



# The Crescent Sea Road junction Upgrade

## Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd

December 2021

**The Crescent Cycle Route Upgrade**  
**Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment**

| Document Stage | Document Version | Prepared by                |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
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This report has been prepared by Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd. with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information report herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for Galway City Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Doherty Environmental Consultants (DEC) Ltd. have been commissioned by Galway City Council to undertake a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for a proposed cycle route at junctions along The Crescent between the The Crescent, Salthill Road Lower, Taylor's Hill and St. Mary's Roads and also the junctions of Crescent Green, Palmyra Park and Sea Road with The Crescent as well as the adjacent pedestrian facilities.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to identify the potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

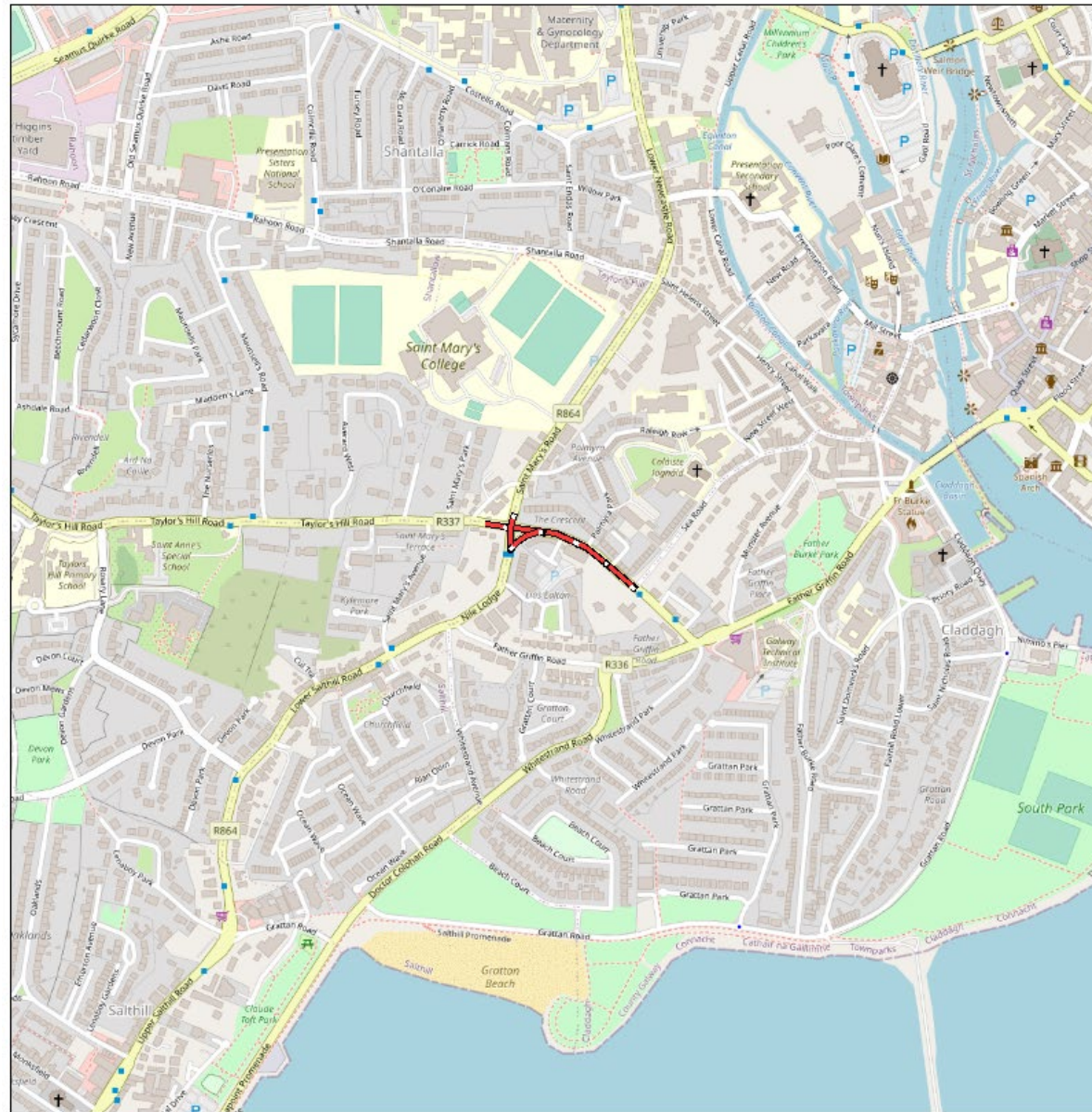
## 1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

