



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT**

# Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Single House Development  
at Ballincar, Co. Sligo





## DOCUMENT DETAILS

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment of a proposed single house development at Ballincar, Co. Sligo.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and field surveys undertaken on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed development to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

In addition to the guidelines referenced above, the following relevant guidance was considered in preparation of this report:

1. *Council of the European Commission (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Official Journal of the European Communities. Series L 20, pp. 7-49.*
2. *EC (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.*
3. *EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence. Opinion of the commission.*
4. *EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission.*

## 1.2 Appropriate Assessment

### 1.2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Screening is the process of determining whether an Appropriate Assessment is required for a plan or project. Under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, screening must be carried out by the Competent Authority. As per Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended 'A screening for appropriate assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the

European site'. The Competent Authority's determination as to whether an Appropriate Assessment is required must be made on the basis of objective information and should be recorded. The Competent Authority may request information to be supplied to enable it to carry out screening.

Consultants or project proponents may provide for the competent authority, the information necessary for them to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required and provide advice to assist them in the Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening decision.

Where it cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt at the Screening stage, that a proposed plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Competent Authority may require the applicant to prepare a Natura Impact Statement.

The term Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is defined in legislation<sup>1</sup>. An NIS, where required, should present the data, information and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge, objective information and by the precautionary principle.

This Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in compliance with the provision of section 177U of the Planning & Development Act 2010 as amended.

### 1.3

## Statement of Authority

A field assessment was undertaken by Pat Roberts (B.Sc., MCIEEM) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. This report has been prepared by Julie O'Sullivan (B.Sc., M.Sc.). Julie is an experienced ecologist with over five years professional experience. This report has been reviewed by Pat Roberts (B.Sc., MCIEEM) who has over 15 years' experience in ecological consultancy.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, an NIS means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a proposed development, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives. It is required to include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for the European site in view of its conservation objectives

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Site Location

The site is located in Ballincar, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, approximately 3km north-west of Sligo Town (grid reference: G 67402 38751). The site is accessed via a local road off the R291. The site is located approximately 90m north of Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and 95m north of Cummeen Strand SPA.

The location of the proposed development is shown in Figure 2.1.

### 2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

#### 2.2.1 Description of the project

The planning application is for a permission for the construction of a dwelling house, wastewater treatment system and all associated site works at Ballincar, Co. Sligo. The layout and elevations of the proposed development are included in Appendix 2 of the NIS accompanying this application.

The boundaries will be formed with post and wire fencing and native hedgerow planting. New gate piers and gates will be installed along the western boundary and set back 5.5m from the road edge.

#### Wastewater

A site suitability assessment with regard to the onsite treatment of wastewater has been completed by a suitably qualified professional as part of the planning application for this development and is included as Appendix 3 of the NIS accompanying this application. The relevant conclusions of this report have been summarised below.

The site suitability assessment noted that the proposed site is located in a Regionally Important Aquifer, with a Moderate Vulnerability Rating. Ground conditions indicate that a wastewater treatment system and polishing filter would be suitable to treat and dispose of the domestic wastewater generated by this development, however, the use of a proprietary wastewater treatment system, packaged tertiary treatment system and distribution area of 25m<sup>2</sup> is recommended. All tanks, filters, etc. will be installed in accordance with EPA Code of Practice.

