

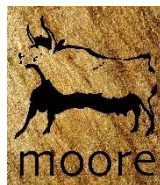
# Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening

as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive  
(Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

## Martin Roundabout Upgrade



Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

25<sup>th</sup> June 2019



On behalf of  
Galway City Council

<b>Client</b>	Galway City Council
<b>Project</b>	Martin Roundabout Upgrade
<b>Title</b>	Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening Martin Roundabout Upgrade

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<b>Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Limited</b>			

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## Appendix A – Finding of No Significant Effects Report

## Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
EEC	European Economic Community
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. General Introduction

This report has been prepared to accompany a Design Report for the Section 38 process and contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on the potential for proposed upgrade works relating to the road intersection at Martin Roundabout, Galway City (hereafter referred to as the proposed Project) to significantly affect European sites.

Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3):

- I). whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and
- II). whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

Also, having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (section 177U and 177V).

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to Stage 2 (AA). Screening should be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation. If potential impacts clearly can be avoided through the modification or redesign of the plan or project, then the screening process is repeated on the altered plan or project.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no risk of a significant effect and as such requires no further assessment; and
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain) and AA of the project is necessary.

This desktop report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services for Galway City Council and assesses the potential for the proposed Project to impact on sites of European-scale ecological importance in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe (B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (GMIT, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999)) who has 25 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

The report assesses the potential for the proposed Project to impact on sites of European-scale ecological importance. It is necessary that the proposed Project has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (referred to as the Habitats

Directive). This is transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

## 1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds), is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)):

**Article 6(3):** *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”*

**Article 6(4):** *“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts*

*a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”*

## 2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

**Stage 1 Screening:** This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on a Natura 2000 site. Mitigation measures (i.e., measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on the site concerned) cannot be taken into account at this stage.

**Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment:** In this stage, there is a consideration of the impact of the project with a view to ascertain whether there will be any adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are predicted impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts is considered.

**Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions:** This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

**Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain:** Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the proposed Project complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to inform the screening for AA of the proposed Project to be undertaken by the competent authority to determine if the next stage (Stage 2) of the AA process is required.

## 2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article Guidance Document.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).

## 2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
  - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data;
  - Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) mapping and aerial photography;
  - OSI/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rivers and streams, and catchments;
  - Open Street Maps;
  - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
  - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2019;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) including:
  - Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form;
  - Conservation Objectives;
  - Site Synopses;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records;
  - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
  - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013); and
- Relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans in neighbouring areas;
  - Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023
  - Ardaun Local Area Plan (LAP) 2018-2024

### 3. Description of the proposed Project

The proposed development includes the following scope of works:

- Upgrade of Martin Roundabout to a traffic signal-controlled junction incorporating pedestrian and cycle facilities;
- Upgrade of entry and exit flares on the R446 dual carriageway on both approaches to tie-in with new junction and inclusion of bus priority inbound;
- Improvement to R338 Old Dublin Rd. approach arm to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities, provision of bus lane and to tie-in with new signalised junction layout and to tie back to the existing pedestrian facilities; and
- Improvement to an upgrade of Ardaun Link Rd;
- Installation of new traffic signals, public lighting, positive surface water drainage;
- Construction of new pavement and overlay of the existing pavement where required; and
- Clearing of trees in the verge of the existing N67(R446) where required.

The existing surface water drainage is a mixed system consisting of positive drainage on the immediate approaches and throughout the roundabout and over the edge areas along dual carriageway R446 and Dublin Road. The existing positive drainage discharges to main drainage system at Doughiska Road Junction.

The proposed surface water drainage for Martin Junction is similar to existing. The positive drainage will be proposed throughout the junction and it will tie-in to existing discharge point. SuDS principles will be applied to detailed design. Existing over the edge drainage will be retained along dual carriageway R446.

Figure 1 shows the proposed Project location and Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the proposed Project on recent aerial photography. Figure 3 is a plan of the proposed Project boundary.

