

# **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

**in accordance with the requirements of  
Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive**

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**for proposed  
Social and affordable housing scheme**

**At**

**Cappagh Road, Galway City**

**by**

**CAAS Ltd**

**for**

**Galway City Council**



**June 2025**

## Document Control

|                    | Author/Reviewer                      | Date                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| <b>status</b>      | Final for issue                      |                               |

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1. Background to this report

CAAS has been appointed by Galway City Council to prepare this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) for a proposed social and affordable housing scheme at Cappagh, Cappagh Road, Galway City. The proposed development is comprised of two sites (Site A and Site B) which will be referred collectively as “the proposed development” in this report, unless otherwise stated. This report has been prepared to assist the Council in assessing whether the proposed development should be subject to AA and whether a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) should be prepared for it.

## 1.2. Report structure

This report sets out an overview of the methodology used for this screening for AASR. It then describes the proposed development including any associated works, followed by a description of receiving environment of the proposed development site, and any relationships to European sites. Subsequently the factors that determine which European sites are included in the report are described and the selected European sites are identified.

The proposed development and its potential sources for effect are then examined in the context of the receiving environment, connectivity to the relevant European site and their sensitive ecological features. Following this, the metrics for the assessment of a ‘likelihood of significant effect’ of these potential effects are applied to each of the European sites identified, with support from scientific literature where relevant.

The assessment is undertaken in view of the Conservation Objectives, known sensitivities and threats and pressures on the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests for each European site. The potential for such effects to be increased or presented independently when the proposed project is considered in-combination with effects arising from other plans and/or projects is also taken into account as part of this screening for AA report.

A subsequent reasoned conclusion is provided, i.e., a statement as to whether a likelihood of significant effects was identified for any of the European sites considered in this report.

Appendices provide supporting information and data utilised in this screening for AA report, including the legislative background and context for screening for AA in the overall AA process, followed by author details and competencies.

# 2 Methodology

## 2.1. AA Screening Overview

Screening for AA identifies any likely significant effects on European sites arising from the project (for the purposes of this report, the “project” is herein referred to as the “proposed development”), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The proposed development and receiving environment of the proposed development are examined in order to determine:

- Whether the project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.

- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

The proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site and therefore will be considered as to whether it may have a potentially significant effect on any European site in screening for AA.

## 2.2. Relevant guidance

This AASR is prepared in line with the relevant legislation (ref s1.3), is based on best scientific knowledge, and has utilised ecological expertise, with consideration of the relevant guidance, including the following:

- *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021;*
- *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021;*
- *Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018; and*
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009.*

## 2.3. Assessment methodology

See Appendix III for an overview of the legislative context for this report, the Habitats Directive, and the AA process.

### 2.3.1. Source-pathway-receptor model

The assessment of potential for significant effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor (SPR) model, where, in order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place.

Examples of a source, pathway and receptor are:

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

Thus, in the context of this report, a receptor is a QI or SCI, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QIs or SCIs of a European site. A source is an element of the proposed development that may interact with the QI, SCI, or any ecological processes underpinning a QI or SCI. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor<sup>1</sup>, for example a river.

When all three elements of the SPR model are in place, a pathway for potential effect is identified to that European site. The pathway, receptor and source for effect are then examined further by conducting a desktop review, in the context of the receiving environment and the characteristics of

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<sup>1</sup> Receptor example: a Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interest of the European site in question in the context of their known sensitivities and Conservation Objectives

the proposed development, in order to establish a Zone of Influence for potential significant effects.

### 2.3.2. Desktop review

The identification of the “Conservation Objectives” (COs), “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment is an integral part of the screening for AA process.

QIs are the habitats and species (flora and fauna) listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively, for which each Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has been designated under the Habitats Directive. SCIs are bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive for which each Special Protection Area (SPA) has been designated under the Habitats Directive. Under the requirements of the Habitats Directive, the threats and pressures on the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs, with specific regard to the COs of each site, are considered as part of the assessment.

The COs or Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for each site aim to achieve and maintain the favourable conservation status<sup>2</sup> for a particular habitat or species at that site. COs define the requirements for the favourable conservation condition of the QIs or SCIs at a given European site by setting targets for attributes which define the healthy characteristics of a given habitat or species. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level, as defined by their COs will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Note: where detailed SSCO have not been prepared for any European site, the below First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives apply:

| <i>European site type</i> | <i>First Order Site-specific Conservation Objective<sup>3</sup></i>                                                                                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SAC                       | To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected |
| SPA                       | To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA                  |

Any European sites identified by this report at risk of potential effects from the proposed development as a result of the SPR model is reviewed in the context of the proposed development, and the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats pertaining to the QIs and SCIs of the European sites identified. Where the SPR model identified European sites, the following databases are utilised in the preparation of this AASR: the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>4</sup>; the NPWS<sup>5</sup>; the

<sup>2</sup> Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when:

‘its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable’.

<sup>3</sup> NPWS Conservation Management Planning [website](#).

<sup>4</sup> NBDC datasets available [here](#)

<sup>5</sup> NPWS European sites information and mapping available [here](#) and [here](#) respectively

EPA<sup>6</sup>; data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019; and, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland* report (NPWS, 2019). Based on these resources, the desktop review is also comprised of the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within one or several zones of Influence (as defined in s 2.3.3) established using the source -pathway-receptor model (as defined in s 2.3.1);
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and Conservation Objectives for European sites within the zone(s) of influence for which potential pathways from the proposed development area have been identified; and
- Examination of available data on protected species' and habitats' distribution, trends and abundances – where relevant.

Supporting information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species is also reviewed in the following documents where relevant:

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" (NPWS, 2019);
- Ireland's Article 12 Report to the European Commission "Bird species' status and trends reporting format for the period 2008-2012-" (NPWS, 2012)
- Site Synopses<sup>7</sup>; and
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms<sup>13</sup>.

### 2.3.3. Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence (Zoi) is defined in the relevant guidance<sup>8,9</sup> as the geographical area, relative to the proposed development, over which it could affect the ecological receiving environment in any way that could result in potential significant effects on the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests of a given European site. When the Zone of Influence is established, European sites (and their respective QIs and SCIs) that occur within this zone are examined with supporting surveys conducted, if necessary, to ultimately determine whether or not there is a *likelihood of significant effect*<sup>10,11</sup> on a given European site. This is carried out by assessing objective information such as: the nature of the source for effect; the nature of the pathway; the distances involved; the QIs/SCIs (or 'receptors') involved, their threats, pressures and sensitivities; and, consulting best scientific evidence/literature when required.