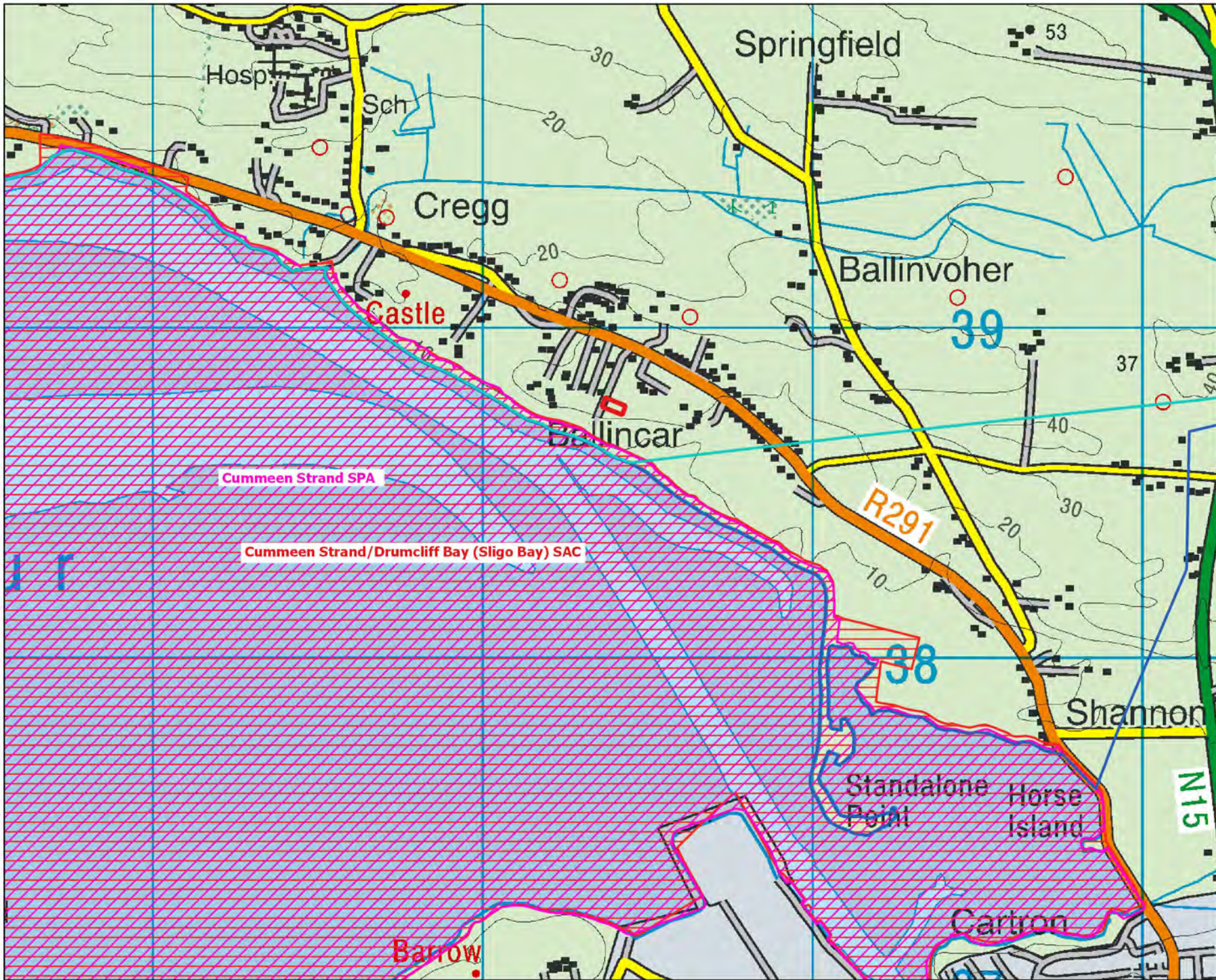
The site assessment notes that Ground conditions are favourable on this site and there will be further treatment for the wastewater in the soil. The average "T" value is 17.03 which indicates that the retention time in the soil will provide satisfactory treatment. Section 6.3, Interpretation of Percolation Test Results, of the EPA's publication *"Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. < 10)"* 2009 this states that when the "T" value is between 3 and 50 the site is suitable for the development of a septic tank system or a secondary treatment system discharging to groundwater.

The standard of domestic wastewater treatment proposed exceeds the recommendations contained in the EPA's publication *"Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. < 10)"* 2009 and there will be no risk to the environment from the proposed development. This system has I.S.EN-3 and SR.66 certification and a Treatment System Performance Standard of (mg/L) 10BOD, 10SS and 10NH<sub>3</sub> which indicates that the system is capable of providing a very high quality of wastewater.

### Surface Water

A Soak Pit will be installed in line with specifications in the EPA Code of Practice (2009) for the collection and disposal of surface water within the proposed development site, As shown on drawing 16/51/101.