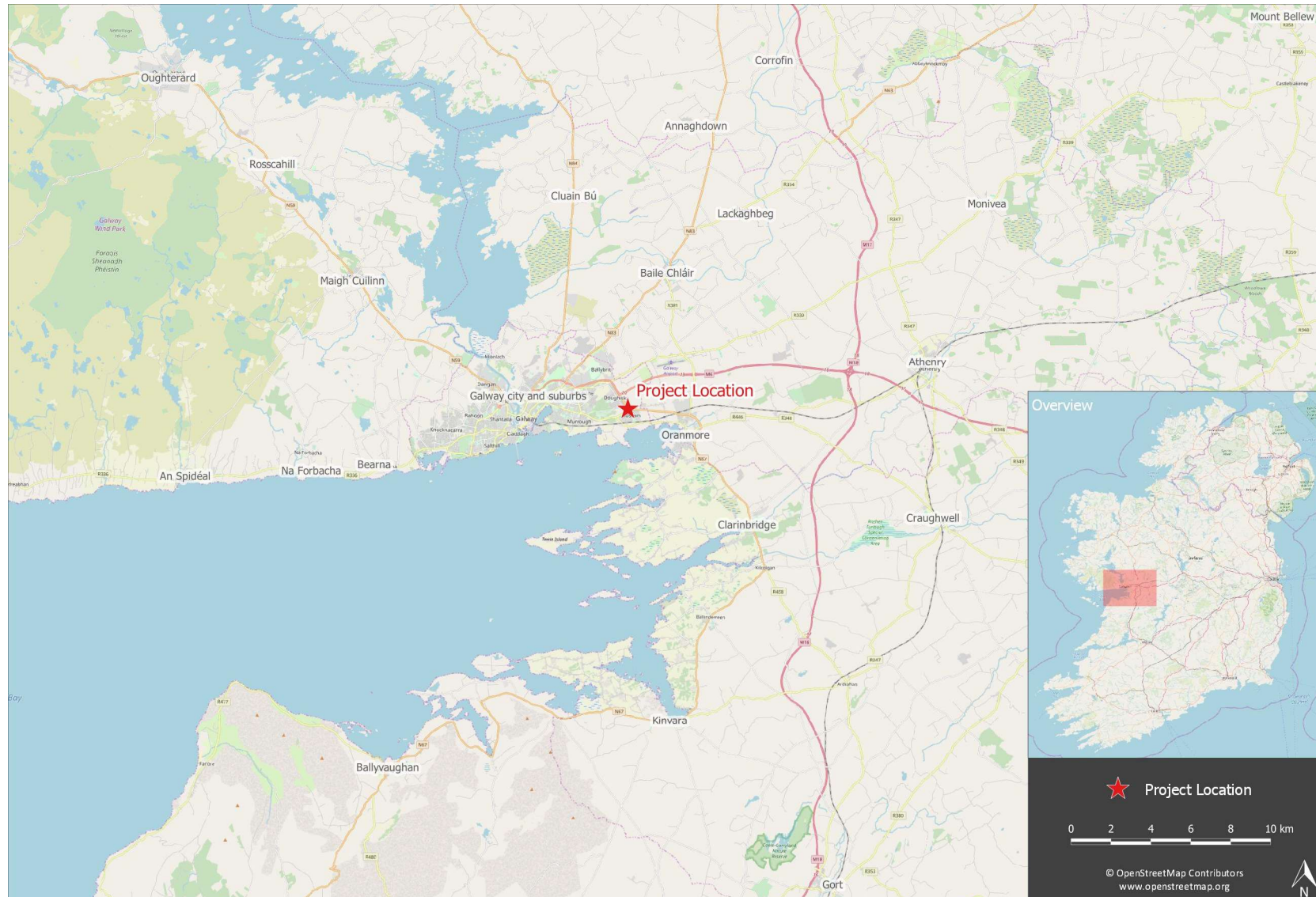


Figure 1. Showing the proposed Project location in the east of Galway City.



Figure 2. Showing the proposed Project location on recent aerial photography.