As such, the presence of all three elements and the identification of a pathway for potential effect, does not automatically constitute the likelihood of significant effect to a European site, and is context dependent. However, the absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that there is no potential effect(s) and thus present no likelihood for significant effects. Where a likelihood for significant effects to any European site is established to be present, or the lack of significant effect cannot be ruled out, mitigation measures are required and

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<sup>6</sup> EPA datasets available [here](#)

<sup>7</sup> NPWS (2019); NPWS Database of protected site data and associated documents for each European site; available [here](#). Accessed June 2025

<sup>8</sup> OPR (2021). Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management

<sup>9</sup> CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

<sup>10</sup> "Likely" defined by the [OPR Practice Note PN01 on Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management \(2021\)](#) as the: "risk or possibility of effects occurring that cannot be ruled out based on objective information."

<sup>11</sup> With regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle ([C127/02 Waddenzee](#))

the proposed development must proceed to Stage 2 AA, where a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is compiled for the development in order to prevent adverse effects to the QIs/SCIs involved in view of their Conservation Objectives.

### 2.3.4. Characterising potential significant effects

The terms used to characterise potential effects<sup>12</sup> in this report are as follows: -

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

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines For Ecological Impact Assessment (2018) define *an ecologically significant impact as*: an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area; and, *the integrity of a site as*: the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

## 3 The proposed development

### 3.1. Proposed development description

The proposed development is comprised of two sites: Site A and Site B that are separated by a small site of 50m that is not part of the proposed development. A description for both sites is provided below, which is accompanied by a drawing of the proposed plan for each site in Figure 3.1.

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<sup>12</sup> Terms and parameters have been adapted from the following guidance documents on the conduction Appropriate Assessments and Ecological Impact Assessments:

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities
- CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester; and,

**Site A**

Development of 16 no. residential units comprising of: i) Block 1 – 12no. 2 bed units ii) Block 2 – 4no. 2 bed units iii) Provision of all associated surface water and foul drainage services and connections with all associated site works and ancillary services. iv) One no. vehicular access point from the An Cimín Mór Road, v) One no. designated pedestrian and cyclist access point from the An Cimín Mór Road, vi) Provision of 17no. total car parking spaces including 1 no. disabled parking space on site, vii) Secure bicycle parking spaces on site, including internal & external bike rack spaces. viii) Provision of communal open space including hard and soft landscaping such as planting and paving, and public lighting, ix) Provision of drainage systems including SUDS rain garden areas x) ESB Substation Kiosk xi) Potential for future connections to adjoining site located between both proposed sites. xii) All other associated and ancillary development and site works.

**Site B**

Development of 22 no. residential units comprising of: i) Block 3 – 6no. 3 bed units 2 ii) Block 4 – 5no. 1 bed units & 5no. 2 bed units iii) Block 5 – 6no. 2 bed units iv) Provision of all associated surface water and foul drainage services and connections with all associated site works and ancillary services. v) One no. vehicular access point from the An Cimín Mór Road, vi) One no. designated pedestrian and cyclist access point from the An Cimín Mór Road, vii) Provision of 34 no. total car parking spaces, including 1 no. disabled parking space within the development, viii) Secure bicycle parking spaces on site, including internal & external bike rack spaces. ix) Provision of communal open space including hard and soft landscaping such as planting and paving, and public lighting, x) Provision of drainage systems including SUDS rain garden areas xi) ESB Substation Kiosks xii) Potential for future connections to adjoining site located between both proposed sites. xiii) All other associated and ancillary development and site works.

A construction compound will be located on the south side of Site B for the duration of the construction phase. The southwest corner of Site B will be utilised as the location for temporary storage of stockpile during the construction phase.

**3.2. Drainage (wastewater and surface water)**

There is no existing wastewater infrastructure on site. Regarding surface water drainage infrastructure, the proposal will involve introduction of hard surface areas which will generate surface water run off from both site areas.

Thus, wastewater and surface-water drainage infrastructure is proposed as part of this development and will connect to existing mains systems located on An Cimín Mór Road. See Figure 3.2 and Figure 3.3 below for drawings of the proposed surface and wastewater infrastructure for both Site A and Site B with their respective connection points onto An Cimín Mór Road.



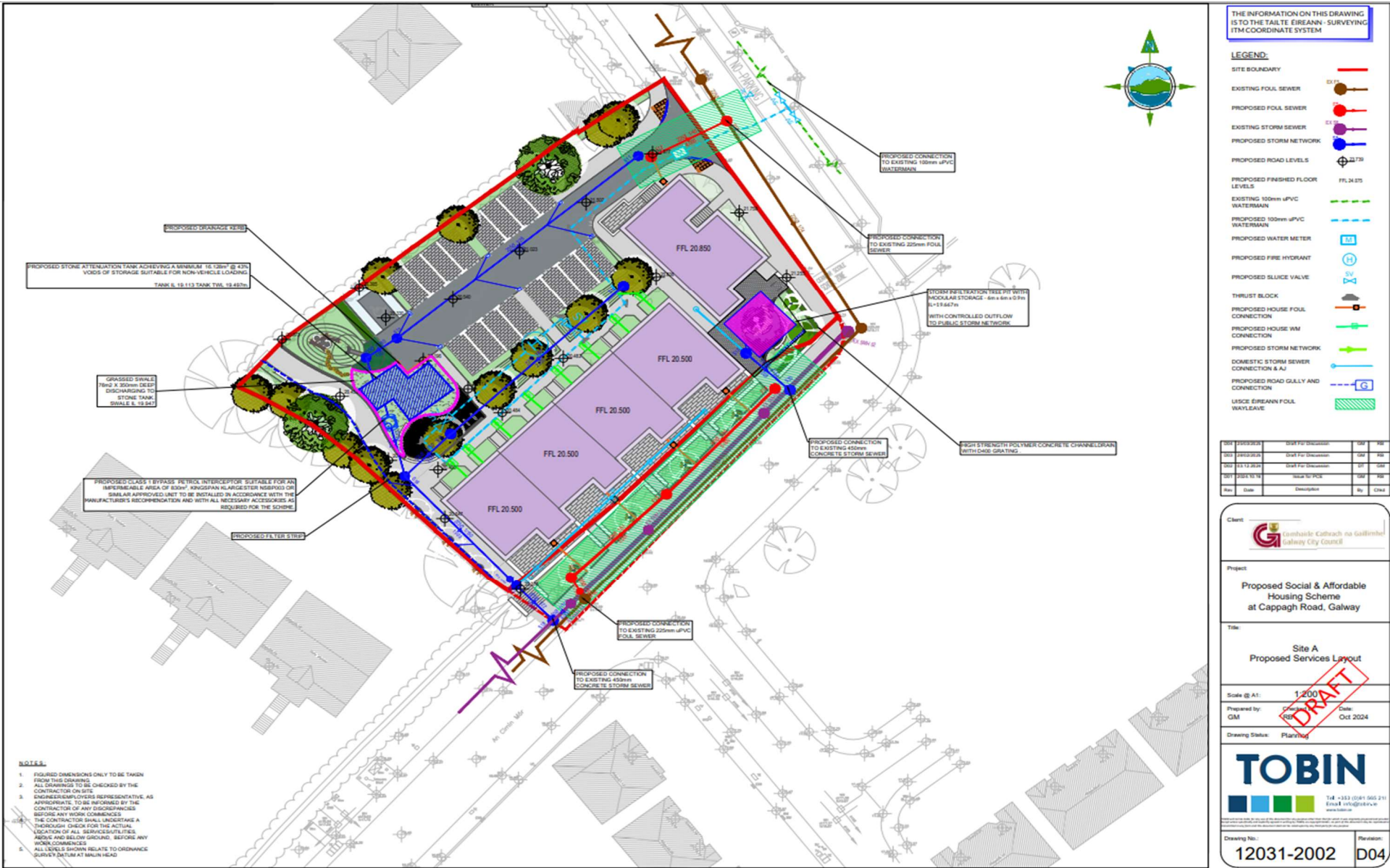
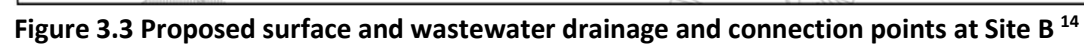


