

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Proposed road realignment works, Killiaghan and Gort
and Carnagh West, Co. Roscommon



Oran
Ecology

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

This report has been prepared by Oran Ecology on behalf of Roscommon County Council for the proposed road maintenance works at Killiaghan and Gort and Carnagh West, Co Roscommon (ITM Grid Ref. X 597029 Y 752293).

This report has been prepared to provide the necessary information to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the proposed development. This Appropriate Assessment Screening report (AASR) has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011).

The proposed project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site, therefore, the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment process.

In addition to the above legislation, this report was prepared in accordance with the following European, national and DEHLG guidance documents on Appropriate Assessment:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities. DoEHLG, 2009;
- DAFM 2019 Circular 08/2019 Appropriate Assessment
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites; Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, 2002;
- EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission,
- Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission,
- EC (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC . European Commission,
- European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission
- EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. European Commission
- NRA (2009) Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes, National Roads Authority, Dublin
- CIEEM (2018) Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment

1.2 Legislative Context

Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) as amended and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2017. This requires that a consenting or competent authority undertake an Appropriate Assessment (AA) if a plan or project is likely to have the potential for significant effects on European Sites.

The obligation to undertake an AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Both involve a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order. Article 6(3) is concerned with the strict protection of sites, while Article 6(4) is the procedure for allowing derogation from this strict protection in certain restricted circumstances. An AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of the plan or projects, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, in view of its conservation objectives. Assessments should be undertaken on the basis of best scientific evidence and methods.

Stages of Appropriate Assessment Process

There are four stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment process. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) has issued a document entitled Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: guidance for planning authorities (2009), which outlines the details of these stages. This document states that it is the responsibility of the competent authority to undertake the AA. The assessment should be based on sufficient relevant information such as that submitted by the proponent of the plan.

Stage 1 - Screening

The first step in AA is Screening for an AA. This requires a description of the project, identification and description of relevant Natura 2000 sites, and an assessment of likely effects of the proposed project. The process identifies the likely impacts on a European Site (Natura 2000) of a project or plan, which is not directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. If these are not deemed to be potentially significant, then there is no need to conduct a full AA. The Screening Stage is carried out to determine whether there is a requirement to proceed with a more detailed assessment and undertake Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2).

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

Here, consideration needs to be given to the impact of the plan or project on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site(s), either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. This requires identification of the conservation objectives of relevant Natura 2000 site(s) that may be affected by the project. The type

of impact should be identified. Additionally, where there may be adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts is required.

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 - Imperative Reasons of 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).

1.2.1 Screening Assessment

This report details Stage 1, the preparation of an AASR to provide the competent authority with the information necessary for them to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, in accordance with current DoEHLG (2010) guidance and follows the following steps;

- Determination if the project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Description of the project.
- Assessment of potential source-pathway-receptor models to determine relevant zones of influence.
- Description of the baseline environment within relevant zones of influence.
- Identification of any links with European sites (defined as 'relevant' European sites) having regard for their Conservation Objectives.
- The use of Screening matrices to determine if Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) could arise due to the links with European sites having regard for:
 - Source-pathway-receptor models and zones of influence;
 - Known distribution and ranges of QI;
 - Likely ranging behaviours of mobile QIs and SCIs beyond their European sites; and,
 - Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects.
- Conclusion of the assessment with a Screening Statement.

The assessment is informed by a field survey and desk study undertaken in January 2020 and December 2019. The assessment in this report is considered in the absence of any mitigation measures.

The following sources were used to gather information;

- Review of online web-mappers: NPWS, EPA, Water Framework Directive and Geo Hive
- Review of NPWS Conservation Objectives, Site Synopses and Natura Standard Data Forms
- Review of EU Habitats Directive Article 17 Reports (2019, 2013, 2007)
- Review of other plans and projects within the area

1.3 Statement of Competency

This report and general ecological walkover survey were carried out by ecologist James Owens (B.Sc., M.Sc.) who has relevant academic qualifications and is a competent expert in the Appropriate Assessment process. James has seven years' experience as an ecologist and has prepared numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports for residential developments, renewable energy developments and forestry licences.

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2 Project Description

2.1 Site Location

The proposed works area is located in the townlands of Killiaghan and Gort and Carnagh West, Co. Roscommon (ITM Grid Ref. X 597029 Y 752293). A site location map is provided in Figure 2.1.

