

NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

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For a proposed dwelling extension with a new leisure building, garage and the associated new site entrance as well as the installation of a new tertiary treatment system on Site

St Helen's, Cregg, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo



**Report prepared on behalf of Des Ewing Residential Architects
by Woodrow APEM Group**

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October 2023



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	Natura Impact Statement for Proposed Dwelling Extension, Leisure Building and Garage at St Helen's, Cregg, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo
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Status / Version / Date	D01 / 16.10.2023

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

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Louise Gannon is an assistant ecologist with Woodrow. Louise has completed a B.Sc. in Environmental Science. Her main experience lies in carrying out protected species surveys for bats (preliminary roost assessments, emergence/re-entry survey and activity transect surveys) as well as the deployment of static bat detectors and reporting on the same. She also carries out bat call analysis using Kaleidoscope and BatExplorer, the analysis software used to assess bat calls and activity. She also has experience in carrying out otter, badger and red squirrel surveys. Louise is a licenced bat surveyor (DER/BAT 2023-25) and a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

Rachel is an Agri-Ecologist with Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd. She has completed a B.Sc. in Zoology and Conservation at Bangor University and is currently undertaking her PhD with University College Dublin in collaboration with Teagasc. Rachel have undertaken protected species surveys including bats (preliminary roost assessment, emergence/re-entry and activity surveys), otter, badger, red squirrel and herptofauna (great crested newts and reptiles). Rachel's experience also includes undertaking environmental monitoring and assessments in soil, air, water, waste and energy, working for a wide range of schemes and developments including windfarms, quarries, hydro-schemes, gas lines and commercial and residential developments. Rachel has strong report writing skills, having been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. She is in the process of applying for membership of the CIEEM.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Woodrow was commissioned by Des Ewing Residential Architects to undertake a Screening for Appropriate Assessment exercise, and to collate information to prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the proposed dwelling, leisure building and garage ("the Proposed Development") within a redline boundary at the "Site" at St Helen's, Cregg, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo.

This report provides information which can be used to assist the Competent Authority in applying Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive¹ as necessary, under their roles, functions and responsibilities in relation to the Appropriate Assessment of plans or projects. The Competent Authority, in this instance Sligo County Council, may use such information to carry out an Appropriate Assessment of the proposal in order to ascertain whether or not the project may adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites.

European Designated Sites, also known as Natura 2000 sites, include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended. SACs are designated to assist the protection of certain habitats and species under the Habitats Directive. Ireland is required under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to designate SPAs for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. This includes: certain listed rare and vulnerable species; regularly occurring migratory species, such as ducks, geese and waders; and, wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

1.2 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening

An Appropriate Assessment Screening provides the information necessary to fulfil the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and Regulation 42 of the (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in determining the potential impacts on EU Designated Sites of the proposal.

The European Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive) was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Habitats Regulations). Regulation 42(1) of the 2011 Regulations requires that *"a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Site as a Natura 2000 Site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the Site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 Site"*.

If, following the screening process, a likely significant effect is predicted or cannot be ruled out; under Regulation 42(6), an Appropriate Assessment is required in order to determine the potential for impact on the integrity of a EU Designated Site. In the event of a negative assessment in terms of an adverse effect, the Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' states that:

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as amended by Council Directive 97/62/EC. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm [Accessed September 2023].

“Any uncertainty over the precise nature and/or magnitude of the adverse effects should be thoroughly tested. Where appropriate, a precautionary approach should be adopted, and the assessment of adverse effect based on a worse-case scenario.”²

1.3 Requirement for a Natura Impact Statement

The Appropriate Assessment test assesses whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant EU Designated Sites, the proposed project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, may adversely affect the integrity of any EU Designated Sites.

If, following the screening process, a potential significant effect is predicted or cannot be ruled out; under Regulation 42(6) an Appropriate Assessment is required to determine the potential for impact on integrity of a EU Designated Site.

Regulation 42 (9) of the 2011 Habitats Regulations states:

Where a public authority is required to conduct an Appropriate Assessment pursuant to *paragraph (6)* in relation to a plan or project that it proposes to undertake or adopt, it shall-

- Prepare a Natura Impact Statement;
- Compile any other evidence including, but not limited to, scientific evidence that is required for the purposes of the Appropriate Assessment; and,
- Submit a Natura Impact Statement together with evidence compiled under *subparagraph (b)* to the Minister not later than six weeks before it proposes to adopt or undertake the plan or project to which the Natura Impact Statement and evidence relates.

Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2001 (as inserted by section 57 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010) set out the appropriate procedure for Local Authority projects with potential to impact on EU Designated Sites. This requires that, where an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of a development by a local authority that is a planning authority, they will prepare, or cause to be prepared, a Natura Impact Statement. The Natura Impact Statement shall then be provided to *An Bord Pleanála* for them to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

With the Screening for Appropriate Assessment having determined that potential significant effects on EU Designated Sites could not be ruled out, a Natura Impact Statement as required under Regulation 42(9) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural habitats) Regulations 2011. This Natura Impact Statement provides an assessment of the proposal considering potential impacts on Qualifying Interests within EU Designated Sites and provides mitigation proposals to avoid impacts on the integrity of EU Designated Sites. This allows for an audit trail through Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive to facilitate an Appropriate Assessment by a competent authority.

1.4 Structure / Layout of the report

This Natura Impact Statement provides the information necessary for the Competent Authority, in this case Sligo County Council, to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the proposal. The report sections, paragraphs and tables relate in sequence to the process of assessing the potential impact of the project in the context of sequential requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

² European Commission (2007) Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf [Accessed September 2023].

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2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2.1 Location

The Site is located in Cregg, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo. It is situated approximately 3 km east of the village of Rosses Point. The Site can be found at Grid Reference G 66337 39278. The Site location, in the context of the wider landscape as well as an aerial overview of the Site, is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.**

2.2 Description of the Proposed Development

The Site comprises a total of approximately 0.89 hectares.

The Proposed Development as illustrated in **Figure 3: Representation of the Proposed Site Plan (Source: Des Ewing Architect, 2023)**

will consist of:

- The construction of two split level side extensions and a single-storey rear extension following the removal of the existing left hand side extension and extensions to the rear elevation of the existing property;
- The incorporation of a new garage area into the existing topography of the land;
- The construction of a one-and-a-half-storey, detached leisure building,
- The creation of a new Site entrance from the public road with gates and pillars,
- The installation of a new tertiary treatment system with infiltration/treatment area; and
- Associated site works.

The majority of the Development is proposed within the footprint of the existing inhabited dwelling within the centre of the site. The new detached leisure building is located to the north-west of the Site, within the footprint of an old store. The proprietary wastewater treatment system is proposed to the north-west of the proposed dwelling. The pumped tertiary system is proposed to be located 7m north of the existing dwelling, with the proposed 25m² gravel bed just to the north of the tertiary system. A gravel distribution area, 22.50m² and 300mm in depth, is proposed for beneath the tertiary treatment system. Treated water will be discharged to ground water.

The nature of the new site entrance means that associated works will include the felling of max c.0.03 ha trees, in particular within an area of woodland immediately north of the existing dwelling.

2.3 Description of the Surrounding Area

The Site is situated within a suburban area, with existing houses to the east, north and west of the Proposed Development. It is bordered by the shorelines of Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area (SPA) and Cummeen Strand /Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the south and the R291 road to the north. The Site boundary overlaps with the Cummeen Strand SPA and Cummeen Strand /Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC along the southern extent, however the proposed works will take place outside the SPA and SAC at an approximate distance of 25-30m from the respective boundaries.

The Site currently comprises of an existing residential property and garden, amenity and wet grassland, with an area of mature broadleaved woodland to the north-west of the site, ornamental shrubs and scrub, treelines, stone walls, existing dwelling with gravel and hard standing access track.