Figure 3.2 Proposed surface and wastewater drainage and connection points at Site A <sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Drawing by Tobin Consulting Engineers. See accompanying drawings set for full resolution version.



by CAAS for Galway City Council

## 4 The receiving environment

### 4.1. Overview & habitats

The proposed development site is located along An Cimín Mór Road, Cappagh Road, Galway City in a highly developed suburban residential neighbourhood of west Galway City (Figure 4.2). Both sites are composed mostly of Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) grassland habitats, that are moving towards improved grassland. There are no links to any Annex I grassland habitats due to the species composition of both sites. Both sites are also bordered by hedgerow composed of a mix of native broadleaf and non-native trees species such as ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) (some showing signs of ash dieback), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), and scrub composed of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), ivy (*Hedra helix*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and three-cornered leek (*Allium triquetrum*), which are Third Schedule invasive species and thus subject to restrictions in their management and treatment<sup>15</sup>, were identified in the north-west corner and western boundary respectively of Site B (Figure 4.1).

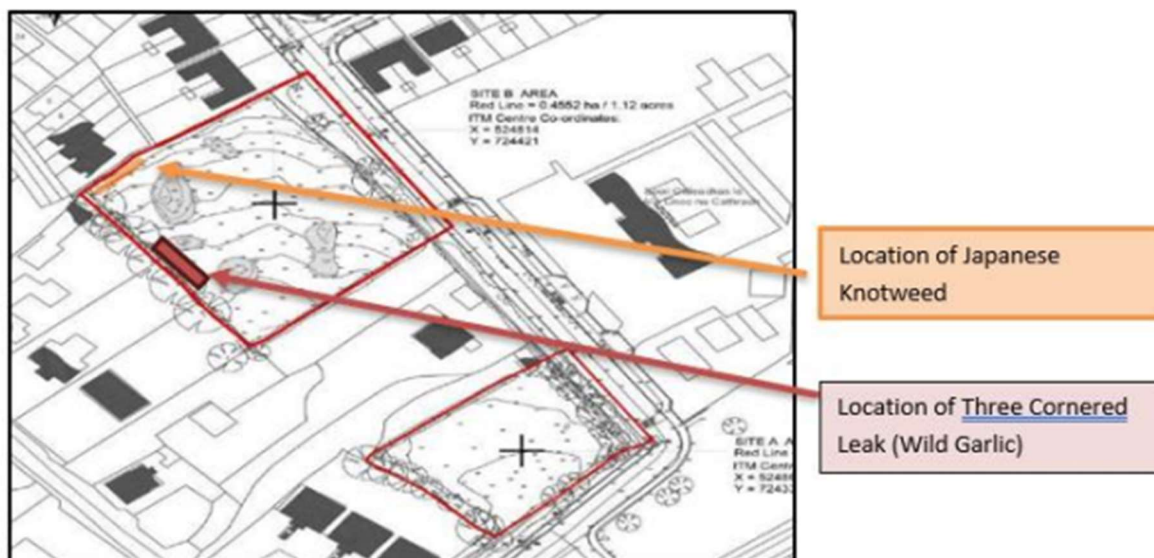


Figure 4.1 Location of invasive species at Site B<sup>16</sup>

### 4.2. Hydrology

There are no hydrological features within the proposed development site and there are no surface watercourses within the area surrounding the proposed development. The closest watercourse is the Barna Stream (IE\_WE\_31B010200), located approximately 290m west of the proposed site within Cappagh Park (Figure 4.3).

There is the possibility of indirect hydrological connectivity with local watercourses via suburban underground surface water drainage in the residential area surrounding the proposed development site and Cappagh Road.

<sup>15</sup> Regulations 49 and 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (S. I. No. 477 of 2011))

<sup>16</sup> Extract from "Japanese Knotweed Management Plan" (May 2025) which accompanies this report. Prepared for Site B of the proposed development by The Japanese Knotweed Company, Kerry.

### **4.3. Flood risk**

The proposed site does not occur within any area at risk of flooding according to the Geological Survey of Ireland's (GSI) flood risk mapping<sup>17</sup>.

### **4.4. Relationship to European sites**

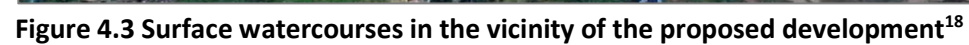
The proposed site does not occur within or adjacent to any European site. The closest European site is the Galway Bay Complex SAC and the Inner Galway Bay SPA which are approximately 290m and 570m from the proposed site boundary respectively (Figure 4.4). As previously mentioned, there are no Annex I habitats within the proposed development site. There is no direct surface hydrological connectivity between the proposed site and any European sites. However, there is the possibility of indirect hydrological connectivity with streams in the surrounding landscape via possible underground surface water drainage in the suburban area of west Galway City surrounding the proposed development site, that could connect downstream to Galway Bay Complex SAC.