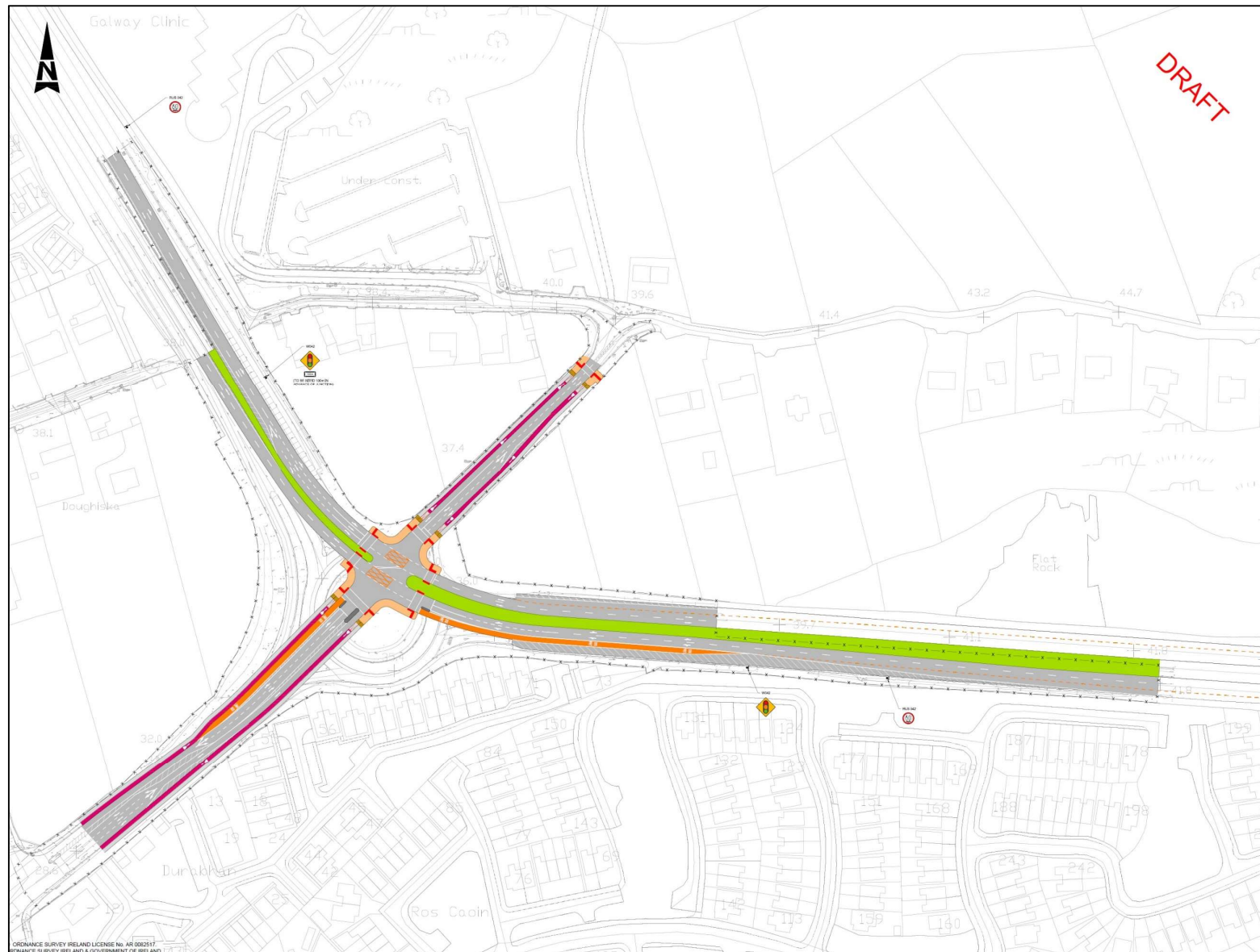


Figure 3. Plan of the propose Project boundary.

## 4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

### 4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Affected

DoEHLG (2009) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment suggests an assessment of European sites within a zone of impact of 15 km. This distance is a guidance only and the zone of impact has been identified taking consideration of the nature and location of the proposed Project to ensure all European sites with connectivity to it are considered in terms of a catchment-based assessment.

The zone of impact may be determined by connectivity to the proposed Project in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of works and possible impacts, nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Sensitivity and location of ecological features.

The guidance provides that, at the screening stage, it is necessary to identify the sites and compile information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives. In preparation for this, the potential for source pathway receptor connectivity is firstly identified and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within 15 km of the Project are listed in Table 1 and presented in Figures 4 and 5, below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

*Table 1 European Sites located within 15km or the potential zone of impact<sup>1</sup> of the Project.*

Site Code	Site name	Distance (km) <sup>2</sup>
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	13.21
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	0.80
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	4.98
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	12.59
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	10.59
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	13.25
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	14.45
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	0.84
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	6.95
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	12.52
004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	3.43

<sup>1</sup> All European sites potentially hydrologically connected irrespective of the nature or scale of the proposed Project.

<sup>2</sup> Distances indicated are the closest geographical distance between the proposed Project and the European site boundary, as made available by the NPWS. Connectivity along hydrological pathways may be significantly greater.

The proposed Project is to take place within the suburban environment of Galway City. The nearest European sites to the proposed Project are those associated with Galway Bay; Galway Bay Complex SAC (Site Code 000268) which is located approximately 800 m to the south of the proposed Project, and Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code 004031), which is located approximately 840 to the south of the proposed Project.

There are no rivers or streams located in the vicinity of the proposed Project, as indicated in Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) Geographical Information System (GIS) data, available from the EPA.

In light of the above, it is evident that there is no meaningful biological or relevant hydrological connectivity to any European sites.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The nature and scale of the proposed Project, which consists of the upgrade works to an existing road intersection;
- The distance between the proposed Project and any potentially connected European sites, approximately 800 m; and
- The lack of meaningful hydrological pathways between the proposed Project and any European sites. There are no rivers or streams in the vicinity of the proposed Project, and surface water passes to ground either through over the edge drainage or via surface drains connected to subsurface drainage chambers which are to be located within the proposed development boundary.

Having considered the above, significant effects on any European sites as a result of the proposed Project can be ruled out and potential significant effects on European sites can be excluded at a preliminary screening stage.

