

### **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

As required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive

(Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

On behalf of

TA Group

Client

# **Roscommon County Council**





Client	Roscommon County Council				
Project	Development of 2 Residential Units by the Local Authority where the development is classed under 'Part 8' of the Planning & Development Act.				
Title	Report for Appropriate Assessment Screening for the proposed development will consist of two residential units.				

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### **1** INTRODUCTION

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Loughman & O'Clubháin on behalf of TA Group for their client Roscommon County Council who are undertaking the development of two, 2 Bedroom Residential dwellings (Gross Site Area of 0.047ha) on Greenfield Road, Lisnamult, Roscommon Town, County Roscommon named the "project" under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2001. The footprint of the site 0.047ha lies due east of the closest point connecting with Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and south west of Lough Funshinaugh SAC (Site code 000611) sites which forms a network, known as Natura 2000 sites which, have been designated under the EU Habitats Directive and the EU Birds Directive, so it is necessary that the potential impacts of the proposed works be assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the habitats Directive. Additional sites within 15km radius will also be reviewed within this report. This report provides the information necessary for the competent authority to complete an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed works on sites of European importance in the area.



Figure 1: Site location relative to other features

### 1. 1 Legislative Background

#### 1.1.1 EU Nature Conservation Legislation and Natura 2000 Sites

There are three main types of designation for nature conservation in Ireland: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). NHAs are designated under the

Irish Wildlife Act 1976 (amended 2000). SACs and SPAs are designated under European legislation, the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (transposed into Irish law in the European Union (natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 as amended in 1998 and 2005) and the EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, respectively. These European designated sites (SACs and SPAs) are also known as Natura 2000 sites. This means that they are part of the Natura 2000 network, a network of important ecological sites across the European Union.

Sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain 'Qualifying Features', i.e. the habitats listed under Annex I and the species listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.

Once a site is designated as a SAC and publicly advertised it is legally protected and becomes a proposed candidate SAC (cSAC). A three month period follows during which land owners may lodge an objection to the designation. Details of each proposed SAC are then given to the EU Commission, and thereafter the site is called a "candidate SAC". Once the sites are approved by the commission, they are formally designated by the Minister.



Aerial Map 1: Site location relative to other features (Reference Appendix D scale map)

#### 1.1.2 Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites

Due to the proximity of the proposed development site to a candidate Special Area of Conservation, also known as a Natura 2000 site, an Appropriate Assessment may be required under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Article 6(3) and (4), Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites.

Such assessments are required where it is identified that a proposed plan or project could have significant impact on a Natura 2000 site. Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Directive, state the following:

**Article 6(3):** "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... 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..."

**Article 6(4):** *"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest… the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected…"* 

To determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, an initial screening assessment must be conducted and issued to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) Development Applications Unit (DAU).

### 1.2 Methodology

#### 1.2.1 Appropriate Assessment Stages

This screening exercise will be conducted in line with the recommendation and protocol set out in the Guidance from the Commission (EC, 2002). This protocol involves a four-stage process to complete an Appropriate Assessment. At each stage, the findings of certain issues and tests will determine whether the next stage in the process is required.

#### Stage 1: Screening

This step consists of examining the likely potential impacts of a project or plan, alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 site or sites, and considers whether these impacts may be considered significant. If no signification impacts are foreseen, then a 'finding of no significant effects' (FONSE) statement is issued to the appropriate authority, and the process is complete. If the effects are considered significant or their significance is unknown, then the process moves on the Stage 2.

#### Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

Where the screening process had identified potential impacts which are considered significant or unknown, this process examines these potential impacts in detail, in relation to the conservation interests of the Natura 2000 site or sites. Mitigation measures may be suggested to reduce the likelihood or severity of these impacts. If the impacts are still considered to be significant or unknown after this stage is complete, then alternative solutions must be considered (Stage 3).

#### Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

If the potential impacts are still considered to be significant or unknown after the Appropriate Assessment stage, then alternative ways of implementing the project are considered at this stage. If no alternative

solutions are possible, then it is considered whether the project or plan may go ahead regardless, if imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) are found.

#### Stage 4: Overriding public interest (IROPI)

If significant negative impacts on the Natura 2000 site are unavoidable, and no alternative solutions may be found, then this stage involves the consideration of whether the project or plan may go ahead despite these effects, for 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI).

The results of a Stage 1 (Screening) Exercise are detailed in **Section 2** of this report.

#### 1.3 Guidance

The AA has been compiled in accordance with guidance in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities, (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.)
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- 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 Environmental Directorate-General, 2001): hereafter referred to as the EC Article Guidance Document.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EC
   Environment Directorate General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.

#### **1.4 Data Sources**

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites are listed below:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from OSI and Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995 2022.
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie including; the Natura 2000 network Data Form; Site Synopsis; Generic Conservation Objective data;
  - o Online database of rare, threatened and protected species
  - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets
  - National Biodiversity Data Centre records
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013)
- Walk over survey of both site and townland.
- Mayo County Development Plan 2022 2028 and Local Area Plans in neighbouring areas.

# No.

### **1.5 Statement of Authority**

This report was compiled by Micháel O'Clubháin, (Certificate in Biodiversity & Conservation Management, NUIG 2011). A member of the British Ecological Society, has over 13 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous reports for Appropriate Assessment.