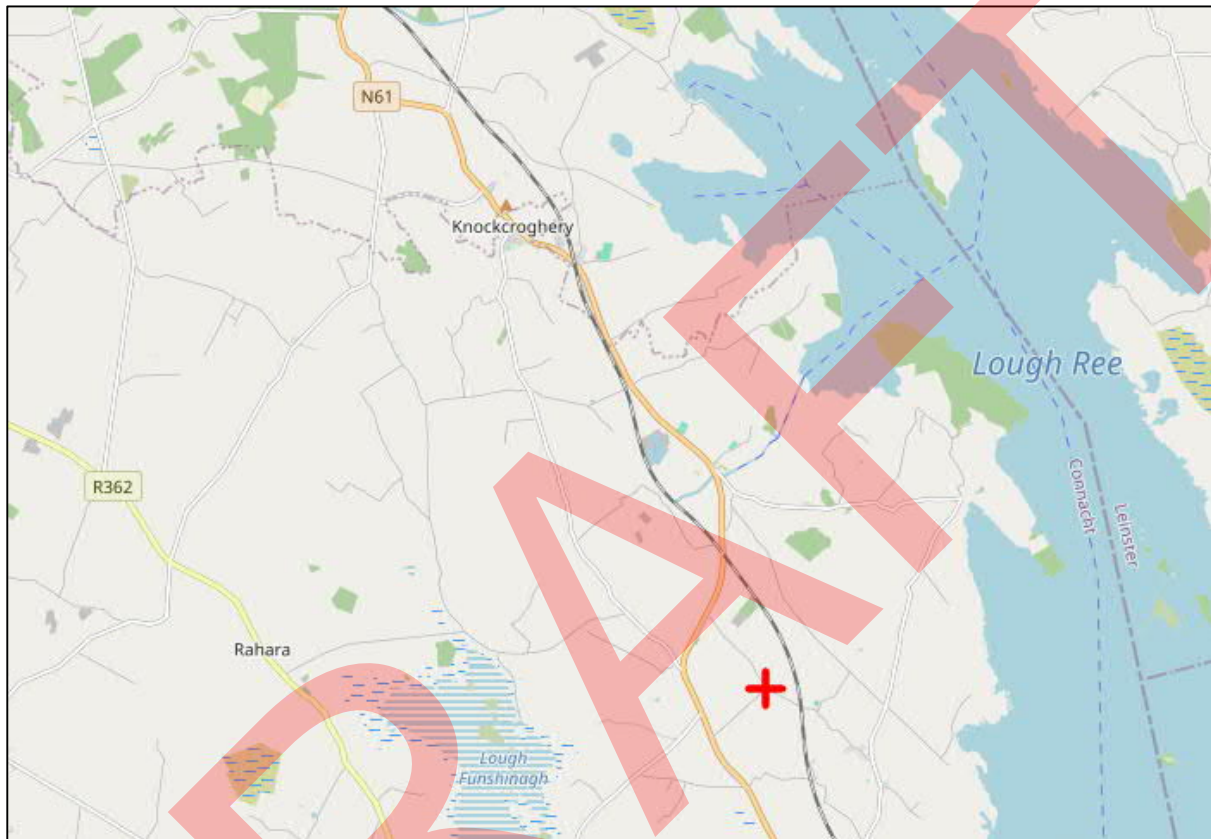


Figure 2.1 Site location

2.2 Characteristics of the Project

The proposed works involve the construction of approximately 75m of new road to create a new opening for the L-7610 local road onto the existing L-5550 local road and the decommissioning of approximately 125m of existing road. The purpose of the proposed works is to widen road and improve sightlines. Existing agricultural sheds will need to be removed to facilitate the proposed development. The sheds will be dismantled and removed by Roscommon County Council and stored on adjacent land for re-use or sale by owner. The council will remove from the site all materials which cannot be reused as part of the proposed development and these will be disposed of under licence. The proposed development layout is shown in Figure 2.2.

Roscommon County Council are proposing complete the following work:

- Demolition and removal of existing sheds and boundary wall within the proposed development footprint
- Construction of 76m of new road carriageway (6m wide) and relocation of junction
- Decommissioning of existing stretch of road to be returned to grass
- Existing hedgerow and fence on old road to be removed
- Provision of new post and wire fence and relocation of field gate
- The provision of 100m of new hedging consisting of native tree species along new fence line
- All works will be undertaken in accordance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2023

2.3 Summary of the Receiving Environment

A multi-disciplinary walkover survey of the proposed project site was undertaken on the 27/03/2024 in accordance with Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora & Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2008) to provide baseline information on the site. All habitats within the site were categorised in accordance with A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000). The walkover survey also included a search for invasive species listed under the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011). All habitats were readily identifiable at the time of the site visit.

