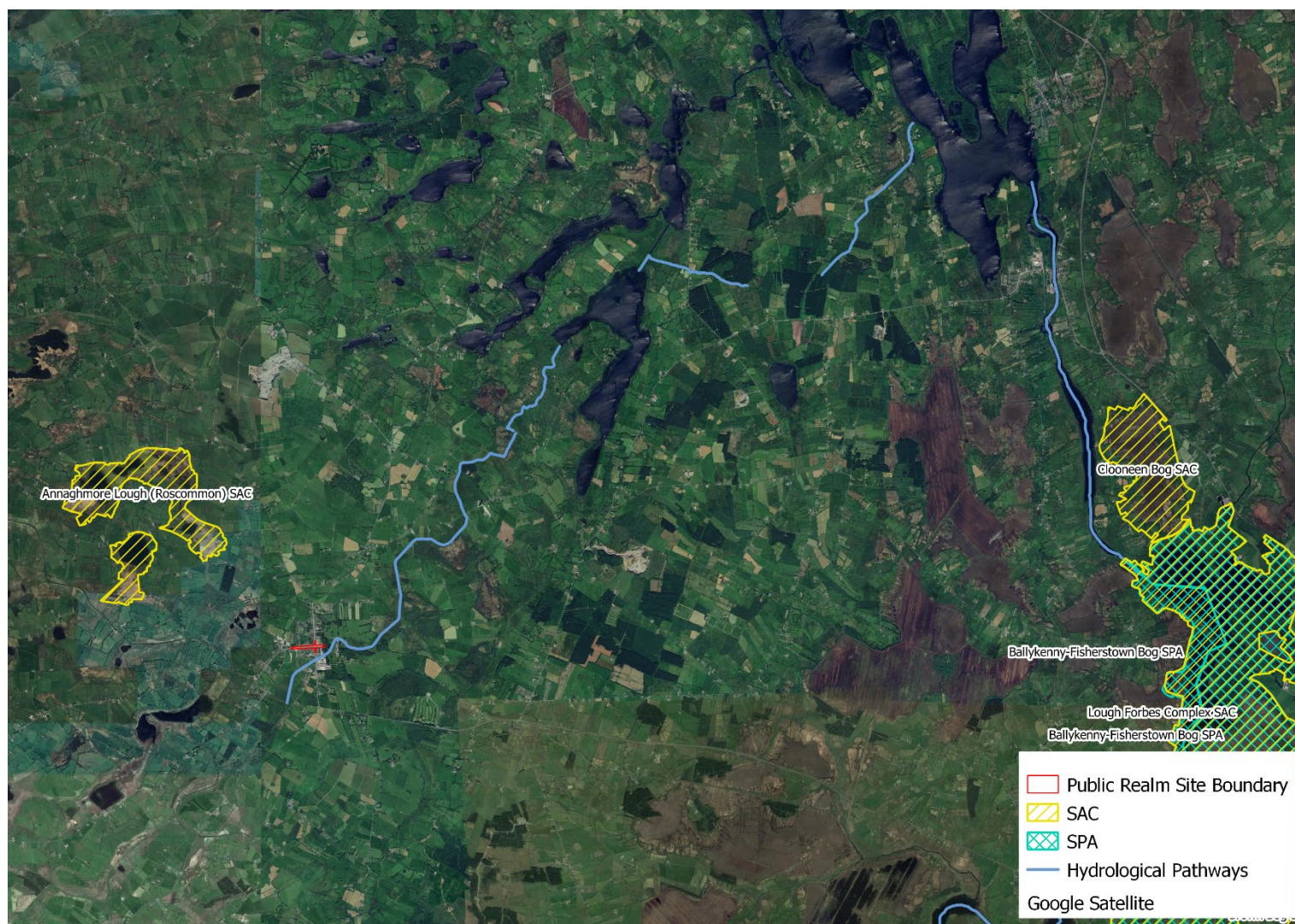


Figure 3.1.2 Hydrological connectivity to the European sites





Figure 3.2.3 Hydrological connectivity to the wider landscape, showing connection to the Lower River Shannon, Co. Clare.