# 2 STAGE 1: SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

#### 2.1 Description of the Plan or Project

This report presents screening assessment for the proposed development of 2 Residential Units by Roscommon County Council under the provision of Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (Act as amended), in the townland of Lisnamult, Roscommon Town, Co Roscommon named the "project". The site layout is contained in **Appendix D** to this report. The site at present is vacant, compact in size and contains overgrown scrub. The planned development will expand to occupy the full site area, providing off street parking, refuse bin storage to the rear, footpaths for access to the properties. The rear of each property will provide open green space in addition to a green strip along the inside of the front boundary walls.



Figure 1: Site location relative to other features in rural environment

### 2.2 Description of the Existing Environment

#### **2.2.1** Site Location in relation to Natura 2000 Sites

The development site is located in an area of urban landscape on the outskirts of Roscommon Town **Figure 1**, accessed directly from Greenfield Road within walking distance of the centre of the Roscommon town. The boundaries surrounding the finished development will consist, of low man-made walls. The general surroundings west, south west and south of the proposed development site are classified in "A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (J.Fossit)" as Improved Grassland. (GA1). Much of the surrounding area consists of similar meadowland Habitats. The Ecological Evaluation of the site would be classified as Low Value, Locally Important (E) (Nairn and Fossit 2004). See Habitat Map [Map 1].



#### Map 2: Site location on Greenfield Road

#### **2.3 Ecology of surrounding location.**

#### Scrub WS1

This broad category includes areas that are dominated by at least 50% cover of shrubs, brambles or stunted trees. In the absence of grazing or mowing, scrub can expand to replace grassland or heath vegetation. In addition scrub can expand in abandoned or marginal farmland. Scrub can be either open, or dense and impenetrable, and it can occur on areas of dry, damp or water logged ground. Scrub can also contain Bog- myrtle (Myrica gale) and Broom (Cytisus scoparius).

#### Stone walls and other stonework BL1

This category incorporates stone walls and most other built stone structures in rural and urban situations, apart from intact buildings (see buildings and artificial surfaces - BL3) and coastal constructions made of stone (see sea walls, piers and jetties - CC1). It includes dry stone and old mortar walls that occur as field or property boundaries; retaining walls against banks of soil; stone walls that rise from rivers, canals or moats; stone bridges, viaducts and aqueducts; stone

jetties or piers in lakes or rivers; derelict or ruinous buildings made of stone; and old stone monuments, fortifications or ruins. Note that modern or intact buildings made of stone are excluded, as are any structures made of bricks, cement blocks or mass concrete (see buildings and artificial surfaces - BL3). Stone walls and other types of stonework differ in terms of physical structure and composition (type of stone, presence of mortar), age and the degree of maintenance. Older and more neglected structures are generally the most important for wildlife. Stone walls may support a diverse flora with abundant lichens, mosses and ferns (particularly 67 Retaining wall (L.Lysaght) Asplenium trichomanes, A. ruta-muraria and A. ceterach). Other common components include Ivy (Hedera helix) and other creepers, grasses (Aira and Catapodium spp.), stonecrops (Sedum spp.), Herb-robert (Geranium robertianum) and Navelwort (Umbilicus rupestris). Non-native species such as Red Valerian (Centranthus ruber), Wallflower (Erysimum cheiri) and Ivy-leaved Toadflax (Cymbalaria muralis) are often prominent. Stone walls that are overgrown by trees, shrubs or brambles should be considered in the woodland section under hedgerows - WL1 or treelines - WL2. Bridges and derelict buildings can be important habitats for birds or bats in particular.

#### **Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3**

This broad category incorporates areas of built land that do not fit elsewhere in the classification. It includes all buildings (domestic, agricultural, industrial and community) other than derelict stone buildings and ruins (see stone walls and other stonework - BL1). It also includes areas of land that are covered with artificial surfaces of tarmac, cement, paving stones, bricks, blocks or astro-turf (e.g. roads, car parks, pavements, runways, yards, and some tracks, paths, driveways and sports grounds). Unpaved areas are excluded (see spoil and bare ground - ED2). Any other built structures that are not made of natural stone, including walls made of bricks, cement blocks and mass concrete, should be considered here. Note that greenhouses and polythene tunnels are excluded (see horticultural land - BC2), as are refuse dumps (see refuse and other waste - ED5). Plant cover should not exceed 50%.

The proposed site layout lies in the townland of Lisnamult, (Grid Ref E586716, and N763706) reference Appendix D. The site for the proposed development, lies approximately 6.5km east of Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and 8.5km north west of Lough Funshinaugh SAC (Site code 000611) (see Figure 3 below).

During the walk over survey no invasive species were identified within or in close proximity of the designated site.

#### Map 3: Habitat Map in the immediate surrounding area (Fossitt abbreviations)



### 2.3 Identification of Relevant European Sites

#### 2.3.1 Background to European Sites

The Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC] (together with the Birds Directive [2009/147/EC]) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection.

With the introduction of the EU Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive which were transposed into Irish Law as S.I. No. 94/1997 *European Communities [Birds and Natural Habitats] Regulations* 1997, the European Union formally recognised the significance of protecting rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, and also, more importantly their habitats. The 1997 Regulations and their amendments were subsequently revised and consolidated in S.I. No. 477/2011 – *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations* 2011. This legislation requires the establishment and conservation of a network of sites of particular conservation value that are to be termed European Sites.