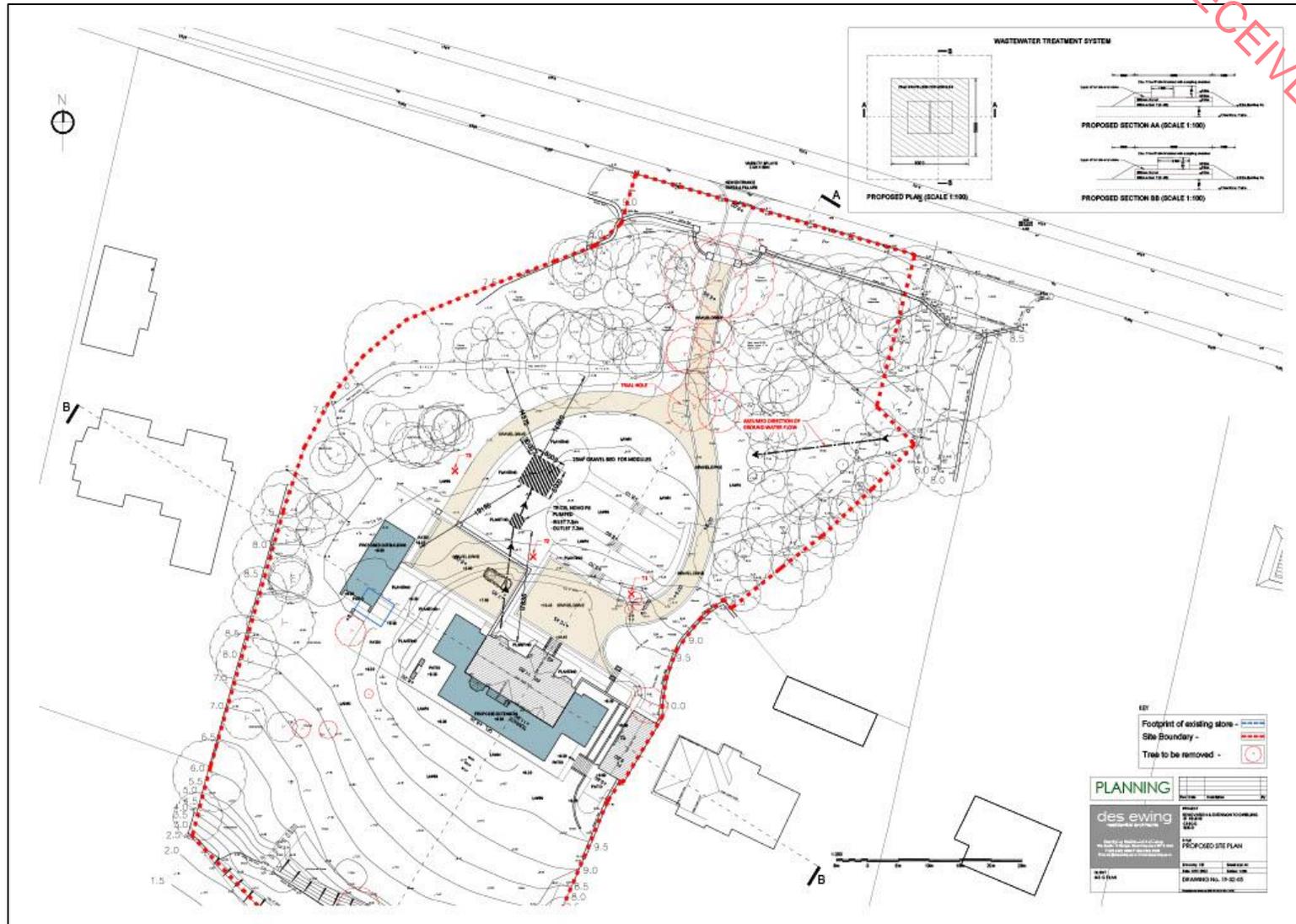
A small stream runs in a south-west direction through the woodland habitat within the north-west corner of the Site boundary.

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Figure 2: Aerial Overview of the Proposed Development including overlap with Cummeen Strand SPA and Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC



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Figure 3: Representation of the Proposed Site Plan (Source: Des Ewing Architect, 2023)

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desk Study and Consultation

Due to the close proximity of the Site to the Cummeen Strand SPA, designated for its assemblage of waterbirds and waders, an Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-Webs) data request was carried out as part of the desk study prior to undertaking field surveys. The I-Webs data request results have been presented in **Appendix I** of this report.

The following information sources were also consulted:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2009). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities;
- European Community Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) – The Habitats Directive;
- European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997;
- European Commission (2021) Commission Notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to EU Designated sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission (2021) ANNEX to the Commission Notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to EU Designated sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission Environment DG (2001). Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting EU Designated Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- Managing EU Designated Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maps³;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services online MapViewer⁴;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service's data (downloaded GIS datafiles⁵);
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management; and,
- Sligo County Council Planning Portal⁶.

³ EPA Maps. Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> [Access updated July 2023].

⁴ NPWS Map Viewer. Available at: <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/> [Access updated July 2023].

⁵ NPWS Maps and Data. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data> [Access updated July 2023].

⁶ Sligo County Council Planning Portal. Available at: <http://www.sligococo.ie/planning/SearchPlanningApplications/OnlinePlanningTools/> [Access updated July 2023].