- Map Legend**
- Site boundary
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Special Protection Area (SPA)

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Drawing Title  
**Site Location**

Project Title  
**Glacken Ballinacraigh NIS**

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Project No. <b>210233</b>	Drawing No. <b>2.1</b>
Scale <b>1:15000</b>	Date <b>26.04.2021</b>

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## 2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

A dedicated habitat survey of the area within and in the vicinity of the proposed development was undertaken on 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

The site was a field of Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1) (Plates 2-1 & 2-2). Species recorded in the Improved Agricultural Grassland (GS2) habitat include Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). The western field boundary was marked by fencing and bramble scrub (WS1) and the eastern boundary consisted of a similar boundary, but with a stone wall adjacent to a residential house located to the north east. There are existing residential properties to the north east, west and to the south. The site is separated from the SAC to the south by a distance of over 90 metres but is separated from it by existing residential dwellings and a site, which is currently under construction. No surface watercourses were recorded on the site.



Plate 2-1 Site of proposed development, facing north east



Plate 2-2 Site of proposed development, facing south towards the estuary

### 2.2.3 Fauna

No evidence of Annex II protected species associated with Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC was recorded within or adjacent to the site boundary. The detailed Conservation Objectives for Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC were reviewed as part of this assessment.

The nearby Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC is designated for the following species

- *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]

There are no watercourses within the proposed development site and no supporting habitat for these species. There is no suitable habitat for *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) within the proposed development site. Optimal habitat for this species within the SAC is defined as fixed dune and species-rich grassland dominated with a vegetation height of 10-30cm.

There is no suitable habitat for Harbour seal within the proposed development site. This marine mammal species occurs in estuarine, coastal and offshore waters but also utilises a range of intertidal and terrestrial habitats for important life history functions such as breeding, moulting, resting and social activity. When hauling out ashore harbour seals tend to prefer comparatively sheltered locations and use sheltered bays, inlets and enclosed estuaries.

No species listed as a Special Conservation Interest species of Cummeen Strand SPA were recorded during the site visit. No significant foraging or roosting habitat for the listed SCI bird species was recorded within the proposed works site boundary, therefore additional dedicated bird surveys were not deemed necessary.