#### Habitats Directive/Special Area of Conservation

Article 3 – 9 of the EU Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC] provide the EU legislative framework of protecting rare and endangered species of flora and fauna and habitats. **Annex I** of the Directive lists habitats types whose conservation requires the designation of **Special Areas of Conservation** [SAC]. Priority habitats, such as Turloughs, which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory are also listed in Annex I, Annex II of the Directive (lists animal and plant species (e.g. Atlantic Salmon and Killarney Fern) whose conservation also requires the designation of **SAC Annex IV** lists animals and plant species in need of strict protection such as Lesser Horseshoe Bat and Otter, and Annex V lists animal and plant species whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures. In Ireland species listed under Annex V include Irish Hare, Common Frog and Pine martin.

Species can be listed in more than one Annex, as is the case with the Otter and Lesser Horseshoe Bat which are listed on both **Annex II and Annex IV.** 

#### Birds Directive/Special Protection Areas

Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds [Birds Directive] has been substantially amended several times. In the interests of clarity and rationality the said Directive was codified in 2009 and is now cited as Directive 2009/147/EC. The Directive instructs Member States to take measures to maintain populations of all bird species naturally occurring in the wild state in the EU [**Article 2**]. Such measures may include the maintenance and/or re-establishment of habitats in order to sustain these bird populations [**Article 3**].

A subset of bird species have been identified in the Directive and are listed in **Annex I** as requiring special conservation measures in relation to their habitats. These species have been listed on

account of inter alia: their risk of extinction; vulnerability to specific changes in their habitat; and/or due to their relatively small population size or restricted distribution. **Special Protection Areas** [SPA's] are to be identified and classified for their Annex I listed species and for regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands [**Article 4**].

#### 2.4 Identification of the Designated Sites within the Zone of Likely Impact

The most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites were downloaded from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) on the 21/11/2024. Using the GIS software, MapInfo [Version 10.0], European sites within the zone of likely impact of the project site were identified. The following rationale was used to identify the Zone of likely impact. Initially, sites within a 15km radius of the project site were identified (as per the DoEHLG Guidance 2010). In addition, using the precautionary principle, European Sites located outside the 15km buffer zone were also taken into account and assessed where potential pathways for impact were identified and particularly where hydrological connectivity could be established.

All European sites located greater than 15km from the project site were deemed to be outside the Zone of likely impact of the project site as no pathways for significant effects were identified.

The site of the proposed development is not located within the boundary of statutory or nonstatutory designated sites of international, national or local nature conservation importance.

The site lies within the Hind River Catchment Area. Departmental guidance suggests an assessment of Natura 2000 sites within a zone of 15km which can be revised down depending on the proposed development and location of Natura 2000 sites. Table 2.1 shows the location of the proposed development in relation to all European sites within the Zone of likely impact as identified according to the criteria described above.

All Natura 2000 sites within a 15km buffer of the proposed development are listed in Table 1.1 and Figure 3. Those highlighted in Table 1.1 are evaluated as part of this screening assessment with the balance ruled out due to lack of connectivity. The project site is located 6.5km due east of the closest point connecting with Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and south west of Lough Funshinaugh SAC (Site code 000611). Site Synopses are available from the NPWS metadata website. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network were extracted from the NPWS website on the 20th of 2024.

Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and Lough Funshinaugh SAC (Site code 000611) have been screened out, due to the set-back distances from the Natura 2000 sites, lack of emissions from the site and size and nature of the construction project.

Figure 3: Site Location MAP in relation to EU Sites 15km buffer Zone



Table 1.1: Step Two: Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor Model andCompilation of information on QI and Conservation Objectives

Map Reference No	European Site (Code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Distance from the proposed developm ent (km)	Receptor/Connection	Screen In – Yes/No
1	Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440)	Qls – 9 Habitats and 3 Species https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/ protected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO000 440.pdf	6.5km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	Yes
2	Corbo Bog SAC (Site Code 002349)	Qls – 3 Habitats https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/ files/protected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO 002349.pdf	13.1km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	No
3	Lough Ree SPA (Site Code 004064)	Qls –14 Habitats and Species https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/p rotected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO0040 64.pdf	13.0km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	
4	Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611)	Qls – 2 Habitats and 1 Species <u>https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/</u> <u>files/protected-</u> <u>sites/conservation_objectives/CO</u> <u>000611.pdf</u>	8.8km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	Yes
5	Ballinturly Turlough SAC (Site Code (000588)	QIs – 4 Bird Species http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/file s/protected-	4.25km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	No
6	River Suck Callows SPA Site Code (004097)	Qls – 7 Bird Species https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files /protected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO004 097.pdf	5.35km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	No
7	Lisduff Turlough SAC Site Code (000609)	Qls – 1 Habitat https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files /protected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO001 637.pdf	9.25km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	No
8	Aughrim (Aghrane) Bog SAC Site Code (002200)	Qls – 1 Habitat https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files /protected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO002 200.pdf	11.8km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	No
9	Four Roads Turlough SAC Site Code(1637)	Qls- 1 Habitat https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files /protected- sites/conservation_objectives/CO001 637.pdf	13.65km	No-due to the lack of connectors/receptors and significant distance from the proposed site	No

# 4 SOILS, GEOLOGY & HYDROLOGY

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) website was consulted for available geological / hydrological information. The Greenfield Road ground primarily consists of deep well drained mineral soil overlaying with "Made Ground. The underlying bedrock consists of Dinantian Pure Bedded Limestone, and has a Regionally Important Aquifer -Karstified (conduit). The area is drained to Lough Funshinagh which is approximately 8.8km to the nearest edge.