### 1.1.1 *Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*

According to Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015, the competent authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not;
- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).



## The Crescent Cycle Route Upgrade

Figure 1.1

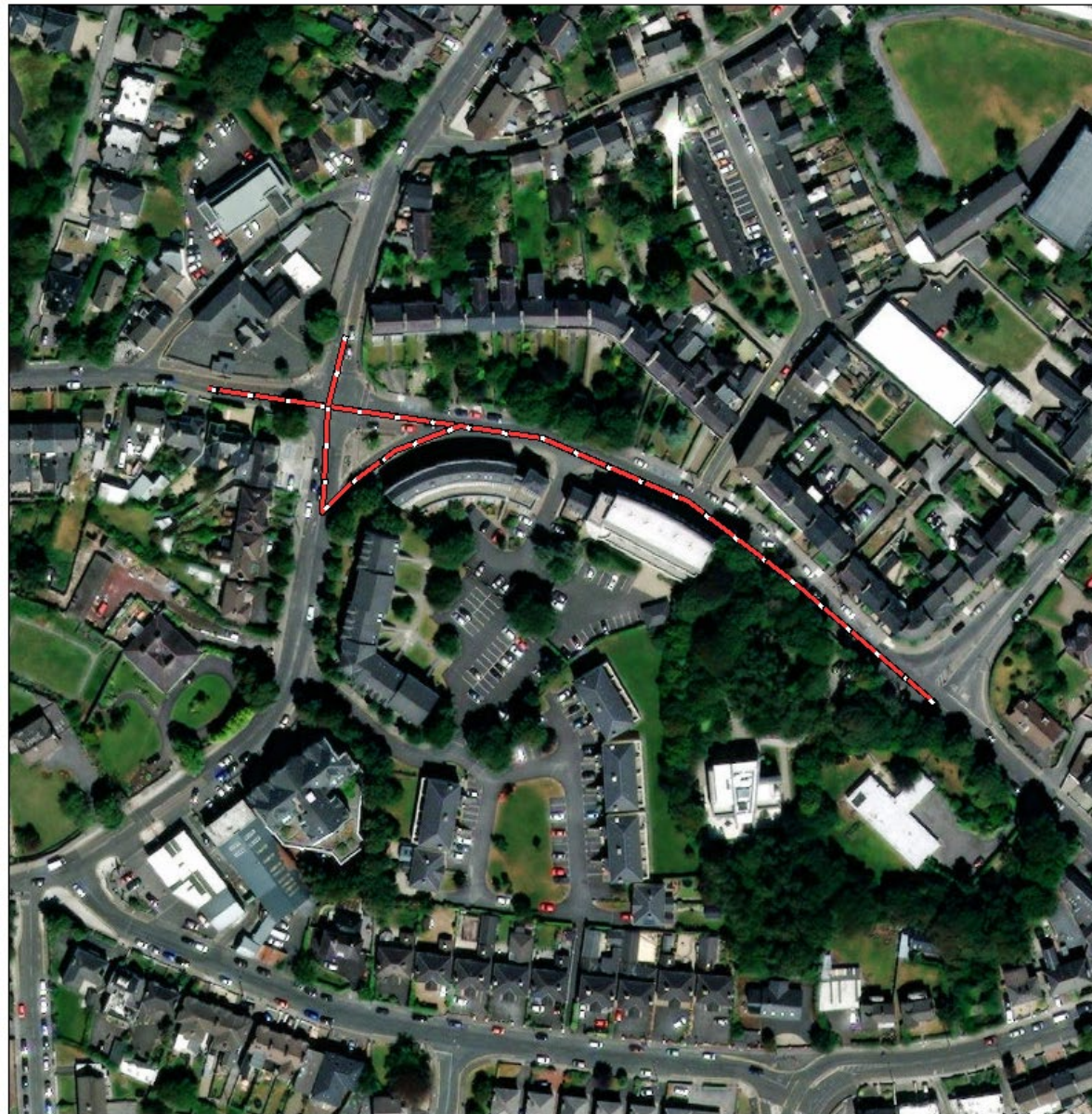
### Site Location

Project

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Km



|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Drawn By    | PD         |
| Date        | 17/12/2021 |
| Data Source | Bing       |



## The Crescent Cycle Route Upgrade

Figure 1.2

### Aerial View of Route

Project

0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 Km



|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Drawn By    | PD         |
| Date        | 17/12/2021 |
| Data Source | Bing       |

This Report contains a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to assess and address all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to inform and allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 – 2015 (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into Irish law Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) lists habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats legislation requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

## 1.2 STAGE 1 SCREENING METHOD

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above and aims to establish whether or not the proposed project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. In this context "likely" means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that **cannot** be ruled out based on objective information and "significant" means an effect that would undermine the conservation objectives of the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), 2021) .

The nature of the likely interactions between the project and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon:

- the ecological characteristics of the species or habitat, including their structure, function, conservation status and sensitivity to change; *and/or*
- the character, magnitude, duration, consequences and probability of the impacts arising from land use activities associated with the plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2010) and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (2021); Office of the Planning Regulator – OPR Practice Note PN01: *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, and recent European and National case law. The following guidance documents were also of relevance during the preparation of this Screening Report:

- A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010). DEHLG.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018).

The EC (2021) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites that could be influenced by the project;
3. Where European Sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect European Sites identified under Point 2 above; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

## **2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT**

The objective of the scheme is to re-design the junction of The Crescent, Salthill Road Lower, Taylor's Hill and St. Mary's Road. The Scheme also includes the upgrading of the junctions of Crescent Green, Palmyra Park and Sea Road with The Crescent as well as the adjacent pedestrian facilities. The scheme is approximately 270m in length

An aspiration of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) is to develop a City Centre Access Network to ensure that the transport system can cater for the projected future demand. This includes the provision of continuous bus priority from Salthill Road Lower to Saint Mary's Road and Newcastle Road. To achieve this objective, the junction of The Crescent, Salthill Road Lower, Taylor's Hill and St. Mary's Road is included and a series of junctions subject to revision to enable this.

The proposed solution, which emerged as the preferred option from an options study commissioned by GCC, proposes to maintain a rationalised level of on-street parking and removing the left slip-lane from The Crescent to Salthill Road Lower. The proposal also includes to resurface the route and install crossing points with zebra crossings, buildouts and raised platforms at the junctions of the Crescent with Crescent Green, Palmyra Park and Sea Road.

#### **2.1.1 Surface Type**

The design proposes an overlay treatment, for shape correction, to the existing pavement along the route as part of refurbishing works within the proposed scheme for shape correction to the existing pavement. The existing pavement will be repaired at the defect sections, levelled to designed levels, cleaned and coated with binding agent prior to overlaying treatment.

At locations where full pavement repair/ restoration is required (at crossings and footpaths), the pavement shall be constructed as per design standard, to be finalised at the detailed design stage.

### **2.1.2 Surface Construction Materials**

Materials for construction of the surface upgrade will be imported and stockpiled at the construction compound, which will be located on a site that is buffered from any watercourse by a minimum distance of 50m. The materials to be employed shall principally consist of:

- Geotextile ground reinforcing cloth
- Granular sub-base material (NRA clause 804)
- Asphalt.