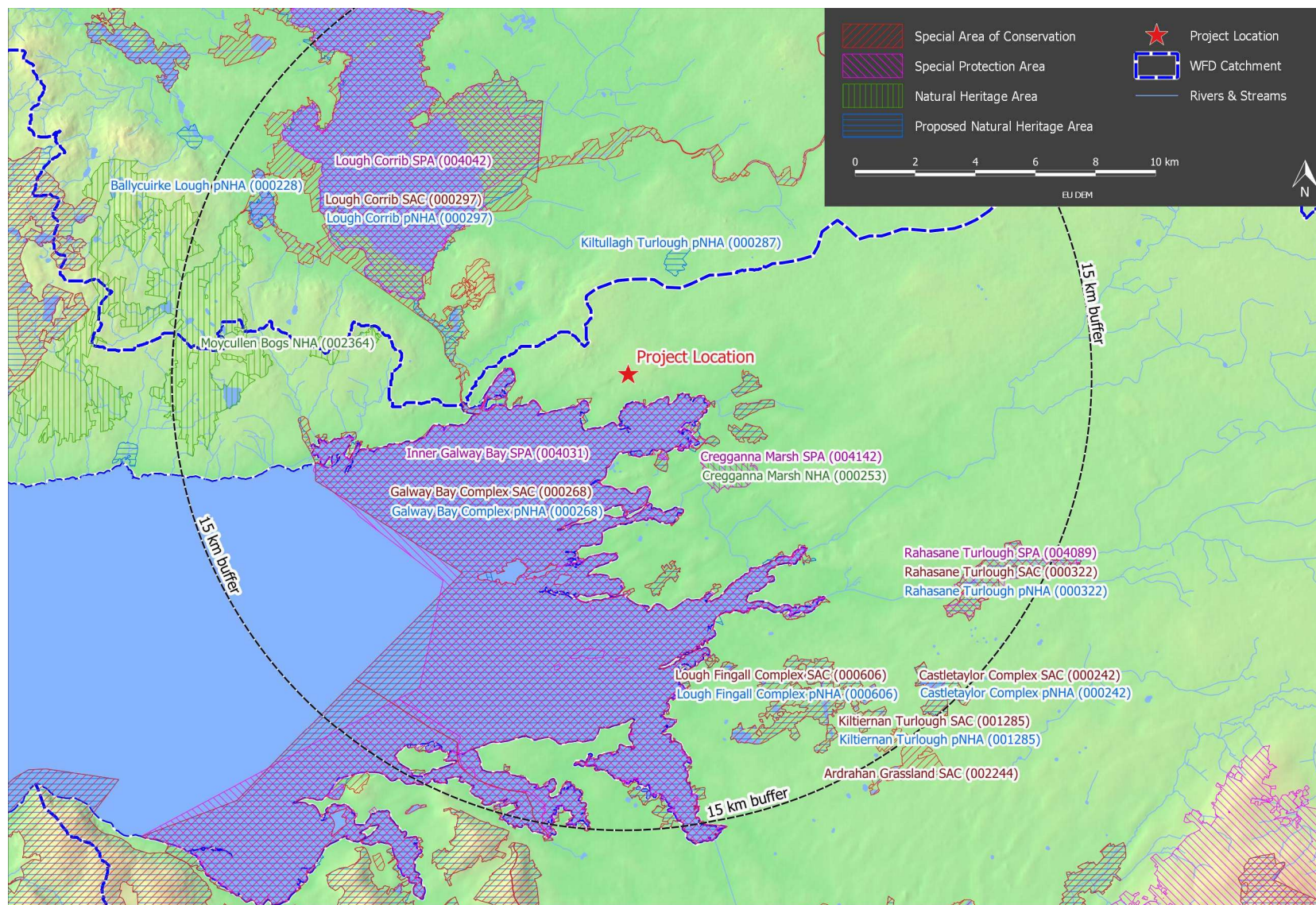


Figure 4. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within 15 km of the proposed Project.