The proposed new road will run through a dry stone wall categorised as Stone walls and other stone work (BL1), a small area of rank Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2), existing road and agricultural sheds categorised as Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) and an area of Recolonising bare ground (ED3) (Plate 2.1 and Plate 2.2). The rank Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) habitat made up a small paddock at the southern side of the existing sheds. It was characterised and dominated by rank grasses cock's foot-grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and encroaching bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). A short larch (*Larix* sp.) Treeline (WL2) was also recorded to the south of the sheds (Plate 2.1).

The existing road which will be decommissioned was categorised as Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3). The southern side of the road contained a Hedgerow (WL1) containing whitethorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) (Plate 2.3). The northern side of the road was demarcated by a fence.

No species listed under the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011) were recorded during the survey.

No habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive were recorded at the site.

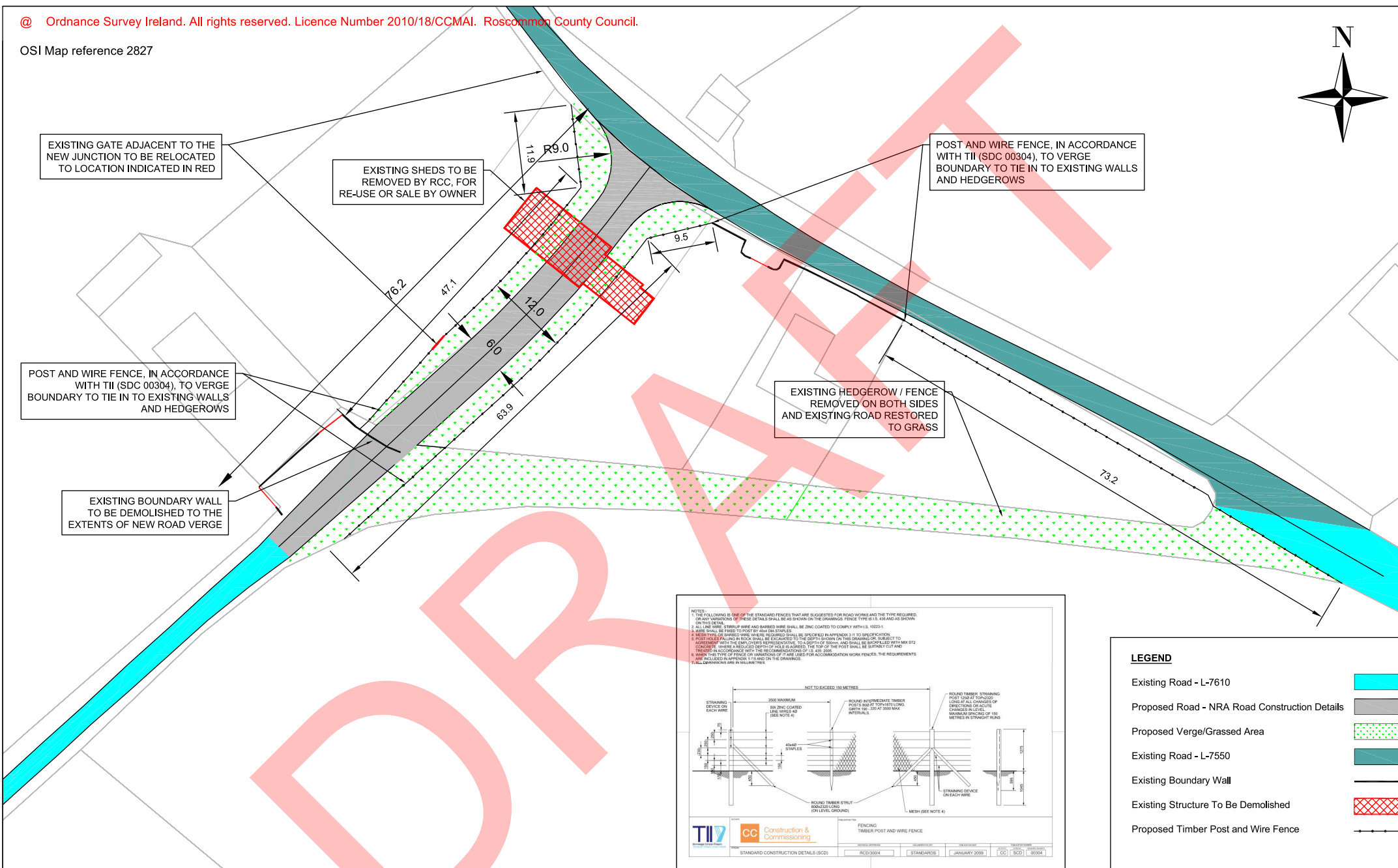
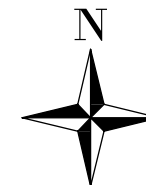


Figure 2.2



Plate 2.1 Existing road (BL3) and stone wall (BL1) adjoined by Treeline (WL2) where the proposed new road will run through.