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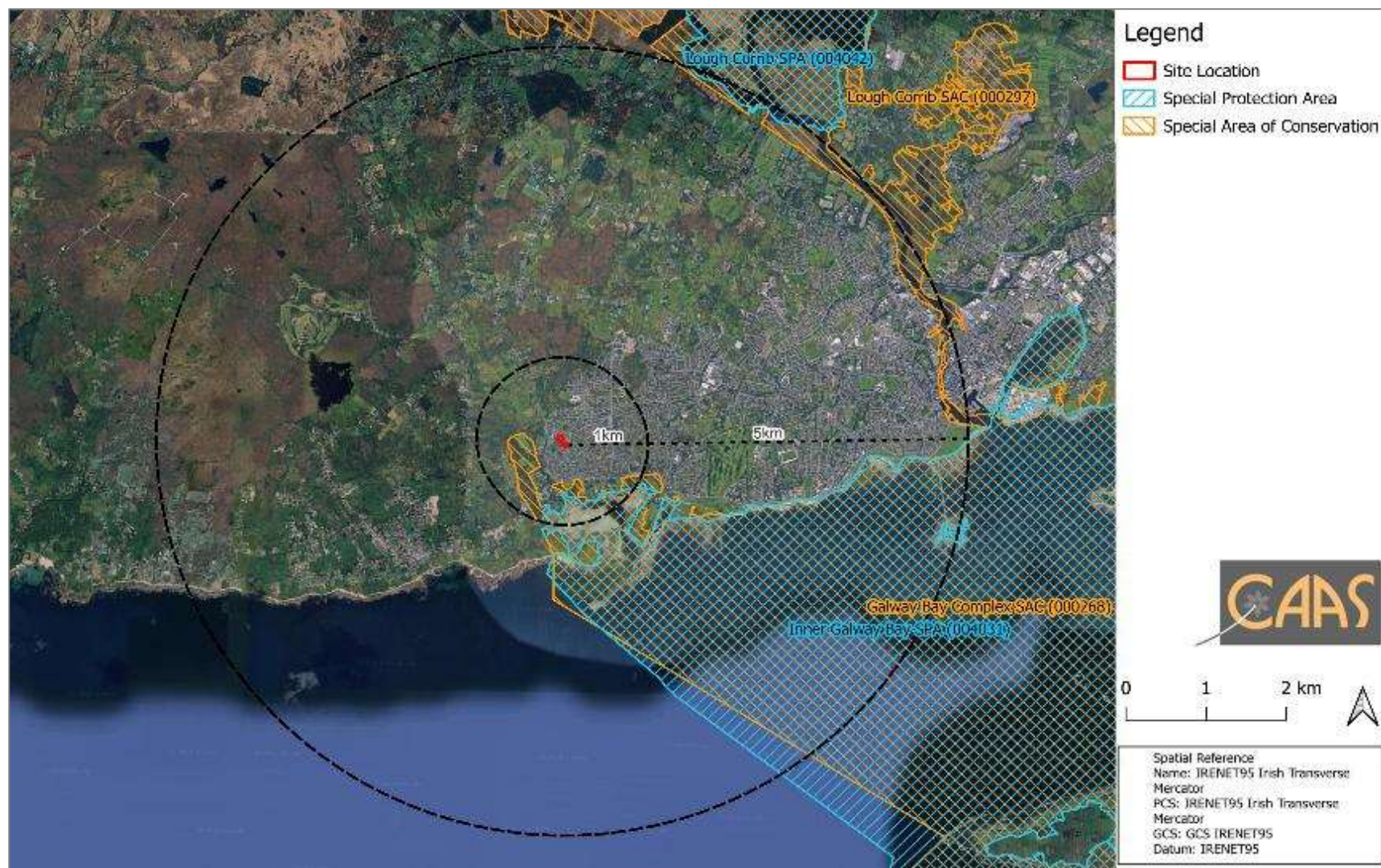
<sup>17</sup> GSI Flood risk mapping available [here](#). Accessed: June 2025



**Figure 4.2 Proposed development site**



<sup>18</sup> Source: EPA datasets. Accessed June 2025



**Figure 4.4 European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development<sup>19</sup>**

<sup>19</sup> NPWS European sites information and mapping available [here](#) and [here](#) respectively. Accessed June 2025

## 5 Identification of relevant European sites

### 5.1. Source-pathway-receptor model

EC guidance<sup>20</sup> outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

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

This guidance is taken into consideration when applying the SPR model to this AASR in the following discussion below.

#### Pathways for potential significant effects

The proposed site is composed of grassland, scrub and hedgerow habitats (see s4.1). Considering the species composition of the grassland within the proposed site, the surrounding highly development suburban environment and the small size of the proposed site (which is composed of two small sites; Site A and Site B), there is minimal potential for the SCI species designated for the Inner Galway Bay SPA to utilise the proposed site and therefore the proposed development site is not likely to have any ecological value for SCI species considered in this report.

Regarding pathways for noise disturbance to ex-situ foraging SCI species that could utilise surrounding agricultural lands north west of the proposed site (Figure 4.2 and Table 5.1); considering the small scale and location of the proposed development within a town centre which has ongoing levels of human noise disturbance, there are no reasonable pathways for disturbance to any SCI populations potentially utilising nearby agricultural lands for foraging.

The proposed site does not have any direct surface hydrological connectivity to any local surface watercourses, or any other hydrological features in the surrounding area. There is the possibility of indirect connectivity with a local watercourse via surface water runoff during the construction and operational phases into existing suburban surface water drainage infrastructure in the area surrounding the proposed development. The proposed development also includes for wastewater infrastructure which could also present a pathway for effects into hydrological environments.

Therefore, considering the nature of the proposed development and the receiving environment, and the relationship to European sites (as described in S 4), the following pathway has been identified:

- Suburban drainage with possible connectivity into either the Baran Stream or Galway Bay which connects to the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA, both of which are hydrologically sensitive European sites (Appendix I) and within approximately 500m of the proposed development site.

#### Sources for potential significant effects

The proposed development will result in the loss of all of the grassland habitat within Site A and Site

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<sup>20</sup> Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001

B. Some grassland habitats have the capacity to support foraging or breeding grounds for SCI species designated for SPAs. Considering the grassland habitat type of the proposed development site, the size of the proposed site, and the high levels of disturbance in the surrounding highly development suburban area, there is minimal potential for species designated for the Inner Galway Bay SPA (Table 5.1) to utilise the proposed site and therefore the proposed development site is not likely to have any ecological value for SCI species considered in this report.

As mentioned above, there is possible indirect hydrological connectivity via suburban drainage and surface run off from the proposed site in the construction and operational phases into underground urban drainage, potentially eventually connecting to a European site downstream. Surface water drainage during the operational phase will be connected to existing gullies and drainage infrastructure.

As the proposed development will convert grassland to hard standing / build environment in parts of the site (see Figure 3.1 for the proposed plan), there is the possibility of an increase in silt and run off from earthworks and building materials during the construction phase, and increased stormwater / drainage run off in the operational phases as a result of the proposed development. Considering the proximity of the proposed site to the Galway Bay Complex SAC and the Inner Galway Bay SPA and their QIs, SCIs and Conservation Objectives (Table 5.1), there is a source for potential effects via surface water drainage in the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

Two invasive plant species, Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and three-cornered leek (*Allium triquetrum*), which are Third Schedule invasive species and thus subject to restrictions in their management and treatment<sup>21</sup>, were identified within Site B of the proposed development. Both species can be spread via waterways and suburban surface water drainage and thus are a potential source for effects to the Galway Bay SAC.