### **3.3. Assessment criteria**

#### **3.3.1. Is the development necessary to the management of European sites?**

Under the Habitats Directive, projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require an AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). This relationship should be shown to be a direct and not a by-product of the project, even if this might result in a positive or beneficial effect for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the proposed public realm project is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but generally to provide for alterations to the Strokestown town centre including roadway alterations, footpath widening, landscaping and tree planting etc. Therefore, the proposed public realm project would not be considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

#### **3.3.2. Elements of the proposed public realm project with potential to give rise to effects**

This screening assessment process identifies whether the changes brought about by the proposal are likely to cause any direct, indirect, or secondary effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European sites. During this assessment a number of factors have been taken into account including the sites' conservation objectives and known threats. The overall aim of the assessment is to attempt to predict the consequences that can be reasonably foreseen by implementation of the proposed public realm project.

For the purposes of this assessment the proposed public realm project is identified to have potential to have both construction and operational phase effects. The operational phase of the project will be consistent with the existing site use within an urban context. The operations of the public realm area will be consistent with existing operations on site; therefore, is not foreseen to interact with European sites. The construction phase elements of the project also introduce potential sources for effects to ecological processes such as:

- Disturbance effects through noise;
- Earthworks (removal of vegetation etc);
- Dust; and
- Surface water run-off.

The Construction phase will be small scale and temporary. The construction phase effects identified are considered in the context of European sites identified above, their sensitivities and conservation objectives.

#### **3.3.3. Identification of potential effects and screening of sites**

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any potential effects on European sites resulting from the proposed public realm project. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to European sites. Secondly, the individual elements of the proposed public realm project and the potential effects they may cause on the sites considered. The elements of the proposed public realm project with potential to affect the integrity of European sites is presented in Table 3.1.

Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no significant pathways such as hydrological links between activities of the proposed public realm project and a site;
- Where a site is located at such a distance from the proposed public realm project that effects are not foreseen; and



- Where known threats or vulnerabilities of a site cannot be linked to potential impacts that may arise from the proposed public realm project.

### 3.4. Characterising potential significant effects

This section of the report explains the metrics used when assessing if the potential effects (previously identified) will have significant implications for European sites. The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Environmental Protection Agency and National Roads Authority):

- Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.
- Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- Extent - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- Duration - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.
  - Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
  - Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
  - Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
  - Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
  - Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.
- Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
  - Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
  - Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
  - Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
  - Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area; and the integrity of a site as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

**Favourable conservation status of a species** can be described as being achieved when: *‘population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.’*

**Favourable conservation status of a habitat** can be described as being achieved when: *‘its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable’.*

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SAC is provided below:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

A Generic Conservation Objective for a SPA is provided below:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

### **3.4.1. Types of potential effects**

EC guidance<sup>4</sup> outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take
- Resource requirements (drinking water abstraction etc.)
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air)
- Excavation requirements
- Transportation requirements
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning

The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of habitat area
- Disturbance to key species
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)
- Climate change

The elements detailed above were considered with specific reference to each of the European sites identified below.

#### **Loss/reduction of habitat area**

There are no European sites present within the redline boundary and the closest European site is 2.2 km away. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

#### **Habitat or species fragmentation**

The site is already a hard surface site in an urban context and there are no direct surface hydrological connections to any European sites. Therefore, there are no ecological corridors connecting any of the European sites identified above. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

#### **Disturbance to key species**

None of the species and/or habitats identified in Table 3.1 were recorded on site. The nearest European site is 2.2 km away from the proposed site and therefore disturbance effects due to noise or lighting etc. are not present.

#### **Reduction in species density**

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<sup>4</sup> 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 Environment DG, 2001

There are no ecological corridors between the site and any European site. Similarly, there are no habitats identified on site of any ecological significance. As there is no supporting habitat and/or connectivity between the proposed public realm project and any European site, there will be no reduction in species density of any of the QI or SCI species.

#### **Changes of indicators of conservation value**

The site is 2.2 km from the closest European site, given the nature of the proposed work, the scale and the localised and temporary nature of the potential effect we believe the scope for impacts to be negligible. The potential effects are taken to be those typically arising from small scale construction activity; noise, dust and run-off from excavations. The operational impacts are deemed to be negligible. There are no direct hydrological linkages identified between the site and any European site. The site is identified to be indirectly hydrologically connected to a number of European Sites (identified above) through the nearby Strokestown stream (c100m) from the site boundary. This is a tributary of the Mountain River that reaches Kilglass Lough, Lough Boderg, Lough Boffin before eventually reaching the River Shannon and Clooneen Bog SAC. Given the scale, nature of the works and the temporary timescale of the construction phase and in combination of the dilution effect by the Mountain River, hydrological effects are deemed to be not significant. The works relate to provide for alterations to the Strokestown town structure including roadway alterations, footpath widening, landscaping etc. and there are no ecological pathways for effects between European sites and the proposed public realm project. Therefore, there are no sources for effects with pathways that will affect any conservation indicators related to European sites.