#### **2.1.2.1 Construction Methodology**

Sections of the road and current footpath will be closed to the public for the duration of the construction phase, which is expected to last for approximately 6-months. Construction materials will be transported from stockpiled areas at the construction compound in 6-ton dumper trucks for construction of the trail and cable ducts. A total of 2 no. dumper trucks will be required throughout the duration of the construction phase.

Excavations, using one 8-ton excavator, will be required for the removal of the existing path surface. Excavation of the existing surface will be kept to a minimum, only comprising the footprint of the path surface that is to be upgraded. It is estimated that a minimal amount of surplus spoil will be generated for offsite disposal. Such spoil will be disposed of at an appropriately licenced facility.

Works will be undertaken on a section-by-section basis with only one section being commenced and completed at any one time. The sections will be kept to a minimum to reduce the potential for disturbance to adjacent ecological receptors.

Works will be undertaken on a section-by-section basis with only one section being commenced and completed at any one time.

## 2.2 PLANT & CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS REQUIRED

The type of plant and machinery required will be typical civil engineering road construction plant for earthworks and paving, and is likely to include:

- 360-degree 20 tonne Excavators (crawler track machines)
- Rubber-tyred Excavators 6 tonne JCB
- 3 tonne Mini Diggers
- 30 tonne Dump Trucks
- 6 tonne Dumpers
- 7.5 tonne multi-purpose truck
- 20 tonne and 30 tonne delivery trucks (importation of rock and bitumenous paving materials)
- Teleporter for erection of lighting columns
- Site Vehicles (4x4 wheel short base and vans)
- Compactor plates
- 1 tonne hand roller
- 6 tonne vibrating Rollers
- 10 tonne dead weight rollers
- Blawknex Paving Machine
- Bitumen Boiler/Hot Box
- Oil Tanker/Sprayer
- Road Planing Machine

- Extruded Kerb Laying Machine
- Road Saws/Con Saws/chain saws
- Bark Mulchers
- Air Compressors
- Jack Hammers
- Stihl Saws
- Small tools/hand tools
- Traffic Management Signs, Cones & Barriers
- Herras Fencing
- Mobile Traffic Lights
- Road Sweeper & Water Tank Truck
- PPE

All machinery will be inspected and certified to be free of leaks and weeps prior to mobilisation on site.

The materials will be typical civil engineering road construction materials consisting of cement, sand, gravel of various aggregate sizes, imported and reused top soil and precast concrete kerbs.

## **2.3 SITE PERSONNEL**

The number of site personnel required for the construction phase will be finalised by the appointed contractor but it is estimated that a maximum of 10 site personnel will be required to complete works for the project.

## **2.4 TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND**

A temporary compound will be provided for the duration of the works. The location will be decided upon appointment of the Contractor and subject to GCC approval.

## **2.5 SPOIL STORAGE**

All spoil excavated during the construction phase of the project will be reused so that the requirement of the import of material is eliminated or minimised to a low level. Any soil material excavated within the area of works or imported to the site will be stored in the area designated for spoil storage.

## **2.6 DURATION OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

It is estimated that the construction process will take up to 6 months.

## **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA**

The Crescent cycle route that will be subject to upgrade works is located along the existing road carriageway and footpath. The habitats occurring along the route are dominated by artificial surfaces (Fossitt Habitat Code BL3). Strips of amenity grassland (GA2), flower beds (BC4) as well as stone walls (BL1) occur along the sections of the route corridor.

There are no watercourses occurring at the surface along or adjacent to the cycle route, with the nearest watercourse represented by the Eglinton Canal approximately 400m to the northeast of the project site. The coast at Galway Bay is located approximately 550m to the south.