### **Sources for potential significant effects**

Therefore, considering the nature of the proposed development and the receiving environment, and the relationship to European sites (as described in S 4), and the pathway for effects identified between the proposed development site and to the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA; the potential sources for significant effects on these European sites as a result of the proposed development are:

- Invasive species
- Surface water drainage from construction related works and run off in the operational phase, and
- Wastewater drainage in the operational phase.

### **Receptors of potential significant effects (i.e. European sites and their QIs/SCIs)**

In identifying the sources and pathways above, the following European sites were identified as having ecologically sensitive receptors<sup>22</sup> which could be affected by the potential sources for effects identified from the proposed development, and ecological connectivity with the proposed development site.

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<sup>21</sup> Regulations 49 and 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (S. I. No. 477 of 2011)

<sup>22</sup> As defined by the QIs, SCIs, and their respective sensitivities, which are provided in Appendix I which were examined as part of the application of the SPR model

**Table 5.1 European sites with an SPR link to the proposed development**

| Receptor / European site name | Site code | Qualifying feature <sup>23</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Distance (km) | SPR link present? | Source(s) identified                                                                                                                                 | Pathway(s) identified                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Galway Bay Complex SAC        | 000268    | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Coastal lagoons [1150], Reefs [1170], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) important orchid sites [6210], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Limestone pavements [8240], Turloughs [3180], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]                                                                                                            | 0.29          | Yes               | Invasive species<br><br>Surface water runoff from construction related works and in the operational phase                                            | Suburban surface water drainage network in both the construction and operational phases                                                        |
| Inner Galway Bay SPA          | 004031    | Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003] | 0.57          | Yes               | Surface water runoff from construction related works and in the operational phase<br><br>Wastewater production and drainage in the operational phase | Suburban surface water drainage network in the construction and operational phases<br><br>Wastewater drainage network in the operational phase |

The Conservation objectives for the above European sites that have been considered by this report and the SPR model are included in the following NPWS/Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht documents:

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Galway Bay Complex SAC [IE0000268] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Inner Galway Bay SPA [IE0004031] Version 1.

<sup>23</sup> Qualifying feature is used here to represent both Qualifying Interests (of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (of SPAs)

## 5.2. European sites identified for screening assessment

Considering the nature and size of the proposed development, and the proximity to and sensitivities and COs of the European sites identified (Appendix I), a Zol (Zone of Influence) of 1km for suburban surface water drainage and wastewater drainage, which could connect to either the Barna Stream and/or Galway Bay, is considered suitable for potential effects resulting from the proposed development. This Zol compasses the following European sites, which will go forward for screening for AA:

**Table 5.2 European sites identified for screening assessment**

| Site name              | Site code | Distance (km) | SPR link present? | Within Zol? | Screening required? |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Galway Bay Complex SAC | 000268    | 0.29          | Yes               | Yes         | Yes                 |
| Inner Galway Bay SPA   | 004031    | 0.57          | Yes               | Yes         | Yes                 |

## 6 Screening of European sites

This section of the report concerns the final stage of the screening process. Information has been collected and is presented on the proposed project, its relationship to European sites, the sensitivity of each relevant European site identified, and potential significant effects on European site resulting from the proposed development have been identified, which assumed the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures, as required in the AA screening process. The European sites identified by the SPR model as being within a Zol for significant effects are discussed, in view of their QIs and SCIs and their sensitivities (Appendix I) and assessed for a likelihood of significant effects in Table 6.1 below. Should a likelihood of significant effects be identified for any European site, a Natura Impact Statement (otherwise known as Stage 2 AA) will be required.

**Table 6.1 Screening for the likelihood for significant effects on European sites**

| Site code | Site name              | Distance (km) | Qualifying feature <sup>24</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Analysis for likely significant effects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Likelihood of significant effects | Likelihood of significant in-combination effects <sup>25</sup> |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 000268    | Galway Bay Complex SAC | 0.29          | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Coastal lagoons [1150], Reefs [1170], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) important orchid sites [6210], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Limestone pavements [8240], Turloughs [3180], Otter | <p>Considering the QIs and known sensitivities of this European site (detailed in Appendix I), in the context of the potential effects identified in S5.1, this SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions via surface water drainage and invasive species.</p> <p>There are sources for hydrological impacts to the hydrologically sensitive QIs of this due to the possibility of surface water runoff in the construction and operational phases via connectivity to the underground suburban drainage network, and presence of invasive species that are high impact and subject to restrictions as a result.</p> <p>Regrading surface water runoff and drainage: the project will utilise best practice construction methods that will manage the storage and stockpiling of materials on site during the construction phase. The proposed development will also install several SUDS measures for the operational phase to reduce surface water runoff and pollution of urban drainage systems, such as several swales, petrol interceptors, attenuation tanks and storm infiltration tree pits (see drawings presented in Figure 3.2 and Figure 3.3). These are best practice measures put in place for all new developments, regardless of any relationship to European sites, and are thus not intended to address or reduce potential effects to European sites<sup>26</sup>. In addition, the proposed development does not have any direct hydrological connection to any European site. Thus, considering the above, the proposed development does not present any sources with a likelihood for significant effects due to surface water run-off / drainage in either the construction and/or operational phases.</p> <p>Regarding invasive species on site, a management plan has been developed for the treatment and appropriate removal of both species in their full extent in accordance with relevant guidelines for the management of invasive species<sup>27</sup>. As above, the appropriate management and treatment of Third Schedule invasive species is a best practice measure that applies to all new developments, regardless of any relationship to European sites, and is</p> | No                                | No                                                             |

<sup>24</sup> Qualifying feature is used here to represent both Qualifying Interests (of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (of SPAs)

<sup>25</sup> See section 7 below for the full assessment of in-combination effects

<sup>26</sup> Case law: (C-721/21 Eco Advocacy CLG)

<sup>27</sup> "Japanese Knotweed Management Plan" (May 2025). Prepared for Site B of the proposed development by The Japanese Knotweed Company, Kerry.