Plate 2.2 Existing sheds (BL3) and small field of rank Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) habitat



Plate 2.3 Existing road (BL3) to be decommissioned and Hedgerow (WL1)

3 Identifying European Sites within the likely Zone of Impact of the Proposed Development

Table 3.1 lists all European sites within the Likely Zone of Influence and provides an assessment on the potential for likely significant effects as a result of the proposed development on the Qualifying Interests (QIs)/Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of each European Site. European sites within 15km of the proposed development were taken to be within the Likely Zone of Influence, following Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: guidance for planning authorities (DoEHLG, 2009). Sites outside the 15km zone were also considered but no connectivity was identified.

The potential for significant effects to occur from the proposed development on European sites was assessed using the source-pathway-receptor model. This conceptual model is a standard tool in environmental assessment. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. In the context of the proposed works, the model comprises:

- Source (s) – e.g. sediment run-off from proposed works;
- Pathway (s) – e.g. drains and streams connecting to a European site;
- Receptor (s) – Qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

If the potential for significant effects to occur on a European site is identified, then further assessment is required. Effects are considered in light of the conservation objectives of the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which each European site is designated.

The assessment takes into consideration any likely direct or indirect effects of the proposed development on European sites, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, with regard to the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning. The assessment does not take into account any measures intended to avoid or reduce any harmful effects of the proposed development on European sites. The following resources were consulted to inform the assessment;

- NPWS site synopsis, Natura standard data forms and conservation objectives for the relevant European sites with potential source-receptor-pathways to the proposed development; and
- EPA hydrological catchment data (www.epa.ie)
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) data (www.gsi.ie)

A map showing European Sites within 15km of the proposed development is shown in Figure 3.1.