The project site is located within the Knock (Furbo\_SC\_010 sub-catchment of the Owenboliska-Cashla-Screeb-Coastal catchment. The surrounding lands are drained by a network of existing drains that form part of the Galway City combine sewerage network that conveys surface water to the municipal wastewater treatment plant for final treatment prior to discharge to the receiving environment

#### **4.0 IS THE PROJECT NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN SITES**

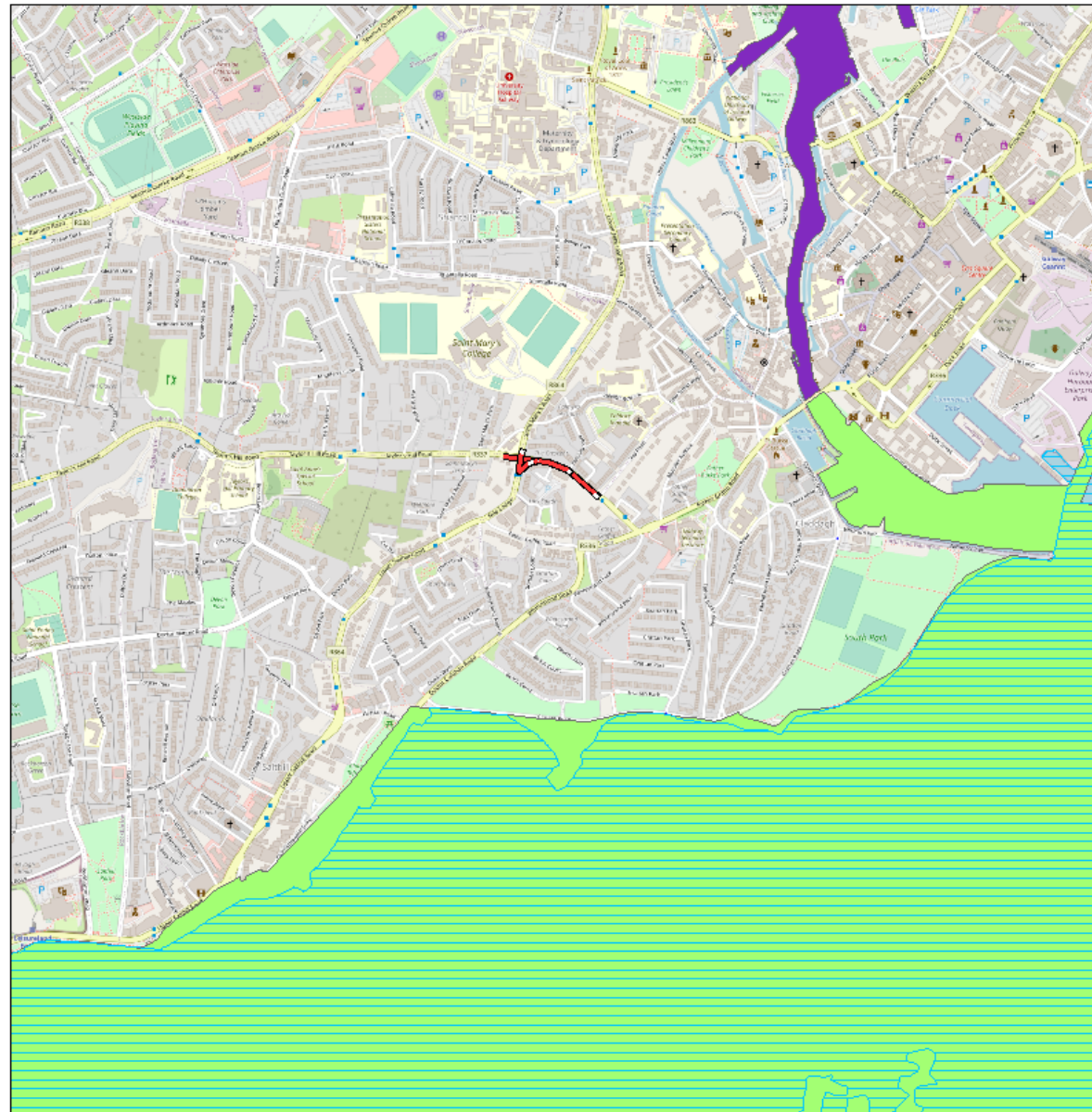
The project has been described in Section 2 of the Screening Report and it is clear from the description provided that the project is not directly connected with or necessary for the future conservation management of any European Sites.