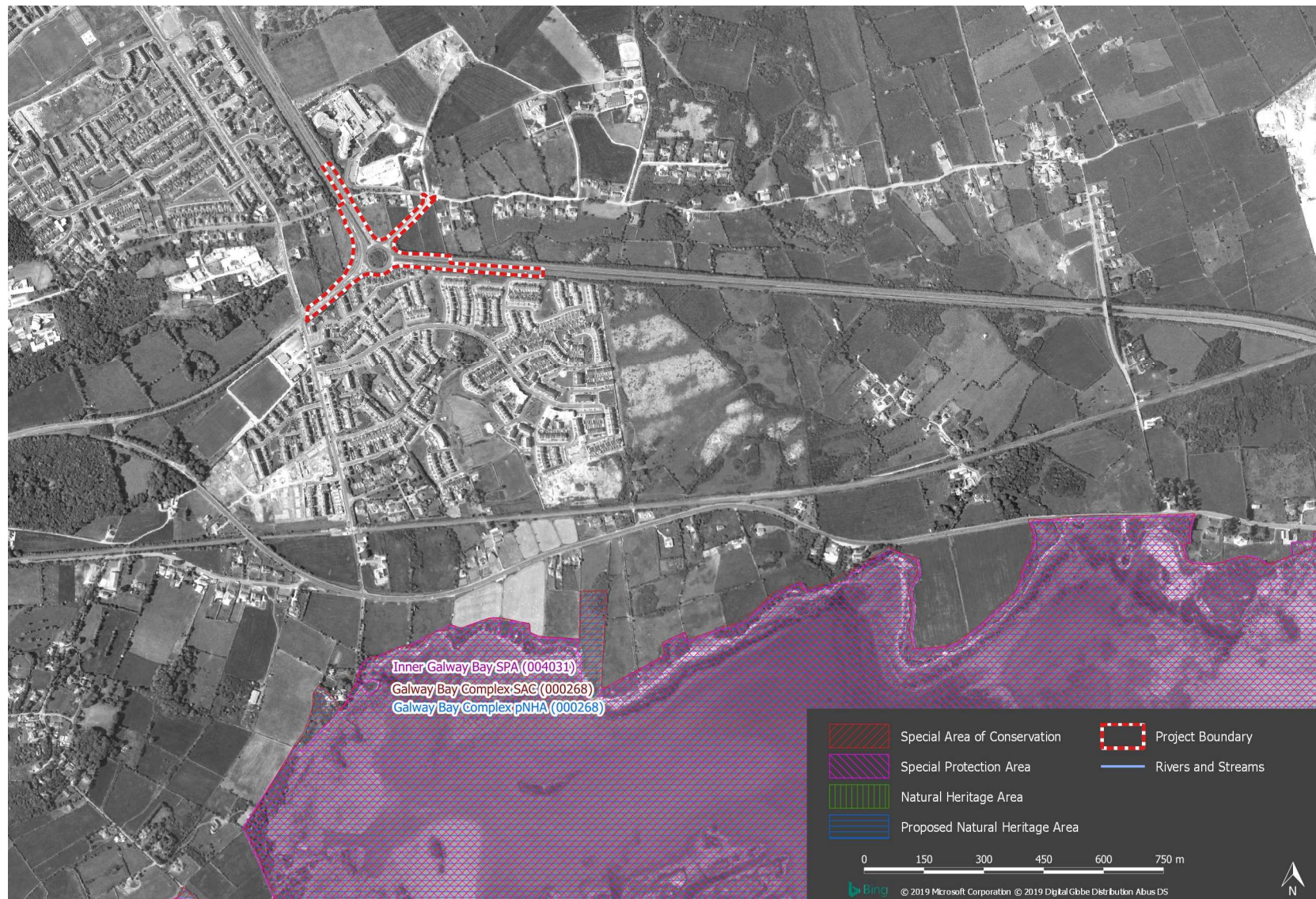


Figure 5. Detailed view of European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within 15 km of the proposed Project.

## 4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

An analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken. It was assumed that these supporting roles mainly related to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account during the rest of the AA process.

The Galway Bay Complex (Site Code 000268) is also a proposed Natural Heritage Area. However, for the purposes of this AA screening report this area is dealt with under its higher conservation status designation as a European site.

## 5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The proposed Project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

### 5.1. Potential Impacts

The proposed Project is to take place within the suburban environment of Galway City. The nearest European sites to the proposed Project are those associated with Galway Bay; Galway Bay Complex SAC (Site Code 000268) which is located approximately 800 m to the south of the proposed Project, and Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code 004031), which is located approximately 840 to the south of the proposed Project.

There are no rivers or streams located in the vicinity of the proposed Project, as indicated in Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) Geographical Information System (GIS) data, available from the EPA.

In light of the above, it is evident that there is no meaningful biological or relevant hydrological connectivity to any European sites.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The nature and scale of the proposed Project, which consists of the upgrade works to an existing road intersection;
- The distance between the proposed Project and any potentially connected European sites, approximately 800 m; and

- The lack of meaningful hydrological pathways between the proposed Project and any European sites. There are no rivers or streams in the vicinity of the proposed Project, and surface water passes to ground either through over the edge drainage or via surface drains connected to subsurface drainage chambers which are to be located within the proposed development boundary.

Having considered the above, significant effects on any European sites as a result of the proposed Project have been ruled out and potential significant effects on European sites have been excluded at a preliminary screening stage.

## 5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

Cumulative impacts or effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. Cumulative impacts can be thought of as occurring through two main pathways: first, through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resource, and second, through the compounding effects as a result of the coming together of two or more effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed Project, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the proposed development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A review of mapping made available through the planning section of the Galway City Council website indicates that, within the last three years, there have been 14 applications for planning granted permission in the vicinity of the proposed Project, details below.

Under **Planning Ref 17243** Galway City Council granted permission for a one-storey high extension to existing hospital on lands (site area 4.9 hectares) comprising new electrical equipment rooms at first floor level totalling 76 sq. metres in additional floor area, by means of enclosing an existing open area of roof above ground floor accommodation, with top of new external wall parapet to match existing adjoining parapet level of +49.34.