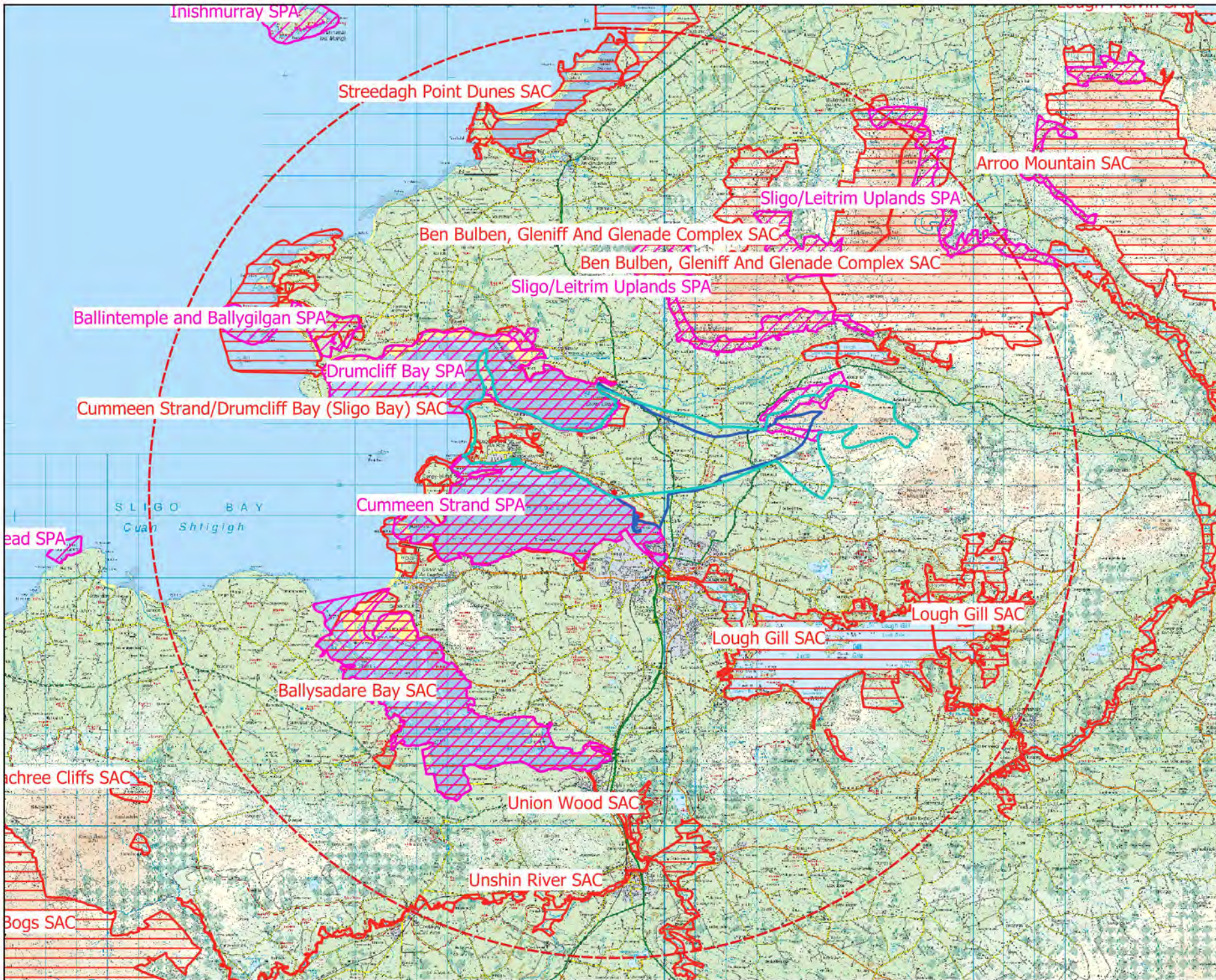
No QI's or SCI's associated any other European site were recorded within or adjacent of the proposed development site boundary.

### 3. SCREENING ASSESSMENT IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

#### 3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

The following methodology was used to establish which European Sites are within the Likely Zone of Impact of the proposed development:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) and the EPA website ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)) on the 26/04/2021. The datasets were utilized to identify European Sites which could feasibly be affected by the proposed development.
- All European Sites within a distance of 15km surrounding the development site were identified and are shown on Figure 3.1. In addition, the potential for connectivity with European Sites at distances of greater than 15km from the proposed development was also considered in this initial assessment. In this case, no potential connectivity with sites located at a distance of over 15km from the proposed development was identified.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed development and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3.1.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, ‘Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)’ (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed development and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- Table 3.1, provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses which are within the likely Zone of Impact. The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this screening assessment
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the proposed development in relation to all European sites within 15km of the proposed development.
- Where potential pathways for Significant Effect are identified, the site is included within the Likely Zone of Impact and further assessment is required.



### Map Legend

- Site boundary
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- 15km Buffer
- Drumcliffe subcatchment
- Rosse Point groundwater catchment

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Drawing Title

EU sites within 15km

Project Title

Glacken Ballincar NIS

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Table 3.1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
<p>Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 90m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, September 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>Indirect impacts on the following QIs can be ruled out due to the terrestrial nature of the habitats/species, the distance from the proposed development area and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> </ul> <p>The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate groundwater vulnerability (as per the EPA maps). Following a precautionary approach, the construction and operational phase of the proposed development may result in pollution to groundwaters via the percolation of polluting materials through the bedrock underlying the site. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the following aquatic QI's species/habitats was identified in the form of deterioration of water quality and supporting habitats for aquatic fauna:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</li> </ul>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/04/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</li> </ul> <p>The potential for disturbance was also identified with regard to Harbour Seal.</p> <p><b>The potential for significant effects on these habitats and species is therefore considered further in this document.</b></p>
<p>Lough Gill SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 3.2km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]</li> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> </ul>	<p>This designated site has the generic conservation objective</p> <p><i>‘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’</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) Generic Version 8.0.</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 3.2km east of the proposed works area. Indirect impacts on the following QIs can be ruled out due to the freshwater/terrestrial nature of the habitats/species, the distance from the proposed development area and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]</li> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</li> </ul>