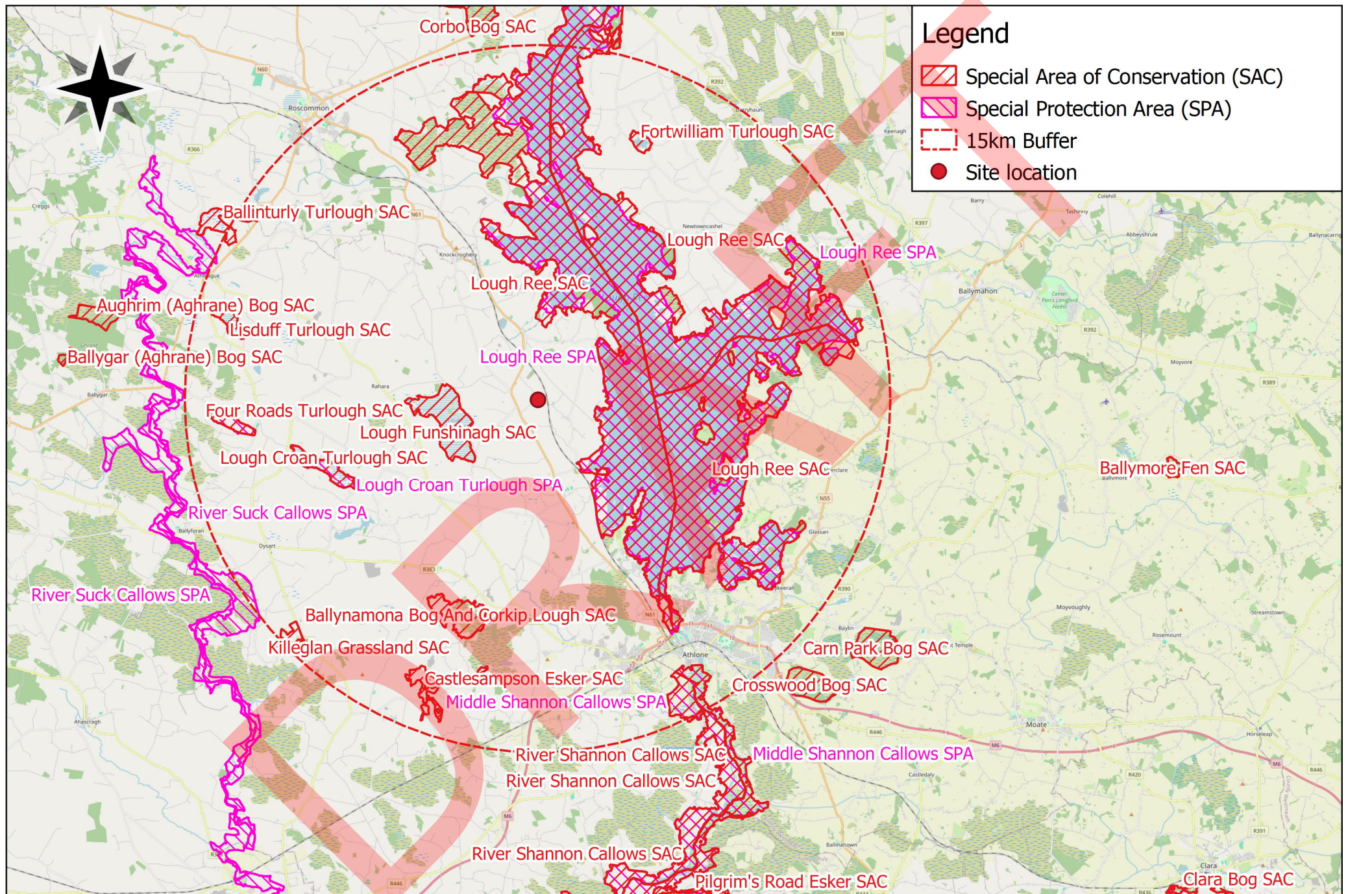


Figure 3.1. Designated Sites within 15km Created By: James Owens Date: 26/03/2024 Scale: 1:350,000



Table 3.1 Assessment of Sites Within the Likely Zone of Influence

European Site, Code and Distance from the Proposed Development	Qualifying Interest(s)(QI's) / Special Conservation Interest(s)(SCIs) (* indicates Priority Annex I Habitats) as reviewed on the 25/03/2024	Zone of Likely Influence Screening	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
Lough Ree SAC [000440] 2.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the same ground waterbody as the SAC (Funshinagh). Given the small-scale nature of the proposed project, the short-term duration of the works and separation distance from the SAC, potential effects on groundwater dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p> <p>Due to distance from the designated site, potential effects on terrestrially dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
Lough Ree SPA [004064] 2.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p>	No

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>The works area does not provide suitable supporting habitat for the SCI species. No disturbance/displacement effects are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>Lough Funshinagh SAC [000611]</p> <p>2.9km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turloughs [3180] • Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidentium</i> p.p. vegetation [3270] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the same ground waterbody as the SAC (Funshinagh). Given the small-scale nature of the proposed project, the short-term duration of the works and separation distance from the SAC, potential effects on groundwater dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
<p>Lough Croan Turlough SAC [000610]</p> <p>8.5km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turloughs [3180] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a separate ground waterbody (Funshinagh) to the SAC (Suck South). No potential</p>	No

		<p>pathway for effect exists with regard to the proposed development and the groundwater dependent QI.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>Lough Croan Turlough SPA [004139]</p> <p>8.5km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The works area does not provide suitable supporting habitat for the SCI species. No disturbance/displacement effects are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
<p>Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC [002339]</p> <p>9.0km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turloughs [3180] • 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>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the same ground waterbody as the SAC (Funshinagh). Given the small-scale nature of the proposed project, the short-term duration of the works and separation distance from the SAC, potential effects on groundwater dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p>	No

		<p>Due to distance from the designated site, potential effects on terrestrially dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>Fortwilliam Turlough SAC [000448]</p> <p>11.4km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the same ground waterbody as part of the SAC (Funshinagh). Given the small-scale nature of the proposed project, the short-term duration of the works and separation distance from the SAC, potential effects on the groundwater dependent QI habitat is not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
<p>Castlesampson Esker SAC [001625]</p> <p>11.6km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a separate ground waterbody (Funshinagh) to the turlough habitat within the SAC</p>	No

		<p>(Suck South). No potential pathway for effect exists with regard to the proposed development and the groundwater dependent QI.</p> <p>Due to distance from the designated site, potential effects on terrestrially dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>Four Roads Turlough SAC [001637]</p> <p>12.1km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a separate ground waterbody (Funshinagh) to the SAC (Suck South). No potential pathway for effect exists with regard to the proposed development and the groundwater dependent QI.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
<p>Four Roads Turlough SPA [004140]</p> <p>12.1km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p>	No