| Site code | Site name            | Distance (km) | Qualifying feature <sup>24</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Analysis for likely significant effects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Likelihood of significant effects | Likelihood of significant in-combination effects <sup>25</sup> |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |                      |               | ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | thus not intended to address or reduce potential effects to European sites <sup>28</sup> .<br><br>Therefore, based on the project description (s 3), the receiving environment description (s 4), and the examination of potential impact of these sources for effect in view of this SAC's sensitivities and COs; there are no sources with a likelihood for significant effects to this SAC as a result of the proposed development, and no further assessment is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                   |                                                                |
| 004031    | Inner Galway Bay SPA | 0.57          | Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028], Wigeon ( <i>Anas</i> | Considering the SCI and known sensitivities of this European site (detailed in Appendix I), in the context of the potential effects identified in S5.1, this SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions via surface water drainage and wastewater drainage.<br><br>Although no sources for significant effect regarding disturbance of potential foraging habitat have been identified (see s5.1), the SCI species of this SPA rely on suitable habitat for breeding and feeding within the Galway Bay complex. There are sources for hydrological impacts to the hydrologically sensitive SCIs of this SPA due to the possibility of surface water runoff in the construction and operational phases via connectivity to the underground suburban drainage network.<br><br>Regrading surface water runoff and drainage: the project will utilise best practice construction methods that will manage the storage and stockpiling of materials on site during the construction phase. The proposed development will also install several SUDS measures for the operational phase to reduce surface water runoff and pollution of urban drainage systems, such as several swales, petrol interceptors, attenuation tanks and storm infiltration tree pits (see drawings presented in Figure 3.2 and Figure 3.3). These are best practice measures put in place for all new developments, regardless of any relationship to European sites, and are thus not intended to address or reduce potential effects to European sites <sup>29</sup> . In addition, the proposed development does not have any direct hydrological connection to any European site. Thus, considering the above, the proposed development does not present any sources with a likelihood for significant effects due to surface water run-off / drainage in either the construction and/or operational phases.<br><br>The installation of new wastewater infrastructure will occur as a result of the proposed | No                                | No                                                             |

<sup>28</sup> Case law: (C-721/21 Eco Advocacy CLG)<sup>29</sup> Case law: (C-721/21 Eco Advocacy CLG)

| Site code | Site name | Distance (km) | Qualifying feature <sup>24</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Analysis for likely significant effects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Likelihood of significant effects | Likelihood of significant in-combination effects <sup>25</sup> |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |           |               | <i>penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003] | <p>development and include connection to existing wastewater infrastructure of the surrounding suburban area which connects to the local WWTP. Galway City Council has received confirmation of the feasibility to connect to the existing WWTP that serves the area of the proposed development for the operational phase. Thus, considering the above, the proposed development does not present any sources with a likelihood for significant effects via wastewater drainage in the operational phase.</p> <p>Therefore, based on the project description (s 3), the receiving environment description (s 4), and the examination of potential impact of these sources for effect in view of this SAC's sensitivities and COs; there are no sources with a likelihood for significant effects to this SAC as a result of the proposed development, and no further assessment is required.</p> |                                   |                                                                |

## 7 In combination effects

### 7.1. Overview

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or projects that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to have significant effects on European sites. Other plans or projects that are currently existing and occur in the surrounding areas of the proposed development site were examined for potential in-combination effects based on the following criteria, in the context of the characteristics of the proposed development and the receiving environment (as discussed in s 3 and s 4 respectively):

- Having direct or indirect connectivity to a European site
- Being in close proximity to a European site
- Being of a substantial scale relative to the conditions and/or current works taking place in the surrounding landscape
- Having widely dispersed emissions or far-reaching sources for effects
- Having sources for effects on ecological connectivity.

In addition, projects that have not yet been granted planning permission are also examined in view of the above criteria. As such planning applications to the Local Authority; the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage planning<sup>30</sup> and An Bord Pleanála<sup>31</sup> databases were searched using a radius of 200 m from the proposed development boundary, over the past 5 years<sup>32</sup>.

All developments in these parameters were considered for potential in-combination effects. The plans and projects that were identified as a result of the above searches are discussed in s 7.1.1 and s 7.1.2 below respectively.

#### 7.1.1. Plans considered for in-combination effects

- Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

Considering the land use zoning of the above plan for the area to which the proposed development relates, which is zoned for “Residential (R)”, and the lack of any sources for likely significant effects as a result of the proposed development, it is not foreseen that the proposed development will have any likely significant in-combination effects with any provisions or objectives of the above plan.

#### 7.1.2. Projects considered for in-combination effects

There are a number of other proposed developments in the vicinity including works which are at planning stage or underway on various sites. The database search found that the majority of projects within the area involve alterations of existing structures, small private home extensions and changes of use. Considering the nature of the projects examined, alongside the nature and scale of the proposed development, and the lack of any sources for significant effects presented by the proposed development; there are no sources for potential significant in combination effects to any European sites (a full list of the projects examined as part of the in-combination effects assessment is provided in Appendix II).

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<sup>30</sup> Local Authority planning applications - available [here](#), accessed; June 2025

<sup>31</sup> An Bord Pleanála planning application - available [here](#), accessed; June 2025

<sup>32</sup> Planning applications have a standard lifespan of 5 years as per Section 40 (3)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended; therefore, these are viewed to be the ‘live’ applications, all other projects are considered as part of the site other than refused and withdrawn applications, as these would not have any in-combination effects

## 8 Conclusion

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has considered potential effects on European sites which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the proposed social and affordable housing scheme at Cappagh Road, Galway City, Co. Galway. Through an assessment of the potential sources and potential pathways for significant effects; an evaluation of the project characteristics; taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it is found that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring to the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests, in view of their Conservation Objectives, of any designated European site as a result of the implementation of the proposed development.

Given the small scale and the nature of the proposed development in the context of the local environment, plans and projects; the proposed development will not lead to any likely significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

It is concluded by this AA Screening Report that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for significant effects on any European site as a result of the proposed development can be ruled out.

This conclusion is made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, the proposed development does not need to be subject to Stage Two Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement is not required.

## Appendix I Supporting information on the European sites assessed

## European sites with connectivity to the proposed development

| Site code | Site name              | Qualifying feature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Pressure codes                                                                                                                                                                                              | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 000268    | Galway Bay Complex SAC | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Coastal lagoons [1150], Reefs [1170], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Limestone pavements [8240], Turloughs [3180], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]                                                                                                                         | A02.01, D03.01.01, D03.01.04, A04.02.01, A04.02.02, G01.01.02, C01.01, C01.01.02, D01.01, F01, I01, D02.02, D03, J02.02.02, F06, J02.05.01, H01.05, J02.12.01, E03.03, G02.01, F02.03.01, H01.08, J02.01.02 | Agricultural intensification, slipways, industrial ports, non-intensive cattle grazing, non-intensive sheep grazing, non-motorized nautical sports, sand and gravel extraction, removal of beach materials, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, marine and freshwater aquaculture, invasive non-native species, pipe lines, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, estuarine and coastal dredging, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, disposal of inert materials, golf course, bait digging or collection, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh |
| 004031    | Inner Galway Bay SPA   | Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003] | D01.02, E02, A04, F02.03, E01, A08, G01.02, F01, G01.01, J02.01.02, F03.01, J02.12, E03                                                                                                                     | Roads, motorways, industrial or commercial areas, grazing, leisure fishing, urbanised areas, human habitation, fertilisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, marine and freshwater aquaculture, nautical sports, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, hunting, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, discharges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment including summaries of current threats and sensitivities**