European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> </ul> <p>The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate groundwater vulnerability (as per the EPA maps). Following a precautionary approach, the construction and operational phase of the proposed development may result in pollution to groundwaters via the percolation of polluting materials through the bedrock underlying the site. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the following aquatic QI species which migrate through the Garavoge Estuary during their life cycle;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> </ul> <p>Potential effects on these QI species has been identified in the form of deterioration of water quality and supporting aquatic habitat.</p> <p><b>The potential for significant effects on these habitats and species is therefore considered further in this document.</b></p>
<p>Ben Bulbin, Gleniff And Glenade Complex SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 5.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> </ul>	<p>This designated site has the generic conservation objective,</p> <p><i>‘to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II</i></p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 5.3km north-east of the proposed works area. No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of the proposed works area and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated. Potential for direct or indirect impact on the</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/04/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</li> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]</li> <li>• Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</li> <li>• Alkaline fens [7230]</li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</li> <li>• Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120]</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]</li> </ul>	<p><i>species for which the SAC has been selected'</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) Generic Version 8.0.</p>	<p>European Site can be excluded. <b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>		
<p>Ballysadare Bay SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 7.4km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li><i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> <li><i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, November 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 7.4km south of the proposed works area. No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of the proposed development site and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated. Potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. <b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Unshin River SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 9.1km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>,</li> </ul>	<p>This designated site has the generic conservation objective,</p> <p><i>‘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’</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) Generic Version 8.0.</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 9.1km south of the proposed works area. No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of the proposed development site and the habitats and species for which this site has been designated. Potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. <b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alnion incanae, Salicion albae</i> [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>		
Union Wood SAC  <b>Distance:</b> 9.3km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, January 2021), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 9.3km south of the proposed works area. This site is designated for a terrestrial habitat. No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of the proposed development site and the habitat for which this site has been designated. Potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. <b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
Streedagh Point Dunes SAC  <b>Distance:</b> 11km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, March 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 11km north of the proposed works area. No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of the proposed development site and the habitats/species for which this site has been designated. Potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. <b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> </ul>		
<p>Bunduff Lough And Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 13.2km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li>• Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</li> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Alkaline fens [7230]</li> <li>• <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]</li> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, March 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SAC and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SAC is located 13.2km north of the proposed works area. No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of the proposed development site and the habitats/species for which this site has been designated. Potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. <b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>			
Cummeen Strand SPA  <b>Distance:</b> 95m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, September 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SPA and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate groundwater vulnerability (as per the EPA maps). Following a precautionary approach, the construction and operational phase of the proposed development may result in pollution to groundwaters via the percolation of polluting materials through the bedrock underlying the site. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the SCI wetland habitat was identified in the form of deterioration of water quality and supporting wetland habitat for the listed SCI species.</p> <p>On a precautionary basis the potential for habitat loss and disturbance to SCI species was also identified.</p> <p><b>The potential for significant effects on these SCI habitats and species is therefore considered further in this document.</b></p>
Drumcliff Bay SPA  <b>Distance:</b> 2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, September 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SPA and there is no potential for direct effect.</p> <p>This SPA is located 2km north of the proposed development site. Given the intervening distance between the proposed development site and this SPA, the potential for habitat loss and disturbance related impacts to the listed SCI populations can be ruled out.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>Given the distance between the proposed development site and this SPA, there is no potential pathway for impact in the form of deterioration of water quality during the construction and operational phase, therefore there will be no effect on the ‘wetland’ habitat.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 5.2km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>	<p>This designated site has the generic conservation objective,</p> <p><i>‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA’</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) Generic Version 8.0.</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SPA and there is no potential for direct effect. This SPA is located 5.2km north-east of the proposed development site. Given the intervening distance between the proposed development site and this SPA, the potential for disturbance related impacts to SCI populations during construction works can be ruled out. There is no suitable habitat for the listed SCI species of this SPA, therefore the potential for habitat loss can also be ruled out.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 5.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]</li> </ul>	<p>This designated site has the generic conservation objective,</p> <p><i>‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species</i></p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SPA and there is no potential for direct effect. This SPA is located 5.3km north-west of the proposed development site.</p> <p>This site lies within the core foraging range of Barnacle goose (core range of 15km, SNH 2016). Barnacle goose may potentially use agricultural grassland for foraging during the winter. However, given the distance of the proposed development site from the SPA and the widespread</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
		<p><i>listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA'</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) Generic Version 8.0.</p>	<p>occurrence of this common habitat in the wider locality, the loss of this habitat within the proposed development site would not have a significant effect on this species.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Ballysadare Bay SPA</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 7.4km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, October 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SPA and there is no potential for direct effect. This SPA is located 7.4km south-west of the proposed development site. Given the intervening distance between the proposed development site and this SPA, the potential for habitat loss/disturbance related impacts to the following SCI populations can be ruled out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> </ul> <p>This site lies within the core foraging range of Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) (core range of 5-8km, SNH 2016). Light-bellied Brent Goose may potentially use agricultural grassland for foraging during the winter. However, given the distance of the proposed development site from the SPA and the widespread occurrence of this common habitat in the wider locality, the loss of agricultural grassland habitat within the proposed development site would not have a significant effect on this species.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>