#### **5.0 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PROJECT**

Current guidance informing the approach to screening for Appropriate Assessment defines the zone of influence of a proposed development as the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. It is recommended that this is established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) framework.

As a first step in identifying the European Sites that could be connected to the project via SPR pathways all European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area were identified. As can be seen in Figures 5.1 three European Sites, comprising Inner Galway Bay SPA, Galway Bay Complex SAC and Lough Corrib SAC, occur within the wider area surrounding the project site. All other European Sites are located at a remote distance from the project site and are not connected to it via any SPR pathways.

As the nearest European Sites (Galway Bay Complex SAC) is located approximately 175m (as the crow flies) overland to the southwest, the project will not have the potential to result in direct impacts to European Sites. Thus, this Screening exercise focuses on investigating whether it can or cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project will have the potential to result in indirect effects to European Sites or effect mobile



## The Crescent Cycle Route Upgrade

Figure 5.1

### European Sites in the surrounding area

- Project
- European Site
- Galway Bay Complex SAC
  - Lough Corrib SAC
  - Inner Galway Bay SPA

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Km



|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Drawn By    | PD         |
| Date        | 17/12/2021 |
| Data Source | Bing       |

species associated with European Sites beyond the boundaries of their designated conservation areas.

Using the SPR framework, the project as described in Section 2 of this Screening Report, represents the source of potential impacts to European Sites.

Potential for impact pathways to occur are examined in Table 5.1 below. These impact pathway include hydrological pathways and mobile species pathways. Other pathways that can function as impact vectors such as noise disturbance, emissions to air, visual disturbance and lighting are not examined in Table 5.1 due to the distance of approximately 600m separating the project site from the nearest European Sites and due to the location of the project in an urban environment. Given the projects location and the distance between it and the surrounding European Sites there will be no potential for these out types of pathways to function as impact pathways between the project site and European Sites.

The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest.

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are likely to occur in the zone of influence of the project only where hydrological pathways establish a link between the project and the European Site.

Table 5.1 provides a determination as to whether the European Sites in the wider area surrounding the project site occurs within its zone of influence.

## **5.1 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES**

Generic conservation objectives have been published for all three European Site occurring within the wider area surrounding the project site. These generic conservation objectives aim to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which SACs and SPAs has been selected.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and

- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats,
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Site Specific Conservation Objectives have been published for the three European Sites occurring in the surrounding area. Details of the Site-Specific Conservation Objectives for each of these European Sites can found on the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-site>.

**Table 5.1: European Sites occurring within the Wider Area Surrounding the Project Site**

| European Sites         | Distance from Project | Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Relationship with the project site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Galway Bay Complex SAC | 175m                  | <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Coastal lagoons [1150]</p> <p>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</p> <p>Reefs [1170]</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Turloughs [3180]</p> <p><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</p> | <p>None of the qualifying habitats of this SAC are connected to the project site. There are no watercourse occurring in the vicinity of the project site. All surface water generated at the project site is conveyed to the Galway City combine sewerage network and is conveyed to the Galway City wastewater treatment plant for treatment prior to release to the receiving environment. There are no pathways connecting the project site to the terrestrial and freshwater habitats of the SAC. There is no pathway connecting the project to the coastal habitats of this SAC. Given the absence of any pathways between the project site and these qualifying habitats there will be no potential for the project, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to influence the conservation status of these habitats and negatively affect their favourable conservation status.</p> <p>Give the absence of any surface watercourses in the vicinity of the project there are no suitable habitats for otters along or immediately adjacent to the project site.</p> |