#### **Climate change**

The proposed works will not result in any additional greenhouse gas emissions to air during the operational phase, compared to the existing urban activities on site. The construction phase works will have increased temporary emissions which will be localised however, given the distance to the nearest European site these are determined to be negligible. Such effects upon greenhouse gas emissions will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered.

Table 3.1. Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the proposed public realm project

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (Km)	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	2.2	Alkaline Fens [7230] Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	There are no groundwater interactions identified from the proposed public realm project. There is no hydrological connectivity and given the distances involved there are no ecological pathways identified. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
002348	Cloneen Bog SAC	13.8	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	<p>This SAC is indirectly linked to the public realm project site through the Strokestown Stream (c100m) from the site boundary. This is a tributary of the Mountain River which reaches the Cloneen Bog SAC.</p> <p>This site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct on-site land use management. There are no provisions of the proposed public realm project that will interact with the on-site management practices. Due to the temporary nature of the construction phase, the small-scale nature of the works and the dilution effects introduced by the indirect hydrological pathways, there are no significant effects identified. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	Indirect pathway, however the dilution effects introduced by the Mountain River ensure that the small-scale temporary works will not impose significant effects at this distance.	No
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	13.9	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	<p>This SAC is indirectly linked to the public realm project site through the Strokestown Stream (c100m) from the site boundary. This is a tributary of the Mountain River which reaches the Cloneen Bog SAC and then subsequently the Lough Forbes Complex SAC.</p> <p>This site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct on-site land use management. There are no provisions of the proposed public realm project that will interact with the on-site management practices. Due to the temporary nature of the construction phase, the small-scale nature of the works and the dilution effects introduced by the indirect hydrological pathways, there are no significant effects identified. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	Indirect pathway, however the dilution effects introduced by the Mountain River ensure that the small-scale temporary works will not impose significant effects at this distance.	No

004064	Lough Ree SPA	12.5	<p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]          Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]          Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]          Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]          Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]          Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]          Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061]          Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]          Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]          Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]          Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]          Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]          Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]          Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>This site is indirectly linked to this SPA through the nearby Strokestown stream (c100m) from the site boundary. This is a tributary of the Mountain River that reaches the River Shannon, and subsequently Lough Ree SPA.</p> <p>This site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct on-site land use management. There are no provisions of the proposed public realms project that will interact with the on-site management practices. Due to the temporary nature of the works and the dilution effects introduced by the indirect hydrological pathways, there are no significant effects identified. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	Indirect pathway, however the dilution effects introduced by the Mountain River ensure that the small-scale temporary works will not impose significant effects at this distance.	No
000440	Lough Ree SAC	12.5	<p>Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]          Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]          Active raised bogs [7110]          Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]          Alkaline fens [7230]          Limestone pavements [8240]          Bog woodland [91D0]          Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]          Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p>	<p>This site is indirectly linked to this SAC through the nearby Strokestown stream (c100m) from the site boundary. This is a tributary of the Mountain River that reaches the River Shannon, and subsequently Lough Ree SAC.</p> <p>This site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct on-site land use management. There are no provisions of the proposed public realms project that will interact with the on-site management practices. Due to the temporary nature of the works and the dilution effects introduced by the indirect hydrological pathways, there are no significant effects identified. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	Indirect pathway, however the dilution effects introduced by the Mountain River ensure that the small-scale temporary works will not impose significant effects at this distance.	No
002349	Corbo Bog SAC	11.1	<p>Active raised bogs [7110]          Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]          Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]</p>	There are no groundwater interactions identified from the proposed public realm project. There is no hydrological connectivity and given the distances involved there are no ecological pathways identified. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	13.8	<p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p>	This SPA is indirectly linked to the public realm project site through the Strokestown Stream (c100m) from the site boundary. This is a tributary of the Mountain River which reaches the Cloneen Bog SAC and then subsequently the Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA.	Indirect pathway, however the dilution effects introduced by the Mountain	