Groundwater flows through fissures, joints, along bedding planes and conduits. In pure bedded limestones, the fissures and joints are enlarged by karstification which results in the formation of conduits and significantly enhances the permeability of the rock. Lough Funshinagh SAC and Lough Ree SAC have been ruled out as receptors due to the lack of connectivity and the significant distance from the proposed site as receptors are ruled out.

The Groundwater Vulnerability throughout the full stretch of the Greenfield Road is termed "High".

Vulnerability is a term used to represent the intrinsic geological and hydrogeological characteristics that determine the ease at which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities. In this regard potential impacts arising during the construction phase, in the form of surface water runoff can be ruled out. No impacts are predicted to arise due to the existing storm water drainage network into which this development will be connected. In addition wastewater generated from the two properties will be connected directly with the public sewer network.



#### **Qualifying Features**

Natura 2000 sites are designated on the presence of certain habitats and species which are afforded protection under the Birds and Habitats Directives. These habitats and species are regarded as 'qualifying features' of the Natura 2000 sites. The following section provides details on the qualifying features of the Natura 2000 sites in question - Lough Funshinagh SAC and Lough Ree SAC. NPWS site synopses for the designated sites are given as **Appendix B** to this report.

#### Potential Pressures and Threats to the Natura 2000 Sites

The European Nature Information System (EUNIS) website contains data on all Natura 2000 sites, including details of the main threats to and pressures on their qualifying features. Potential threats to and pressures on the qualifying features of the Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC Natura 2000 site are listed in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3	Potential Pressures and Threats to the Kilkieran Ba	v and Islands Natura 2000 Site
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Activity	Location	Intensity	Influence
Intensive cattle grazing	Inside	Medium	Negative
Intensive sheep grazing	Inside	Medium	Negative
Intensive fish farming, intensification	Inside	Medium	Negative

#### Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 Sites

Once a site has been designated as a Natura site, a management plan should be put together for the site which sets out the Conservation Objectives for the site. Every effort should then be made to ensure that these objectives are fulfilled, in order to prevent potential impacts to the qualifying features of the site and maintain as far as possible their favourable conservation status.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain at favourable conservation status sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is 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.

The favourable conservation status of a species is 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.

Management plans have been published for the Lough Funshinagh SAC and Lough Ree SAC. Qualifying interests and objectives (bulleted) are listed below.

# 6 OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS IN THE AREA

It is a requirement of the Appropriate Assessment process to consider the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with other plans and projects in the area. Table 6.1 below gives details of the other plans and projects in the area which may be affecting Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611) Natura sites.

Name of Plan or Project	Key policies/issues/objectives directly related to the relevant Natura 2000 sites	Potential cumulative or in- combination effects on the relevant Natura 2000 sites
Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028	Designated Sites, Habitats and Species Policies and Objectives, Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Policies and Objectives, Natural Water Systems Polices. Improve water quality, nature conservation/ biodiversity. The integration of Green/Blue Infrastructure and ecosystems services.	Positive Impact
All Ireland Pollinator Plan	Reverse declines in pollinating insects. Pollinators are impacted by the actions of everyone ranging from the local authorities to community groups, farmers, schools, gardeners and businesses	Positive Impact
National Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017 – 2022	Improve Biodiversity & both natural and built heritage in County Roscommon. Conservation of areas of value.	Positive Impact
NPWS Conservation Management Plans	A Conservation Management Plan is in place for Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611). The aims and objectives are outlined from Page 9 to 11 above.	Positive impacts
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) Corporate Plan 2021- 2025	Goals: To protect, manage and conserve Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources and to maximize their sustainability and natural biodiversity. To play a leadership role in achieving our climate action and biodiversity goals	Positive impact
Planning Applications in the area	A search was carried out on Roscommon County Council's online planning query system. It was ascertained that there have been no other local planning applications granted within a 300m radius of the site in the past 5 years.	Neutral Impact

#### Table 6.1: Other Plans and Projects Affecting the Natura 2000 Site

### 7 SCREENING MATRIX FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IN LINE WITH EU

### **COMMISSION GUIDANCE**

Having established the extent of the proposed project and the details of the Natura 2000 site, a screening assessment for possible impacts can be generated. This section follows the format of the Screening Matrix provided in Annex 2 of the following document;

"Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites- Methodology guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission, 2001". The findings of the screening matrix are summarised in Table 8.1 below.

 Table 7.1 Stage 1 - Screening Matrix for the Proposed Development

 Brief Description of the Project or Plan

**Location:** The proposed site lies in Greenfield Road, Lisnamult, Co. Roscommon Ref: Grid Ref: Easting: 586716, Northing: 763706).

**Distance from Designated Site**: The site for the proposed development lies approximately 6.5km from Lough Ree SAC (Site Code 000440) and 8.8km from Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611)

**Brief Description of the Project:** Planning permission is being sought to construct 2 "Residential Dwellings as per Site Layout Plan for the proposed development is included as **Appendix A** to this report.

#### Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Site

**Site Designation Status**: Lough Ree SAC (Site code: 000440) and Lough Funshinaugh SAC (Site code 000611) Natura sites designated under EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

#### **Qualifying Features**

is of conservation significance due to the presence of nine habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and three species listed under Annex II of the same directive.