| EU code | Qualifying interests                                       | Article 17 report summary - threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Threats and pressures codes       | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Sensitivity of qualifying interests                                                                                                                                            |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [1140]  | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).                                                   | A28, F20, G16                     | Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development. |
| [1150]  | Coastal lagoons                                            | Several high-ranking pressures were identified acting on this habitat: eutrophication, modification of hydrological flow, and drainage. Other pressures noted include erosion and silting up, accumulation of seaweed, and sedimentation from peat related to turf cutting and/or forestry. | C12, J02, K02, K04, L01, L03, N04 | Extraction activities generating marine pollution, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), accumulation of organic material, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change                                                                                                                                                                                   | Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.                                                                   |
| [1160]  | Large shallow inlets and bays                              | Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species.                                                                                                                                                                                                  | A28, B23, F20, G01, G16, I02      | Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern) | Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.                                                           |
| [1170]  | Reefs                                                      | The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | G01, G03                          | Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.                                                                                                                                        |
| [1220]  | Perennial vegetation of stony banks                        | The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics),                                                                                                                                                                       | C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02      | Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational                                                              |

| EU code | Qualifying interests                                              | Article 17 report summary - threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                          | Threats and pressures codes       | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Sensitivity of qualifying interests                                                                                                                    |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                                                   | recreation and shingle removal.                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                   | conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | activity and gravel removal.                                                                                                                           |
| [1230]  | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts            | A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.                          | C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04 | Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change | Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.            |
| [1310]  | Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand              | Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock                                                                                                                                       | A09, I02                          | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.     |
| [1330]  | Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) | The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ). | A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02      | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)                                                | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion. |
| [1355]  | Otter ( <i>Lutra</i> )                                            | There are no pressures facing this species                                                                                                                                                                                 | Xxp, Xxt                          | No pressures, no threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Surface and marine water                                                                                                                               |

| EU code | Qualifying interests                                             | Article 17 report summary - threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Threats and pressures codes  | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Sensitivity of qualifying interests                                                                                                                     |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | <i>lutra</i> )                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.                                                                       |
| [1365]  | Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )                           | Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites. | C09, G01                     | Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species                                                                                                                                                    | Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.                                                                                    |
| [1410]  | Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )        | Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.                                                                                                                                                                     | A09, A10, A33, A36           | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above                                    | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation. |
| [3180]  | Turloughs                                                        | The main pressures associated with this habitat are related to drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing.                                                                                                                                                                                 | A09, A26, A31                | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land                                                                                                                                                   | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.                                             |
| [5130]  | Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands | The pressures associated with this habitat are associated with overgrazing, erosion and scrub removal.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Xxp, Xxt                     | No pressures, no threats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.     |
| [6210]  | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous   | The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in                                                                                                                         | A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04 | Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.     |

| EU code | Qualifying interests                                                                                                      | Article 17 report summary - threats and pressures                                                                                                                           | Threats and pressures codes                      | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Sensitivity of qualifying interests                                                                    |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites)                                                        | succession to scrub.                                                                                                                                                        |                                                  | union concern), problematic native species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                        |
| [7210]  | Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> ) | Overgrazing, groundwater pollution, abandonment of grassland management and drainage are pressures associated with this habitat.                                            | A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04                | Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| [7230]  | Alkaline fens                                                                                                             | The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.                                               | A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03 | Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| [8240]  | Limestone pavements                                                                                                       | The main pressures facing this habitat are associated with conversion to agricultural land and housing construction, as well as scrub encroachment caused by under-grazing. | A01, A10, C01, F01, I02                          | Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.                                                                   |

**Special Conservation Interests and Vulnerabilities of SPAs that have undergone assessment**

| Species code | Common name               | Scientific name                  | Threats and pressures codes            | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A002         | Black-throated Diver      | <i>Gavia arctica</i>             | G01                                    | Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| A003         | Great Northern Diver      | <i>Gavia immer</i>               | G01, D01                               | Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| A017         | Cormorant                 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> | G12, D01, F07, G10, J02, N06, N07, N01 | Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change                                                                                                                |
| A028         | Grey Heron                | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>             | x                                      | X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| A046         | Light-bellied Brent Goose | <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>     | F07, D06, F01, F08, G01                | Sports, tourism and leisure activities, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species |
| A050         | Wigeon                    | <i>Mareca penelope</i>           | F07, G07, N01, D01, F08, F28           | Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development                                                                                                                       |
| A052         | Teal                      | <i>Anas crecca</i>               | G07, F07, D01, F28                     | Hunting, sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| A069         | Red-breasted Merganser    | <i>Mergus serrator</i>           | E02, G01, D01                          | Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Species code | Common name       | Scientific name             | Threats and pressures codes                                          | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A137         | Ringed Plover     | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | F07, G19, D01, F08, N04                                              | Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| A140         | Golden Plover     | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>  | B01, I04, I02, A02, A11, A09, D01, H04, A31, G07, N01, F07, F28      | Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), burning for agriculture, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, vandalism or arson, drainage for use as agricultural land, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development                                                                               |
| A142         | Lapwing           | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>    | A08, A21, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, N01, F07, F28      | Mowing or cutting of grasslands, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development     |
| A149         | Dunlin            | <i>Calidris alpina</i>      | G01, G19, D01, F08, N04, F07                                         | Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities                                                                                                                                                            |
| A157         | Bar-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>     | F07, G19, G01, F08, D01, N04                                         | Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change                                                                                                                                                            |
| A160         | Curlew            | <i>Numenius arquata</i>     | A08, B01, I04, I02, A31, A02, C05, D01, A06, A11, F07, G01, G19, F08 | Mowing or cutting of grasslands, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), burning for agriculture, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, |

| Species code | Common name       | Scientific name                | Threats and pressures codes                                     | Known threats and pressures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              |                   |                                |                                                                 | modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| A162         | Redshank          | <i>Tringa totanus</i>          | A08, A09, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, F07, F08, N04 | Mowing or cutting of grasslands, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change |
| A169         | Turnstone         | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>      | F07, D01, F08, N04                                              | Sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| A179         | Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i>        | F22, F23, I02, I04, D01, M08                                    | Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, flooding (natural processes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| A182         | Common Gull       | <i>Larus canus</i>             | A09, I02, I04, D01                                              | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| A191         | Sandwich Tern     | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> | G12, I02, A09, D01, F07, I04, M08, N06, N07                     | Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, problematic native species, flooding (natural processes), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| A193         | Common Tern       | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>          | A09, G12, I02, I04, J02, L06, M08, D01, F07, G01, N06, N07      | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change                                                                        |

## Appendix II Review of planning history<sup>33</sup> in the vicinity of the proposed development<sup>34</sup>

The below table contain the findings of a planning search for developments within a radius of 200 m of the site of the proposed development in the last 5 years. The information presented in the table below has been generated from the Local Authority planning database. Searches of the An Bord Pleanála database and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's EIA Portal found no other projects which would be considered as having real potential likelihood of contributing to significant cumulative effects.