				This site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct on-site land use management. There are no provisions of the proposed public realm project that will interact with the on-site management practices. Due to the temporary nature of the construction phase, the small-scale nature of the works and the dilution effects introduced by the indirect hydrological pathways, there are no significant effects identified. Therefore, no further consideration is required.	River ensure that the small-scale temporary works will not impose significant effects at this distance.	
000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	13.2	Turloughs [3180]	There are no groundwater interactions identified from the proposed public realm project. There is no hydrological connectivity and given the distances involved there are no ecological pathways identified. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
000580	Mongan Bog SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this	No	No

				pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.		
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Alkaline fens [7230], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240]	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculum fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No

			<p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</p> <p><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p><i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>			
004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	<p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</p> <p>Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</p> <p>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No
004103	All Saints Bog SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	<p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p>	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No
000566	All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Active raised bogs [7110]</p> <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</p>	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this</p>	No	No



			Bog woodland [91D0]	pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.		
002353	Redwood Bog SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
002241	Lough Derg, North-east shore SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No
000231	Barroughter Bog SAC	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.  The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.	No	No

004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	<p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]  Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]  Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]  Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]  Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]  Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]  Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]  Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]  Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062]  Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]  Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]  Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]  Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]  Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]  Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]  Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]  Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]  Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]  Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]  Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164]  Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]  Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No
004119	Loop Head SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	<p>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]  Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</p>	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No
004189	Kerry Head SPA	Hydrologically connected beyond 15km	<p>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]  Chough (<i>Pyrhrocorax pyrrhrocorax</i>) [A346]</p>	<p>The effects from the proposed public realms works are identified to be small scale temporary, localised to the Strokestown area.</p> <p>The assessment of hydrological pathways identifies an indirect hydrological pathway to this European site at a landscape scale. There are considerable dilution effects associated with this pathway and therefore any potential effects will be negligible. Therefore, no further considerations are required.</p>	No	No

### 3.5. Other plans and projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or projects that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites.

As part of this assessment each plan or project is considered within a radius of the red line boundary of the proposed area as defined by the ecologist. The distance of this radius works from a standard 200m, but can be extended if the ecologist deems it necessary depending on whether certain characteristics are present, such as:

- Direct or indirect connectivity to a European site;
- In close proximity to a European site;
- The proposal is of a substantial scale relative to the conditions and/or current works taking place in the surrounding landscape.

These factors are considered particular to each proposal for each particular location and specification. Considering the characteristics of the proposed development with respect to the scale and nature of the works, the 200m search for in-combination effects was deemed to be sufficient.

#### **Plans of relevance in the context of this proposal include:**

- Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027
- Strokestown Town Centre First Plan (emerging)

Considering that the proposed development has a small-scale temporary construction phase and the operational phase is consistent with the existing land use, it is not foreseen that proposed development will have any significant in-combination effects with the above plans.

#### **Projects of relevance to this development:**

To identify projects for consideration for the in-combination effects section, the Roscommon County Council Planning Application database was used<sup>5</sup>. A review of all planning applications within the identified zone (200m) was conducted focusing on all applications within the past 5 years<sup>6</sup>.

The largest of these projects were identified to be 2124, 21589 and 1810 which are developments relating to Strokestown Park House, including extensions and design changes to existing structures and the installation of PV array. The other projects identified relate to small scale changes of use, extension works and related projects (see table below). As the proposed development is not directly connected to any European site, taking into account the characteristics and scale, it is not foreseen that it will have any significant adverse effects on European sites in-combination effects with the aforementioned projects.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.eplanning.ie/RoscommonCC/SearchTypes>

<sup>6</sup> Planning applications have a standard lifespan of 5 years as per Section 40 (3)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended; therefore, these are viewed to be the 'live' applications, all other projects are considered as part of the site context