#### **Qualifying Habitats**

#### Lough Ree

- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition type vegetation [3150]
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (\* 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 Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]
- Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]

#### Lough Funshinaugh SAC

- Turloughs [3180]
- Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation [3270]

#### Habitats and Species of Interest

Full details of the sites are found in the Site Synopses included as Appendix B to this report.

#### **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

#### Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

No impacts are expected on the Natura 2000 sites in question.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of the following;

#### - Size and Scale

The development site comprises an overall area of 0.047ha at this size, and due to the fact that the works will be located entirely outside the designated area, it is not expected that the development will have any significant impact (direct, indirect or secondary in nature) on the Natura 2000 site in this regard.

#### - Land-Take

The proposed works will be entirely located outside the designated site and so there will be no impacts in this regard.

#### - Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site

The site for the proposed development lies approximately 41 meters from the Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC. At this distance, no impacts are expected on the Natura 2000 sites in this regard.

#### - Resource Requirements

It is not expected that the proposed development will have any significant impact (direct, indirect or secondary in nature) on the designated sites in this regard.

- Excavation Requirements No impacts are expected on the Natura 2000 site in this regard.

#### - Transportation Requirements

During the construction phase of the proposed development, there will be a slight increase in the volume of traffic in the area for a short time. It is not expected that this slight increase will result in direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

#### - Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning

The construction phase of the proposed development will last approximately 12 months. It is expected that the dwelling will remain in use for at least 50 years. Neither the construction, operation nor the eventual decommissioning of the proposed development is likely to result in direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

De	scribe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of the following;				
-	Reduction of Habitat         There will be no changes in this respect.         Disturbance to Key Species         There will be no changes in this respect.         Habitat or Species Fragmentation         There will be no changes in this respect.         Reduction in species density         There will be no changes in this respect.				
-	Changes in key indicators of conservation value There will be no changes in this respect. Climate change There will be no changes in this respect.				
De	escribe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of the following;				
-	<ul> <li>Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site</li> <li>No potential impacts which are likely to interfere with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site are expected.</li> </ul>				
Pro fol	ovide Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of the lowing;				
-	Loss No loss is expected. Fragmentation No fragmentation is expected. Disruption No disruption is expected. Disturbance There is potential for surface water runoff during the construction phase of the proposed development to enter into the SAC, due to the topography of the application site and the close proximity of the SAC. Therefore, in the absence of mitigation measures significant impacts cannot be ruled out. Change to key elements of the site No change is expected				

Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.

It is considered that the proposed development will not have any significant indirect impacts on either Lough Ree SAC (Site Code 000440) or Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611), alone or in combination with the other plans or projects in the area (outlined in Section 6 of this report).

### 8 CONCLUSIONS

Planning is being sought to construct 2 off *Residential Dwellings and all associated site works at Greenfield Road, Lisnamult, Co. Roscommon.* A Site Layout Plan for the proposed development is included as **Appendix A** to this report. The screening exercise examined impacts on Lough Ree SAC (Site Code 000440) 6.5km away and Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611) 8.5km Natura 2000 sites.

At this distance, it is not expected that the proposed development will give rise to any direct impacts on the Natura 2000 sites in question.

It is not expected that emissions arising from the development will result in any significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 sites. Given there is no indefinable pathway to groundwater, no impacts are predicted in this regard. Wastewater from the hydraulic loading generated from the properties will be directed to the public sewer directly situated on the public road.

Following an examination of the relevant GIS information in relation to flood risk assessment, the site of the proposed development is not within a flood risk area (fluvial, pluvial, coastal, or groundwater).

Therefore, the conclusion of this screening exercise is that no significant effects are expected on the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the surrounding Nature 2000 sites namely Lough Ree SAC (Site Code 000440) 6.5km away and Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site code 000611) 8.5km Natura 2000 sites.

This report is therefore issued as a Finding of No Significant Effects (FONSE) statement, in accordance with the EU Commission's methodological guidance (EC, 2001)

Therefore, the conclusion of this screening exercise is that significant effects are not expected on the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the surrounding Natura 2000 site, as a result of the proposed development in question, alone or in combination with the other plans and projects in the area, and therefore that a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this case.

# 9 **REFERENCES**

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#### **Appendix A: GSI Geological Mapping**









BminPD - Mineral poorly drained (Mainly basic) BminPDPT - Peaty poorly drained mineral (Mainly basic) BminSW - Shallow well drained mineral (Mainly basic) BminSP - Shallow poorly drained mineral (Mainly basic) BminSPPT - Shallow peaty poorly drained mineral (Mainly basic) BminSRPT - Shallow, rocky, peaty/nonpeatymineral complexes (Mainly basic) BktPt - Blanket peat FenPt - Fen peat RsPt - Raised Peat Cut - Cutover/cutaway peat AlluvMIN - Alluvial (mineral) AlluvMRL - Alluvial (marl) Lac - Lacustrine type soils Scree - Scree AeoUND - Aeolian undifferentiated MarSands - Marine sand and gravel MarSed - Marine/estuarine sediments Made - Made ground Water - Water

#### **Appendix B: NPWS Site Synopses for**

#### Site Name: Lough Ree SAC

#### Site Code: 000440

Lough Ree is the third largest lake in Ireland and is situated in an ice-

deepened depression in Carboniferous limestone on the River Shannon system between Lanesborough and Athlon e. The site spans Counties Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath. Some of its features (including the islands) are b ased on glacial drift. It has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. Although the main h abitat, by area, is the lake itself, interesting shoreline, terrestrial and semiaquatic habitats also occur. The site is a S pecial Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3150] Natural Eutrophic Lakes [6210] Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland\* [7110] Active Raised Bog\*