|                  |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  |       | <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]</p> <p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Limestone pavements [8240]</p> <p>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p> <p>Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>There are no pathways connecting the project site to the harbour seal population occurring within the Lough Corrib estuary of the Galway Bay.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Lough Corrib SAC | 3.3km | <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130]</p> <p>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</p> <p>Active raised bogs [7110]</p> | <p>None of the qualifying habitats of this SAC are connected to the project site. There are no watercourse occurring in the vicinity of the project site. All surface water generated at the project site is conveyed to the Galway City combine sewerage network and is conveyed to the Galway City wastewater treatment plant for treatment prior to release to the receiving environment. There are no pathways connecting the project site to the terrestrial and freshwater habitats of the SAC. Given the absence of any pathways between the project site and these qualifying habitats there will be no potential for the project, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to influence the conservation status of these habitats and negatively affect their favourable conservation status.</p> <p>There is no suitable habitat for otters along or immediately adjacent to the project site. the minor</p> |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p> <p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Limestone pavements [8240]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Bog woodland [91D0]</p> <p><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <p><i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]</p> | <p>watercourse to the east of the project does not provide optimal foraging habitat for otters.</p> <p>The project will not result in any changes to the surrounding environment that could result in changes to its potential to support lesser horseshoe bats.</p> <p>No freshwater habitats occur at or surrounding the project site that have the potential to support freshwater invertebrate species of the SAC.</p> <p>The freshwater and terrestrial plant species of the SAC are supported by habitats located at remote distances to the project site and are unconnected to the project site via any pathways.</p> |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                      |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      |      | Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                        |
| Inner Galway Bay SPA | 400m | Black-throated Diver (Gavia arctica) [A002]<br>Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer) [A003]<br>Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]<br>Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) [A028]<br>Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046]<br>Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050]<br>Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]<br>Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069]<br>Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]<br>Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]<br>Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]<br>Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149]<br>Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]<br>Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]<br>Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162]<br>Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169]<br>Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179]<br>Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] | There is no suitable habitat for these wetland bird species of the SPA occurring along or in the vicinity of the proposed cycle route. |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                      |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  | Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191]<br>Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]<br>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

**Table 5.2: Relationship between the Project Site and European Sites in the surrounding area**

| European Sites                                  | Distance from Project Site | Is there a Hydrological Pathway and does it have the potential to function as an Impact Pathway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Do the Project have the potential to interact with Mobile Species                                                                                         | Is the project connected to the European Site?                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Galway Bay Complex SAC<br><br>Site Code: 000210 | 550km to the south         | No. No surface watercourses are crossed by the proposed cycle route and no surface watercourses occur immediately adjacent to the route. All surface water generated in this area is directed to existing road drains, which convey surface water to the combine sewerage network serving Galway City and is directed to the municipal wastewater treatment plant for final treatment prior to discharge to the receiving environment. | No. There is no suitable habitat to support mobile Annex 2 species of this SAC along the footprint of the project or immediately adjacent to the project. | No. For the reasons outlined in Column 3 and 4 opposite the project is not connected to European Sites. |

|                                               |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                               |                  | Given the above there will be no potential for surface waters generated at the footprint of the project site to discharge to the existing surface water network and for connection to be established between the project site and the section of this SAC at Rusheen Bay via the minor stream network of the Knock/Furbo sub-catchment.                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                         |
| Lough Corrib SAC<br><br>Site Code: 000297     | 550m to the east | No. The project site is located within a separate surface water catchment to this SAC and there are no hydrological pathways connecting the project to this SAC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No. There is no suitable habitat to support mobile Annex 2 species of this SAC along the footprint of the project or immediately adjacent to the project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | No. For the reasons outlined in Column 3 and 4 opposite the project is not connected to European Sites. |
| Inner Galway Bay SPA<br><br>Site Code: 004031 | 550km to south   | No. No surface watercourses are crossed by the proposed cycle route and no watercourse occurs in the vicinity of the route. The nearest watercourse is buffered from the project site by approximately 400m. All surface water generated in this area is directed to existing road drains, which convey surface water to the combine sewerage network serving Galway City and is directed to the municipal | No. No suitable habitat for special conservation interest bird species of this SPA occurs along or adjacent to the project site. All special conservation interest bird species of the SPA are wetland species and no suitable habitat for these species occurs along the route. In addition, the location of the project site in an urban setting further limits the potential for any | No. For the reasons outlined in Column 3 and 4 opposite the project is not connected to European Sites. |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                     |  |
|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  | <p>wastewater treatment plant for final treatment prior to discharge to the receiving environment. .</p> <p>Given the above there will be no potential for surface waters generated at the footprint of the project site to discharge to the existing surface water network and for connection to be established between the project site and the section of this SPA at the Galway Bat coast to the south</p> | <p>of these bird species to occur in the vicinity of the route.</p> |  |
|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