**Table 3.2. Local planning applications within the receiving environment of the proposed public realm project**

<b>Application Code</b>	<b>Status (Decision date)</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Site area (Sq m)</b>	<b>Possible significant effects from plan or project</b>	<b>Is there a risk of in-combination effects</b>	<b>Possible significant in-combination effects</b>
2124	Conditional (15/03/2021)	For development which will consist of the following minor design changes to the visitor centre and café buildings granted planning permission under planning order reference: PD/18/10: (a) Revised entrance to visitors' centre; (b) Design changes to visitors' centre building in the courtyard; (c) Design changes to the café extension (the proposed development is located within the curtilage of Strokestown Park House which is a Protected Structure - RPS No. 02300141) at Strokestown Park House	18.75	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
21589	Conditional (10/12/2021)	Permission for development consisting of the provision of a ground mounted, photovoltaic (PV) array of approximately 50 sqm to deliver a maximum yield of less than 11kW, (the proposed development is located within the curtilage of Strokestown Park House which is a Protected Structure (RPS No. 02300141)) at Strokestown Park House	19.9	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
1810	Conditional (09/03/2018)	The development will consist of:- (a) Extensions and upgrade works to the existing visitor centre (including extension of the café area and the creation of an outdoor terrace and the development of a new visitor centre within the exiting courtyard); (b) Extensions and upgrade works to the stable building (including a new lobby, upgrading of toilet facilities and the conversion of the existing ground floor stables into an event space; and (c) Upgrade works to the existing car park (including resurfacing, drainage works and	18.85	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No

		landscaping). The existing buildings are attached to and/or within the curtilage of Strokestown House, which is a Protected Structure (RPS No. 02300014 refers) at Strokestown Park House,				
21460	Conditional (26/05/2022)	Retention Permission for change of use from agricultural use to hardware yard area and Permission to construct a storage shed at Bawn St, Strokestown.	0.6	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
22406	Not yet decided	Permission for change of use of granary building to 2 no. single occupancy residential units, entrance on Bridge Street, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, connect to existing public water and sewer services, associated site development works and services at Bridge St, Strokestown.	0.21	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
22235	Conditional (06/12/2022)	Retention Permission for the following extensions to the existing commercial premises: 1. A machinery repair shed and 2 roofed storage areas and Permission for: 1. The construction of a new machinery storage shed; 2. An extension to the existing commercial premises and 3. A new roofed storage area to the rear of the existing commercial premises and all associated site development works at Lisroyne Townland, Stokestown, Co. Roscommon	0.65	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No

21364	Refused (24/08/2021)	Permission to partially demolish the rear of an existing premises and to construct 3 no. new town houses, preserving the existing streetscape, with existing connection to the public mains and the construction of a storage unit to the rear, with all associated site development works at Lisroyne Td., Strokestown,, Co. Roscommon.	0.27	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
19310	Conditional (04/11/2019)	for the proposed construction of 6 no. three bedroom semi-detached type dwelling houses, entrance, car park area, boundary fence/walls, proposed connection to the existing foul sewer, surface water & watermain networks and all ancillary site works at Circular Road , Lisroyne , Strokestown	0.24	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
21190	Conditional (14/07/2021)	to demolish existing stores on site, refurbish & extend existing pharmacy to rear at Bridge Street, Strokestown, Co Roscommon	0.03	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No
22505	Refused 11/11/2022	Permission for alterations to existing dwelling house and change of use of part of existing ground floor to shop unit; Works to include alterations to internal layout, front and rear fenestration and, in addition, the removal, setting back and rebuilding of the existing	0.06	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the	No	No

		eastern gable wall at Bawn Street, Strokestown, Co Roscommon		above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.		
19619	Conditional 25/03/2020	for development of the following: (a) Change of use of existing storage area (196sqm) at the rear of shop for use as retail floor space to form extension of existing shop floor with all associated works (b) Single storey extension and alterations to side of existing shop to extend existing lobby entrance with associated alterations to elevations (c) Single storey extension to rear of existing shop premises to provide additional retail floor space and associated storage space (total area of extension 412sqm) with all associated works, all at Centra, Elphin Street, Lisroyne Townland, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon	0.34	This is a small-scale project with a temporary construction phase and the operation phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment. Considering the above, and the lack of any direct connection to a European site, it is not considered that there will be any potential in-combination significant adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.	No	No

## 4. Conclusion

This stage one screening for AA of the proposed Bawn St and Church St Public Realm Project at Strokestown, Co. Roscommon demonstrates that the proposed public realm project is not likely to have any significant effects on any European site.

The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from the European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

The proposed public realm project is 2.2km away from the closest SAC and 12.75 km away from the closest SPA. Given the nature of the proposed work, the scale and the localised and temporary nature of the potential effects, the proposed project will not lead to any significant effects in combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

It is concluded that the proposed public realm project is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage Two AA (NIS) is not required.