[7120] Degraded Raised Bog [7230] Alkaline Fens [8240] Limestone Pavement\* [91D0] Bog Woodland\* [91E0] Alluv ial Forests\* [1355] Otter (Lutra lutra)

The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10 m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to sout h, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of Inchmore. The lake has been classified as mesotrophic in q uality, but the size of the system means that a range of conditions prevail depending upon, for example, rock type. This gives rise to local variations in nutrient status and pH, which in turn results in variations in the phytoplankton a nd macrophyte flora. Therefore species indicative of oligotrophic, mesotrophic, eutrophic and base-

rich situations occur. The water of Lough Ree tends to be strongly peat-

stained, restricting macrophytes to depths of less than 2 m, and as a consequence, macrophytes are restricted to sh eltered bays, where a typical Shannon flora occurs. Species present include Intermediate Bladderwort (Utricularia i ntermedia), pondweeds (Potamogeton spp.), Quillwort (Isoetes lacustris), Greater Duckweed (Spirodela polyrhiza), stoneworts (Chara spp., including C. pedunculata) and Arrowhead (Sagittaria sagittifolia). The latter is a scarce speci es which is almost confined in its occurrence to the Shannon Basin.

Reedbeds of Common Reed (Phragmites australis) are an extensive habitat in a number of more sheltered places ar ound the lake, but single-species 'swamps' consisting of such species as Common Club-

rush (Scirpus lacustris), Slender Sedge (Carex lasiocarpa), Great Fen-

sedge (Cladium mariscus) and two scarce species of sedge (Carex appropinquata and C. elata) also occur in suitable places. Some of these grade up into species-rich alkaline fen with Black Bog-

rush (Schoenus nigricans) and Whorlgrass (Catabrosa aquatica), or freshwater marsh with abundant Water Dock (R umex hydrolapathum) and Hemp-

agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum). Lowland wet grassland is found in abundance around the shore and occurs in two types. One is 'callowland', grassland which floods in winter. This provides feeding for winter waterfowl and bre eding waders. The other is an unusual community on stony wet lake shore which is found in many places around th e lake, and is characterized by Water Germander (Teucrium scordium), a scarce plant species almost confined to thi s lake and Lough Derg. Dry calcareous grassland occurs scattered around the lake shore. This supports typical speci es such as Yellow-wort (Blackstonia perfoliata), Carline Thistle (Carlina vulgaris) and Quaking-

grass (Briza media). Orchids also feature in this habitat e.g. Bee Orchid (Ophrys apifera) and Common Spotted-

orchid (Dactylorhiza fuchsii). Limestone pavement occurs occasionally around the lake shore. The most substantial area is at Rathcline in the extreme north-

east. While this has been planted with commercial forestry since the 1950s, it still displays a diverse representation of pavement types, from the typical clint-

gryke system to large blocky pavements and scattered boulders. In all cases the pavement is covered by a bryophyt e-

rich flora, with abundant Ivy (Hedera helix), and a scrub layer dominated by Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Hazel (Corylus avellana) and some Spindle (Euonymus europaeus). The ground flora is variable, though in places it is species-28

rich. Dry broadleaved semi-

natural woodland occurs in several places around the lake, most notably at St John's Wood and on Hare Island. St J ohn's Wood is recognised as the largest and most natural woodland in the Midlands. Its canopy is dominated by Ha zel, Pedunculate Oak (Quercus robur), Holly (Ilex aquifolium) and Ash, but a range of other trees and shrubs occur, i ncluding Wych Elm (Ulmus glabra), Yew (Taxus baccata), Wild Cherry (Prunus avium) and Irish Whitebeam (Sorbus h ibernica). The ground flora of St John's Wood is species-

rich, and is remarkable for the presence of two species, Toothwort (Lathraea squamaria) and Bird's-

nest Orchid (Neottia nidusavis), which tend to occur in sites with a long history of uninterrupted woodland cover. T he tree species composition on Hare Island is similar to that in St John's Wood, with additional non-

native species such as Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and Beech (Fagus sylvatica). This wood also has an exceptio nally rich ground flora. Some of the smaller areas of woodland around Lough Ree are mixed woodland with a high p ercentage of exotics such as Beech. Some areas of well-developed Hazel scrub also occur.

At St John's Wood, patches of wet alluvial woodland are present along the lakeshore. They are dominated by Ash, Grey Willow (Salix cinerea), Alder (Alnus glutinosa) and, in places, Downy Birch (Betula pubescens). The ground flor a includes Creeping Bent (Agrostis stolonifera), Wild Angelica (Angelica sylvestris), Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulma ria), Common Marsh-

bedstraw (Galium palustre), Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus), Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus), Water Mint (Mentha aq uatica), Reed Canary-

grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Creeping Buttercup (Ranunculus repens) and Wood Dock (Rumex sanguineus). Pocket s of wet woodland occur elsewhere around the lake. Most of these are dominated by willows (Salix spp.), Alder and Downy Birch. In one such wood, at Ross Lough, the terrestrial alga, Trentopohlia sp., has a specialised niche on the willow trunks. The ground layer has a rich bryophyte flora (Calliergon spp. and Sphagnum spp.), scattered clumps of Greater Tussock-