Under **Planning Ref 16206** Galway City Council granted permission for retention of existing c.4.3m. high perimeter walls to external hard-standing area adjoining waste stores and compound to rear of hospital and to enclose the area by construction of a roof and doors into a new 88 sq.m. single-storey external store building.

Under **Planning Ref 1781** Galway City Council granted permission for extension of duration on Pl. Reg. Ref. No. 12/135 a new five-storey accommodation wing attached to the existing hospital building on lands (site area 4.9 hectares). The new wing shall provide in-patient accommodation for 79 persons comprising 3 no. wards on first, second and third floor levels, each with 21 no. single bedrooms and a new I.C.U. at ground floor level to include 16 no. single bedrooms. The new wing shall also include 3 no. endoscopy rooms with an endoscopy cleaning room at ground floor level and engineering workshops, stores, plant rooms & waste rooms at lower ground floor

level, a new lift and stairs together with a reconfigured external service area. The accompanying Drainage Report notes that the current Hospital and proposed extension are to be connected to the existing Merlin Park Area Sewerage System.

Under **Planning Ref 18325** Galway City Council granted permission for development which will consist of gable extension to two storey town house and a single storey kitchen extension at rear with necessary alterations. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16213** Galway City Council granted permission to retain (a) two storey extension to floor area (b) minor elevation alterations to dwelling house at No. 17 (previously known as No.2) Doughiska Road, Galway. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 1936** Galway City Council granted permission for development which consists of the construction of a single storey side extension and all associated works. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16245** Galway City Council granted permission for development which will consist of 3 no. new detached 4 bed dwelling houses with domestic garages, connections to the public sewer, individual street access, the provision of a new public footpath, on site private parking and all the associated site works. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 17256** Galway City Council granted permission for modifications to elevations and internal layout of previously approved Indoor Hurling Arena planning permission ref 1439 with revised design of the 2 storey entrance area and a new 2 storey entrance structure replacing current entrance to the existing clubhouse. The development site has existing connections to the public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16222** Galway City Council granted permission to construct 3 dwellinghouses consisting of 2 no. semi-detached two storey units and one detached two storey unit and all associated services. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 17161** Galway City Council granted permission for development to construct two semi-detached two storey dwellinghouses and associated services. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water. An existing septic tank on the site is to be decommissioned.

Under **Planning Ref 16260** Galway City Council granted permission to construct 2 no. semi-detached two storey dwellinghouses and all associated services. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 18176** Galway City Council granted permission for the construction of a Storage Shed/Utility Room in the rear garden of existing dwelling house.

Under **Planning Ref 18206** Galway City Council granted permission for development on a 0.9ha site bounded by the Ros Caoin and Boireann Bheag developments, for demolition of existing dwelling and the construction of 37 residential units comprising; 10 two storey four bedroom semi-detached houses, 2 no two storey three bedroom semi-detached houses, 8 no two storey three bedroom terraced houses, a four/five storey apartment block containing 4 no one bedroom apartments, 11 no two bedroom apartments and 2 no three bedroom apartments, bin store together with all associated site, development/ car parking/landscaping /boundary treatment works. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16273** Galway City Council granted permission for the construction of a single storey extension to the side & rear of the existing semi-detached two storey dwelling, consisting of a new kitchen/living space, utility room playroom & associated site works. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that the above developments, where appropriate, either have or are proposed to have connection to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of surface water and wastewater and given that it is predicted that the proposed Project will have no effect on any European site.

The Galway City Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of impact of the Project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way any, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the development area and surrounding townlands in which the development site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the Project area will be assessed on a case by case basis by Galway City Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## 6. Conclusion

The proposed Project is to take place within the suburban environment of Galway City. The nearest European sites to the proposed Project are those associated with Galway Bay; Galway Bay Complex SAC (Site Code 000268) which is located approximately 800 m to the south of the proposed Project, and Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code 004031), which is located approximately 840 to the south of the proposed Project.

There are no rivers or streams located in the vicinity of the proposed Project, as indicated in Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) Geographical Information System (GIS) data, available from the EPA.

In light of the above, it is evident that there is no meaningful biological or relevant hydrological connectivity to any European sites.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The nature and scale of the proposed Project, which consists of the upgrade works to an existing road intersection;
- The distance between the proposed Project and any potentially connected European sites, approximately 800 m; and
- The lack of meaningful hydrological pathways between the proposed Project and any European sites. There are no rivers or streams in the vicinity of the proposed Project, and surface water passes to ground either through over the edge drainage or via surface drains connected to subsurface drainage chambers which are to be located within the proposed development boundary.

Having considered the above, significant effects on any European sites as a result of the proposed Project have been ruled out and potential significant effects on European sites have been excluded at a preliminary screening stage.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The proposed Project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The proposed Project is unlikely to indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The proposed Project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
4. It is possible to conclude that there would be no significant effects, no potentially significant effects and no uncertain effects if the proposed Project were to proceed.