		<p>The works area does not provide suitable supporting habitat for the SCI species. No disturbance/displacement effects are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>Lisduff Turlough SAC [000609]</p> <p>12.7km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a separate ground waterbody (Funshinagh) to the SAC (Suck South). No potential pathway for effect exists with regard to the proposed development and the groundwater dependent QI.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
<p>River Shannon Callows SAC [000216]</p> <p>12.9km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within a separate ground waterbody (Funshinagh) to the SAC (Athlone West). No potential pathway for effect exists with regard to the proposed development and the groundwater dependent QI.</p>	No

		<p>Due to distance from the designated site, potential effects on terrestrially dependent QI habitats are not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>Middle Shannon Callows SPA [004096]</p> <p>12.9km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050] Corncrake (Crex crex) [A122] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The works area does not provide suitable supporting habitat for the SCI species. No disturbance/displacement effects are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No
<p>Killeglan Grassland SAC [002214]</p> <p>14.0km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>The European site is designated for a terrestrially dependent QI habitat, no potential pathway for effect exists with regard to the proposed development.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and potential likely significant effects can be excluded.</p>	No
<p>Ballinturly Turlough SAC [000588]</p> <p>14.1km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p>	No

		<p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The proposed development site is located within the same ground waterbody as part of the SAC (Funshinagh). Given the small-scale nature of the proposed project, the short-term duration of the works and separation distance from the SAC, potential effects on the groundwater dependent QI habitat is not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	
<p>River Suck Callows SPA [004097]</p> <p>14.5km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038] • Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050] • Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] • Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] • Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>The proposed development site is located entirely outside the boundary of the European Site and therefore there is no potential for direct effects.</p> <p>No watercourses which could act as conduits for pollution were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site. No surface water connectivity exists between the proposed development and the European site.</p> <p>The works area does not provide suitable supporting habitat for the SCI species. No disturbance/displacement effects are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for direct or indirect effects were identified and therefore the designated site is not considered further in this assessment.</p>	No

3.1 In-combination Assessment

The proposed development was considered in combination with other plans and projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on European sites.

A search of the online planning system for Roscommon County Council for existing, proposed and approved projects recent planning applications was undertaken on the 26/03/2024. Refused, withdrawn and incomplete information applications were not included in the assessment. The following planning applications were returned within the past five years from the relevant townlands;

Killiaghan and Gort

- Pl. Ref. 19494 – Construction of a dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 21718 – Construction of a dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 22180 – Extension to a dwelling house and installation of new sewerage treatment plant
- Pl. Ref. 2360117 – Construction of a dwelling house

Carnagh West

- Pl. Ref. 19204 – Construction of dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 19229 – Extension to a dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 2143 – Demolition of barn and agricultural shed and the for the construction of a dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 21536 – Construction of a dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 21558 – Refurbishment of, and rear extension to an existing dwelling
- Pl. Ref. 2229 – (1) Permission for retention and completion of a domestic garage, with integrated home office; (2) Retention of alterations to balcony features on the dwelling house and retention of minor alterations to the access from the public road from that originally granted under Planning Ref. Nos. PD/08/1436 and PD/11/252; (3) Permission for the construction of a pergola type feature attached to the southern elevation of the dwelling and (4) all associated site works
- Pl. Ref. 23208 – Permission to demolish existing extension and porch, reconstruct and extend existing dwelling house, construct new porch and install a new waste water treatment system
- Pl. Ref. 23264 – Construction of a dwelling house
- Pl. Ref. 2360296 – Construction of a dwelling house

The following other plans and projects that were considered in the assessment;

- The Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 was reviewed and considered as part of this assessment. The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to Natura 2000 sites.

No pathway for significant effects was identified in relation to any European site as a result of the proposed project when considered on its own. In the review of other plans and projects described above, no additional pathways for effect on European sites were identified as a result of those plans or projects. Neither was there any potential for additional effects resulting from the combination of the various projects and plans in association with the proposed development.

4 Conclusion and Screening Statement

The Appropriate Assessment Screening considered potential effects which may arise as a result of the proposed works at Killiaghan and Gort and Carnagh West, Co. Roscommon.

Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the proposed development, taking account of the processes involved it can be concluded at this stage that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying interests or the special conservation interest species of any designated European site.

It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in consideration of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information that the proposed project will not result in significant effects on any European site whether direct, indirect, or in-combination, in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which it was designated, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

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