Note: projects considered as having no potential of contributing to significant cumulative effects, when considered in combination with effects arising from the subject proposal, have been excluded.

### Local Authority planning applications

| Project Code | Decision    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Grant Date | Distance from proposed development (m) | Potential interactions between the projects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Likelihood of significant in-combination effects |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 19375        | Conditional | Permission for development which will consist of: the development of 43 no. residential units (21 apartments, 22 houses) upgrade of existing site access, demolition of existing residential dwelling, demolition of existing sheds, demolition and reinstatement of existing wall along Cappagh Road, associated landscape and open space works. All associated services and site works. The planning application is accompanied with a Natura Impact Statement (NIS)                                                                                                                                             | 2020-09-23 | 32.99                                  | <p>This is a medium-scale project that will be keeping with the context and character of the surrounding environment. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.</p> <p>Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any likelihood for significant effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European sites.</p> | No                                               |
| 21264        | Conditional | Permission for development which will consist of: (A) Demolition of 2 no. derelict houses. (B) Provision of 3 no. blocks of Duplexes split over 1 and 2 stories. Duplex Block 01 will consist of 6 no. units; this block will be made up of 6 no. 2 bedroom apartments. Duplex Block 02 and 03 will consist of 12 no. units each; each block will be made up of 10 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 2 no.1 bedroom apartments. (C) Provision of surface car parking for Duplexes. (D) Provision of new entrance onto the public road, access road, bin stores, cycle parking and all ancillary site works and services | 2022-03-24 |                                        | <p>This is a small-scale project that will be keeping with the context and character of the surrounding environment. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.</p> <p>Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any likelihood for significant effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European sites.</p>  | No                                               |
| 21236        | Conditional | Permission for development which will consist of the demolition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2021-      | 71.39                                  | This is a small-scale project that will be keeping with the context and character                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No                                               |

<sup>33</sup> The majority of surrounding planning permissions are for developments which are minor projects with no risk of in-combination effects. Therefore, a summary list is provided here of the largest / most relevant proposed project(s) within the below stated parameters (i.e., excluding minor additions or edits to residential homes / existing planning permissions)

<sup>34</sup> Parameters used: planning application from within the last 10 years, within a radius of 200m around the proposed project boundary

| Project Code | Decision                                 | Description                                                                                                                            | Grant Date | Distance from proposed development (m) | Potential interactions between the projects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Likelihood of significant in-combination effects |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|              |                                          | of existing detached dwelling and construction of new detached 2/3 storey dwelling and new vehicular site entrance and ancillary works | 10-08      |                                        | <p>of the surrounding environment. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.</p> <p>Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any likelihood for significant effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European sites.</p>                                                                                   |                                                  |
| 303336       | Grant permission with revised conditions | Demolition of 2 houses. Construction of 2 blocks of duplexes, 14 units total.                                                          | 2019-05-14 | 91                                     | <p>This is a small-scale project that will be keeping with the context and character of the surrounding environment. The consent process for this project was subject to applicable EIA and AA requirements.</p> <p>Considering the above, in combination with the lack of any likelihood for significant effects on European sites arising from the proposed development, it is not considered that there is any potential for significant in-combination effects on any European sites.</p> | No                                               |

## Appendix III Overview of Habitats Directive AA requirements

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford their protection. Qualifying Interests (QIs) are the habitats and species for which SACs are designated and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) are the species for which SPAs are designated. SACs and SPAs are known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive States:

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

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

Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive States:

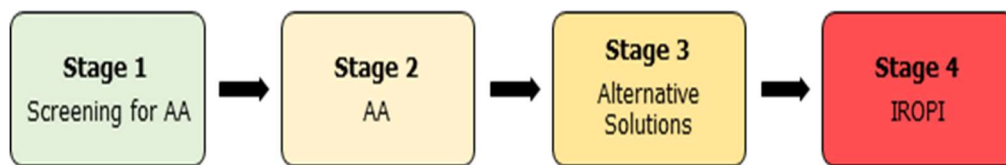
*‘A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species’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

AA is an assessment of the likelihood of significant effects arising from a project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, to assess if the project will have potential for significant effect on any European site concerned, and implications in view of the European site’s Conservation Objectives (COs). These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## Overview of the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment process

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

There are four main stages in the AA process:



### Stage one: Appropriate Assessment Screening

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) can be compiled to inform the competent authority on conducting a Screening for AA.

### Stage two: Appropriate Assessment (AA)

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

### Stage three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

### Stage four: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

An assessment of compensatory measures, where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain, but in the light of an assessment of IROPI, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

## Appendix IV Contributor competencies

**Technical assistant - Callum O'Regan** holds a B.Sc. degree in Zoology from University College Cork and a Master's in Conservation Behaviour from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in 2021. Callum has skills in data management and analysis, report writing and GIS mapping. Callum has also worked on preparation of a number of reports including Ecological Impact Assessments (EclAs) and Appropriate Assessment Screenings for private and public projects of various sizes and complexities.

**Lead author - Karen Dylan Shevlin** is a senior ecologist with over 12 years' experience working in multiple capacities in ecology in Irish and international research institutions and organisations and holds a MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation from Trinity College Dublin (Dist. 2013). Karen has significant skills and experience in research management and the ecological surveying of bats, birds, insects, large mammals and habitats, data analysis and managing resulting reports. Karen is also a specialist in ecological theory and the impacts/effects that altering natural dynamics may have on the surrounding environment. Karen has been the lead author and reviewed on many Appropriate Assessment Screenings, NISs, and EIARs for a range of public and private projects and plans ranging from residential and industrial projects to County Development Plans, and major wind turbine sites. This combination of skills and knowledge provides the backbone of the assessment process and ensure that all the baseline and detailed data gathered in the field is interpreted in a manner that is grounded in best scientific knowledge.

**Reviewer - Paul Fingleton** has an MSc in Rural and Regional Resources Planning (with specialisation in EIA) from the University of Aberdeen. Paul is a member of the International Association for Impact Assessment as well as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. He has over twenty-five years' experience working in the area of Environmental Assessment. Over this period, he has been involved in a diverse range of projects including contributions to, and co-ordination of, numerous complex EIARs and EIA screening reports. He has also contributed to and supervised the preparation of numerous AAs and AA screenings.

Paul is the lead author of the EPA Guidelines and accompanying Advice Notes on EIARs. He has been involved in all previous editions of these statutory guidelines. He also provides a range of other EIA related consultancy services to the EPA. Paul is regularly engaged by various planning authorities and other consent authorities to provide specialised EIA advice.