It is the view of Moore Group Environmental Services that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.

A finding of no significant effects report is presented in Appendix A in accordance with the EU Commission's methodological guidance (European Commission, 2001).

## 7. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

European Commission (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission Environment DG (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (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 interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

NPWS (2013) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2018) National Parks and Wildlife Service Metadata available online at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

# Appendix A

## *FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT*

### Finding no significant effects report matrix

#### Name of project or plan

Proposed Upgrade Works Relating to Martin Roundabout Galway City.

#### Name and location of the Natura 2000 site(s)

The proposed Project is to take place within the suburban environment of Galway City. The nearest European sites to the proposed Project are those associated with Galway Bay; Galway Bay Complex SAC (Site Code 000268) which is located approximately 800 m to the south of the proposed Project, and Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code 004031), which is located approximately 840 to the south of the proposed Project.

There are no rivers or streams located in the vicinity of the proposed Project, as indicated in Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) Geographical Information System (GIS) data, available from the EPA.

#### Description of the project or plan

The proposed development includes the following scope of works:

- Upgrade of Martin Roundabout to a traffic signal-controlled junction incorporating pedestrian and cycle facilities;
- Upgrade of entry and exit flares on the R446 dual carriageway on both approaches to tie-in with new junction and inclusion of bus priority inbound;
- Improvement to R338 Old Dublin Rd. approach arm to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities, provision of bus lane and to tie-in with new signalised junction layout and to tie back to the existing pedestrian facilities; and
- Improvement to an upgrade of Ardaun Link Rd;
- Installation of new traffic signals, public lighting, positive surface water drainage;
- Construction of new pavement and overlay of the existing pavement where required; and
- Clearing of trees in the verge of the existing N67(R446) where required.

The existing surface water drainage is a mixed system consisting of positive drainage on the immediate approaches and throughout the roundabout and over the edge areas along dual carriageway R446 and Dublin Road. The existing positive drainage discharges to main drainage system at Doughiska Road Junction.

The proposed surface water drainage for Martin Junction is similar to existing. The positive drainage will be proposed throughout the junction and it will tie-in to existing discharge point. SuDS principles will be applied to detailed design. Existing over the edge drainage will be retained along dual carriageway R446.

#### Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site(s)

No

#### Are there other projects or plans that together with the projects or plan being assessed could affect the site

A review of mapping made available through the planning section of the Galway City Council website indicates that, within the last three years, there have been 14 applications for planning granted permission in the vicinity of the proposed Project, details below.

Under **Planning Ref 17243** Galway City Council granted permission for a one-storey high extension to existing hospital on lands (site area 4.9 hectares) comprising new electrical equipment rooms at first floor level totalling 76 sq. metres in additional floor area, by means of enclosing an existing open area of roof above ground floor accommodation, with top of new external wall parapet to match existing adjoining parapet level of +49.34.

Under **Planning Ref 16206** Galway City Council granted permission for retention of existing c.4.3m. high perimeter walls to external hard-standing area adjoining waste stores and compound to rear of hospital and to enclose the area by construction of a roof and doors into a new 88 sq.m. single-storey external store building.

Under **Planning Ref 1781** Galway City Council granted permission for extension of duration on Pl. Reg. Ref. No. 12/135 a new five-storey accommodation wing attached to the existing hospital building on lands (site area 4.9 hectares). The new wing shall provide in-patient accommodation for 79 persons comprising 3 no. wards on first, second and third floor levels, each with 21 no. single bedrooms and a new I.C.U. at ground floor level to include 16 no. single bedrooms. The new wing shall also include 3 no. endoscopy rooms with an endoscopy cleaning room at ground floor level and engineering workshops, stores, plant rooms & waste rooms at lower ground floor level, a new lift and stairs together with a reconfigured external service area. The accompanying Drainage Report notes that the current Hospital and proposed extension are to be connected to the existing Merlin Park Area Sewerage System.

Under **Planning Ref 18325** Galway City Council granted permission for development which will consist of gable extension to two storey town house and a single storey kitchen extension at rear with necessary alterations. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16213** Galway City Council granted permission to retain (a) two storey extension to floor area (b) minor elevation alterations to dwelling house at No. 17 (previously known as No.2) Doughiska Road, Galway. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 1936** Galway City Council granted permission for development which consists of the construction of a single storey side extension and all associated works. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16245** Galway City Council granted permission for development which will consist of 3 no. new detached 4 bed dwelling houses with domestic garages, connections to the public sewer, individual street access, the provision of a new public footpath, on site private parking and all the associated site works. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 17256** Galway City Council granted permission for modifications to elevations and internal layout of previously approved Indoor Hurling Arena planning permission ref 1439 with revised design of the 2 storey entrance area and a new 2 storey entrance structure replacing current entrance to the existing clubhouse. The development site has existing connections to the public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16222** Galway City Council granted permission to construct 3 dwellinghouses consisting of 2 no. semi-detached two storey units and one detached two storey unit and all associated services. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 17161** Galway City Council granted permission for development to construct two semi-detached two storey dwellinghouses and associated services. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water. An existing septic tank on the site is to be decommissioned.