Table 5.1 and 5.2 above outlines the relationship between the project site and the European Sites occurring within the surrounding area. The three European Sites that have been identified in the wider surrounding area are not connected to the project site via potential impact pathways and as such there will be no potential for the project to interact with the qualifying features of interest of these three European Sites

The absence of any potential impact pathways will ensure that this project does not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites or the local environment surrounding the project site. A Screening Matrix, in line with European Commission (2001) guidelines is provided below in Table 5.2.

**Table 5.3: Screening Matrix for the proposed Crescent Cycle Route**

|                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brief description of the project or plan                                                                                                                            | The project and associated activities are described in Section 2 above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Brief description of the European Sites                                                                                                                             | The European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area are identified and briefly described in Figure 5.1 & Table 5.1 above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Sites. | The elements of the project that have been examined for potential environmental effects to European Sites relate to emissions from the project in the form of hydrological emissions and the potential for interactions with mobile qualifying species of European Sites. These have been examined in Table 5.2 above and there is no potential for emissions from the project site to establish pathways between the project site and surrounding European Sites to result in negative impacts to their conservation status. Furthermore, there is no potential for the project to interact with qualifying species of European Sites and the habitats upon which they rely. |
| Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in                                                                        | The project will not have the potential to result in direct, indirect or secondary impacts to European Sites. As there are no pathways                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>combination with other plans or projects) on the European Sites site by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• size and scale;</li> <li>• land-take;</li> <li>• distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;</li> <li>• resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);</li> <li>• emissions (disposal to land, water or air);</li> <li>• excavation requirements;</li> <li>• transportation requirements;</li> <li>• duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;</li> </ul> | <p>connecting the project site to surrounding European Sites and as the project will not result in significant negative impacts to the surrounding local environment it will not have the potential to combine with other projects in the surrounding area to result in cumulative significant effects to the local environment or European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.</p>                                     |
| <p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction of habitat area;</li> <li>• disturbance to key species;</li> <li>• habitat or species fragmentation;</li> <li>• reduction in species density;</li> <li>• changes in key indicators of conservation value</li> <li>• (water quality etc.);</li> <li>• climate change.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                           | <p>As there are no pathways between the project site and surrounding European Sites and as the project is not predicted to result in the emission of potentially polluting substances to the surrounding environment it will not have the potential to result in changes to qualifying habitats or qualifying species of European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area.</p>                                               |
| <p>Describe any likely impacts on the European Sites site as a whole in terms of:</p> <p>interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;</p> <p>interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>For reasons set out above the project will not have the potential to interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites.</p> <p>Given the absence of any connections between the project site and the three European Sites in the wider surrounding area, the conservation objectives for these sites, which have been published by the NPWS, will not be undermined by the project.</p> |
| <p>Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss;</li> <li>• fragmentation;</li> <li>• disruption;</li> <li>• disturbance;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>For reasons set out above the project will not have the potential to result in such effects to European Sites.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.).</li></ul>                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |
| 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. | The project will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. |

## 6.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

During the preparation of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment of the proposed cycle route upgrade to the Crescent it was found that three European Sites occur within the surrounding area and are connected to the project site via a hydrological pathway.

This screening report has examined the potential for pathways to connect the project site to these surrounding European Sites and has found that there are no pathways connecting project to these European Sites.

Given the absence of any pathways and the potential for interactions between the project and these European Sites there will be no potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to these European Sites.

In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Galway City Council that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

## REFERENCES

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