sedge (Carex paniculata) and a good diversity of herb species, including Water Dock and Fen Bedstraw (Galium uligi nosum). Small examples of raised bog occur, which are of interest in that they show a natural transition through we t woodland and/or swamp to lakeshore habitats. Active Raised Bog (ARB) habitat comprises areas of high bog that a re wet and actively peatforming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (Sphagnum spp.) is high, and where so me or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, Sphagnum lawns, flushes and soaks. Results f rom surveys of the raised bog habitat in 2003 indicate the presence of 5.9 ha of Active Raised Bog (ARB). Also prese nt are examples of Degraded Raised Bog (DRB) capable of regeneration. In general the vegetation of these degrade d areas is dominated by typical raised bog species such as Cross-

leaved Heath (Erica tetralix), Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Hare's-

tail Cottongrass (Eriophorum vaginatum), Bog Asphodel (Narthecium ossifragum) and Deergrass (Scirpus cespitosus ). Typically the degraded bog areas have a low cover of peat-

forming bog mosses (Sphagnum spp.). The current extent of DRB as estimated using a recently developed hydrologi cal modelling technique, based largely on Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) data, is 44.7 ha. Associated with the extensive raised bog system at Clooncraff/Clonlarge are areas of bog woodland. At least two small areas of woodla nd occur on the raised bog domes. However it would appear that this habitat is in the early stages of development. The largest area is dominated by low trees of Downy Birch and Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta). Occasional trees of Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris) also occur. The ground layer is wet and quaking with a lush carpet of mosses present, in cluding various species of Sphagnum, Pleurozium schreberi and Aulacomium palustre. The main vascular plant speci es in the ground flora are Bog-rosemary (Andromeda polifolia), Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos), Bogmyrtle (Vaccinium myrtillus), Hare's-

tail Cottongrass and Deergrass. Bog Woodland is of particular conservation importance and is listed with priority st atus on the E.U. Habitats Directive. At St John's Wood, there is an interesting area of woodland that grows on cutaway peat. This is dominated by Downy Birch and Alder Buckthorn (Frangula alnus). The occurrence of the latter sp ecies in such abundance is unusual in Ireland. Smaller lakes occur around the lake shore, especially on the east side , and these often have the full range of wetland habitats contained within and around them. A number of small rive rs also pass through the site. The site supports a number of rare plant species which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book. Alder Buckthorn and Bird Cherry (Prunus padus) are woodland components at St John's Wood and elsewhere . Narrow-

leaved Helleborine (Cephalanthera longifolia) and Betony (Stachys officinalis), both of which are also legally protect ed under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occur among the ground flora of Hare Island (where the former occurs in notable abundance). They also occur in a number of other woods. The stonewort Chara tomentosa is present in s hallow water around the lake. The rare, though not legally protected, Marsh Pea (Lathyrus palustris) occurs on som e of the callowland and in alluvial woodland at St John's Wood. The rare Myxomycete fungus, Echinostelium collicul osum, has been recorded from St John's Wood. The lake itself contains one of only two populations in Ireland of th e endangered fish species, Pollan (Coregonus autumnalis), which is genetically different from Continental European stock. The shrimp Mysis relicta (Class Crustacea) occurs in this lake and is a relict of the glacial period in Ireland. Sm all flocks of Greenland White-

fronted Goose, an Annex I species on the E.U. Birds Directive, use several areas of callowland around the lake in win ter. An average spring count of 92 individuals was obtained for this species over the six seasons 1988/89 to 1993/9 4, indicating that Lough Ree is a nationally important site for the species. The following bird counts are derived fro m 6 counts during the period 1984/85 to 1986/87: nationally important populations of Golden Plover (1,350), an An nex I species; Wigeon (1,306); Teal (584); Tufted Duck (1,317) and Coot (798). Other winter visitors are Whooper S wan (32), an Annex I species, Mute Swan (91), Little Grebe (48), Cormorant (91), Mallard (362), Shoveler (40), Poch ard (179), Goldeneye (97), Curlew (178), Lapwing (1,751) and Dunlin (48). The callowland is also used by Blacktailed Godwit and other species on migration. Some of the lake islands provide nesting sites for Common Tern, a sp ecies listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The Lough Ree colony, 86 pairs in 1995, is estimated as one of the largest of this species on midland lakes. The lake also provides excellent breeding habitat for wildfowl, including Co mmon Scoter (30-

40 pairs), a rare breeding species listed as "Endangered" in the Red Data Book, and Tufted Duck (>200 pairs). The w oodlands and scrub around the lake and on the islands are a stronghold of the Garden Warbler (74 territories in 19 97), a bird species mainly confined to the Shannon lakes in Ireland. There is a population of Otter around the lake. T his species is listed in the Red Data Book as being threatened in Europe and is protected under Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Land uses within the site include recreation in the form of cruiser hire, angling, camping, picnick ing and shooting. Chalet accommodation occurs at a few locations around the lake. Low-

intensity grazing occurs on dry and wet grassland around the shore, and some hay is made within the site. Some of these activities are damaging, but in a very localised way, and require careful planning. The main threat to the aqua tic life in the lake comes from artificial enrichment of the waters by agricultural and domestic waste, and also by pe at silt in suspension which is increasingly limiting the light penetration, and thus restricting aquatic flora to shallowe r waters. At present Lough Ree is less affected by eutrophication than Lough Derg. Lough Ree and its adjacent habit ats are of major ecological significance. Some of the woodlands around the lake are of excellent. St John's Wood is particularly important; it is one of the very few remaining ancient woodlands in Ireland. The lake itself is an excellen t example of a mesotrophic to moderate-

eutrophic system, supporting a rare fish species and a good diversity of breeding and wintering birds.