Under **Planning Ref 16260** Galway City Council granted permission to construct 2 no. semi-detached two storey dwellinghouses and all associated services. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 18176** Galway City Council granted permission for the construction of a Storage Shed/Utility Room in the rear garden of existing dwelling house.

Under **Planning Ref 18206** Galway City Council granted permission for development on a 0.9ha site bounded by the Ros Caoin and Boireann Bheag developments, for demolition of existing dwelling and the construction of 37 residential units comprising; 10 two storey four bedroom semi-detached houses, 2 no two storey three bedroom semi-detached houses, 8 no two storey three bedroom terraced houses, a four/five storey apartment block containing 4 no one bedroom apartments, 11 no two bedroom apartments and 2 no three bedroom apartments, bin store together with all associated site, development/ car parking/landscaping /boundary treatment works. The development is to be connected to the existing public sewers for the treatment of wastewater and surface water.

Under **Planning Ref 16273** Galway City Council granted permission for the construction of a single storey extension to the side & rear of the existing semi-detached two storey dwelling, consisting of a new kitchen/living

space, utility room playroom & associated site works. The existing house is connected to the public sewer for wastewater and surface water.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that the above developments, where appropriate, either have or are proposed to have connection to the existing public sewer network for the treatment of surface water and wastewater and given that it is predicted that the proposed Project will have no effect on any European site.

The Galway City Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of impact of the Project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way any, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the development area and surrounding townlands in which the development site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the Project area will be assessed on a case by case basis by Galway City Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

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## ***THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS***

**Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.**

The proposed Project is to take place within the suburban environment of Galway City. The nearest European sites to the proposed Project are those associated with Galway Bay; Galway Bay Complex SAC (Site Code 000268) which is located approximately 800 m to the south of the proposed Project, and Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code 004031), which is located approximately 840 to the south of the proposed Project.

There are no rivers or streams located in the vicinity of the proposed Project, as indicated in Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) Geographical Information System (GIS) data, available from the EPA.

In light of the above, it is evident that there is no meaningful biological or relevant hydrological connectivity to any European sites.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The nature and scale of the proposed Project, which consists of the upgrade works to an existing road intersection;
- The distance between the proposed Project and any potentially connected European sites, approximately 800 m; and
- The lack of meaningful hydrological pathways between the proposed Project and any European sites. There are no rivers or streams in the vicinity of the proposed Project, and surface water passes to ground either through over the edge drainage or via surface drains connected to subsurface drainage chambers which are to be located within the proposed development boundary.

Having considered the above, significant effects on any European sites as a result of the proposed Project have been ruled out and potential significant effects on European sites have been excluded at a preliminary screening stage.

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**Explain why these effects are not considered significant.**

See above

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**List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address**

The requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening was determined by Galway City Council.

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**Response to consultation**

N/A.

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## ***DATA COLLECTED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT***

**Who carried out the assessment**

Moore Group Environmental Services.

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**Sources of data**

NPWS database of designated sites at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

National Biodiversity Data Centre database <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

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**Level of assessment completed**

Desktop Assessment.

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**Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed**

Galway City Council Planning Section.

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## *OVERALL CONCLUSIONS*

The proposed Project is to take place within the suburban environment of Galway City. The nearest European sites to the proposed Project are those associated with Galway Bay; Galway Bay Complex SAC (Site Code 000268) which is located approximately 800 m to the south of the proposed Project, and Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code 004031), which is located approximately 840 to the south of the proposed Project.

There are no rivers or streams located in the vicinity of the proposed Project, as indicated in Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) Geographical Information System (GIS) data, available from the EPA.

In light of the above, it is evident that there is no meaningful biological or relevant hydrological connectivity to any European sites.

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The nature and scale of the proposed Project, which consists of the upgrade works to an existing road intersection;
- The distance between the proposed Project and any potentially connected European sites, approximately 800 m; and
- The lack of meaningful hydrological pathways between the proposed Project and any European sites. There are no rivers or streams in the vicinity of the proposed Project, and surface water passes to ground either through over the edge drainage or via surface drains connected to subsurface drainage chambers which are to be located within the proposed development boundary.

Having considered the above, significant effects on any European sites as a result of the proposed Project have been ruled out and potential significant effects on European sites have been excluded at a preliminary screening stage.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The proposed Project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The proposed Project is unlikely to indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The proposed Project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
4. It is possible to conclude that there would be no significant effects, no potentially significant effects and no uncertain effects if the proposed Project were to proceed.

It is the view of Moore Group Environmental Services that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.