European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/04/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<p>Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 12km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>• Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]</li> </ul>	<p>This designated site has the generic conservation objective,</p> <p><i>‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA’</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) Generic Version 8.0.</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outside the boundary of this SPA and there is no potential for direct effect. This SPA is located 12km north-west of the proposed development site.</p> <p>Given the intervening distance between the proposed development site and this SPA, the potential for habitat loss/disturbance related impacts to the Cormorant SCI population can be ruled out.</p> <p>This site lies within the core foraging range of Barnacle goose (core range of 15km, SNH 2016). Barnacle goose may potentially use agricultural grassland for foraging during the winter. However, given the distance of the proposed development site from the SPA and the widespread occurrence of this common habitat in the wider locality, the loss of this habitat within the proposed development site would not have a significant effect on this species.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>

## 3.2 European Sites with the Potential to be Significantly Affected by the Proposed Development

The European Sites that are within the Zone of Likely Impact are:

- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC
- Lough Gill SAC
- Cummeen Strand SPA

### 3.2.1 Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC

The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate groundwater vulnerability (as per the EPA maps). Following a precautionary approach, the construction and operational phase of the proposed residential development may result in pollution to groundwaters via the percolation of polluting materials through the bedrock underlying the site. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the following aquatic QI's species/habitats was identified in the form of deterioration of water quality and supporting habitats for aquatic fauna:

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]

The potential for disturbance was also identified with regard to Harbour Seal.

### 3.2.2 Lough Gill SAC

The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate groundwater vulnerability (as per the EPA maps). Following a precautionary approach, the construction and operational phase of the proposed residential development may result in pollution to groundwaters via the percolation of polluting materials through the bedrock underlying the site. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the following aquatic QI's species, which migrate through the Garavoge Estuary during their life cycle, was identified in the form of deterioration of water quality and supporting habitats for aquatic fauna:

- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]

### 3.2.3 Cummeen Strand SPA

The proposed development site lies within an area of moderate groundwater vulnerability (as per the EPA maps). Following a precautionary approach, the construction and operational phase of the proposed residential development may result in pollution to groundwaters via the percolation of polluting materials through the bedrock underlying the site. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the SCI Wetland [A999] habitat was identified in the form of deterioration of water quality and supporting habitats for SCI species.

On a precautionary basis the potential for habitat loss and disturbance of the listed SCI species was also identified:

- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

## 4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this Screening Assessment are presented following the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

### 4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

**In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:**

- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD),
- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the proposed project.
- Site visit carried out by Pat Roberts in December 2020.

### 4.2 Concluding Statement

It cannot be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Lough Gill SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA.

As a result, it is recommended to the competent authority that an Appropriate Assessment is required, and a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared in respect of the proposed development.

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