Site Name: Lough Funshinagh SAC Site Code: 000611 Lough Funshinagh is located approximately 12 km north-west of Athlone, in Co. Roscommon. The lake, which is underlain by Carboniferous limestone, is classified as a turlough because it fluctuates to a significant extent every year and occasionally dries out entirely (approximately two to three times every ten years). In most years, however, an extensive area of water persists. This is filled with vegetation, providing excellent breeding habitat for wildfowl, and the site is designated a Wildfowl Sanctuary. The lake is fed by springs and a small catchment to the west. It is mesotrophic in quality, with some marl (calcium carbonate) deposition, and is surrounded by pastures. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [3180] Turloughs\* [3270] Chenopodion rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation Open water at Lough Funshinagh is colonised by large beds of Common Clubrush (Scirpus lacustris). This grades into stands of Tufted-sedge (Carex elata), Slender Sedge (Carex lasiocarpa) and Bottle Sedge (Carex rostrata) in some areas, and Common Reed (Phragmites australis) at the main inflow. The shallower parts of the lake contain semiaquatic plants which are variably exposed in summer. Common here are Sharpflowered Rush (Juncus acutiflorus), Carnation Sedge (Carex panicea) and Common Sedge (Carex nigra), with Water Spearwort (Ranunculus flammula), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica), Marsh Ragwort (Senecio aquaticus), Common Marsh-bedstraw (Galium palustre) and Tufted Forget-me-not (Myosotis laxa). Other turlough communities here, and on the parts of the shore inundated by high waters, include such species as Various-leaved Pondweed (Potamogeton gramineus), Amphibious Bistort (Polygonum amphibium), Marsh Cudweed (Gnaphalium uliginosum), the moss Fontinalis antipyretica and Northern Yellow-cress (Rorippa islandica), a rare species which is listed in the Irish Red Data Book. Vegetation ascribable to the E.U. Habitats Directive Annex I type 'rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation' occurs. Marl deposits with stoneworts (Chara spp.) also occur in the shallow water. Internally, the vegetation shows considerable patterning, presumably related to nutrient conditions. The lake is fringed by wet grassland, with species such as Creeping Bent (Agrostis stolonifera), Marsh Pennywort (Hydrocotyle vulgaris) and Silverweed (Potentilla anserina), which in turn grades into pasture. A number of islands occur on the eastern side which are never totally flooded. They support Gorse (Ulex europaeus) scrub, whose lower limit is controlled by the winter flooding. Lough Funshinagh is important for wintering waterfowl. The following figures are derived from 13 counts over 3 seasons (1984/85-1986/87). Included among the regular winter visitors are three species which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Bewick's Swan (4, becoming scarcer since 1987), Whooper Swan (10) and Golden Plover (50), as well as Wigeon (310), Teal (263), Mallard (181), Shoveler (17), Pochard (82), Tufted Duck (52), Coot (42), Lapwing (67) and Curlew (29). In summer, the site attracts a good diversity of breeding waterfowl. Species which breed, probably regularly, at the site include Shoveler, Gadwall and Pochard, while Black-necked Grebe and Pintail may breed sporadically - all of these are listed as rare in the Red Data Book. Lapwing and Snipe are regular breeders, and sometimes also Redshank and Ringed Plover. Lough Funshinagh is one of the sites used by the River Suck flock of Greenland White-fronted Goose. Nowadays, however, it is not regularly used, possibly because some of the former feeding areas have become overgrown with scrub. The Common Frog, a species listed in the Red Data Book as internationally important, breeds within the site. Although widespread and common in Ireland, this species is considered to be vulnerable in Europe. Its habitat is threatened by drainage of wetlands and water pollution. Some of the major threats to lakes in Ireland arise from drainage and agricultural intensification. In the case of the latter, the application of fertiliser can lead to eutrophication and a general loss of species diversity. Lough Funshinagh is currently mesotrophic, but it has been described in the past as being full of vegetation. Thus it may be that it has not been enriched significantly by agricultural run-off in recent times. There are localised eutrophic patches around the shores where grazing animals congregate, but the lake water is strikingly clear. There have been attempts at drainage in the past, most recently in 1990. As yet, this has resulted in little structural damage to the site. Lough Funshinagh is of major ecological importance, both from a vegetation and ornithological viewpoint. Turloughs are listed as priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Lough Funshinagh is a unique and atypical example of this habitat, and has a particular value in being relatively unmodified by grazing and modern agriculture.













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#### SITE LOCATION MAP Scale 1:10,650

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING DEPARTMENT, ARAS AN CHONTAE, Rebuilding	LEGEND Site Boundary Lined RED	SECTION 179A SUBMISSION	Title: Proposed Semi-Detached Dwelling at Greenfield Road, Lisnamult, Roscommon Town, Co Roscommon,		enfield Road, Lisnamult,	
CO.ROSCOMMON, F42VR98 IFELand Email: housingconstruction@roscommoncoco.ie keretainee.exemplate			Scale: 1(10,560	Date: 15/05/2024	Filename:	Drawing No.:
Ц — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	l J	l J	Planning	PS	PF	P000

#### Appendix E: Lough Funshinaugh & Lough Ree SAC Mapping