3.1.1 Hydrology

In terms of groundwater quality of the Proposed Development Site, the Rosses Point area is considered to have 'Good' groundwater body status, according to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) for the period of 2013 – 2018. The Site lies within an area mapped as having 'High' groundwater vulnerability, meaning that it is at a high risk of groundwater contamination in the event of a pollution incident occurring (EPA maps, 2023). The Site also lies outside estimated coastal flood risk areas. The bedrock aquifer is referred to as 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones'.

3.2 Field Surveys

Woodrow carried out a field survey within, and adjacent to, the Site boundary on 08 September 2022. The survey was intended to gain a better understanding of the Site. Information gathered during Site visit was used to inform this assessment of the potential for any adverse effects upon the integrity of European Sites.

The Proposed Development Site was walked, ecological features of interest were noted, and habitats were classified into recognised communities as outlined in Fossitt (2000). Particular attention was paid to the presence of potential QI habitats and/or species present within the Site boundary due to the overlap with the Cummeen Strand SPA and Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC.

Importantly for the purposes of the NIS, supplementary to the I-Webs data request, a waterbird survey was conducted using a telescope to ascertain the typical activity level of waterbirds within the coastal area of the SPA adjacent to the Site, as well as any birds of note within the Site boundary.

While not directly related to the NIS or QI features of European Sites, during the visit, attention was also paid to the presence of potential bat roost features (PRF's) within the Site, as well as any evidence of other protected mammals (such as badger).

4 SURVEY RESULTS

The majority of the Site consists of an existing, inhabited, private, residential dwelling and mature gardens. Habitats identified within the Site have been illustrated in **Figure 4: Fossitt Habitat Map of the Proposed Development**

below.

Waterbird surveys that were carried out revealed a typical spread of species associated with the SPA, including those of Qualifying Interest. The result of the bird surveys carried out during the Site visit are presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** below.

No Annex 1 or QI habitats were confirmed to occur within the Site boundary. The Site boundary runs along the southern edge of the existing property gardens, with stone boulders marking the edge of an area of amenity lawn. Further south, and outside the Site boundary, this habitat drops down towards the rocky shoreline further south. It is considered that, although the demarcated boundaries of the adjacent Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA overlap within the Site boundary, none of the QI habitats or species for which these EU Sites have been designated were noted to occur within the Site boundary.

An area of mature broadleaf woodland c. 0.34 ha accounts for the majority of the northern section of the Site as is dominated by planted Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with a naturally regenerating understory including hazel (*Corylus avellana*), ivy (*Hedera Hibernica*), and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) with the remaining habitats presenting as a combination of regularly mowed wet and improved grasslands with mature, planted, ornamental / non-native horticultural shrubs. A small stream was noted to run in a south-west direction through the north-west corner of the property before crossing underneath the neighbouring properties and entering the bay.

No obvious bat PRFs were identified, however due to the mature broadleaf woodland and stream present in the north and north-west sections in the Site boundary, this has foraging potential for bats.

Other features of note included a single-entrance, active badger sett within a corner of the Site. Given their protected status, please note the locations of the badger sett should not be made publicly available. A map indicating the location of the badger sett, and required buffers, is provided in a **Confidential Appendix II** of this NIS.

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Table 1: Waterbird survey results

Sp. Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Season + year	Date	No. of birds	BoCCI 2020-2026	EU ⁷	Cummeen Strand SPA Qualifying Interest
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	H	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	4	Green	0	No
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	OC	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	36	Red	0	Yes
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	35 (Mix of adults and juveniles)	Amber	0	No
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	CA	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	2	Amber	0	No
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	CU	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	12	Red	0	No
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	GG	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	17	Amber	0	No
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	RB	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	14	Green	0	No
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	ET	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	1	Green	I	No
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	30	Amber	0	No
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	WN	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	20	Amber	0	No
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MS	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	11	Amber	0	No
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	GB	Non-breeding 2022-23	08/09/2022	1	Green	0	No

⁷ EU = I: relates to this species being included under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive

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Figure 4: Fossitt Habitat Map of the Proposed Development

5 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT: EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES AND THE POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

European Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive) requires that any plans or projects that could, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, affect a European (EU) Designated Site, be subject to screening for potential significant effect on any EU Designated Site.

5.1 Overview of the screening process

According to the NPWS (2009, as amended in 2010⁸), the Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise can result in the following possible conclusions or outcomes:

- Appropriate Assessment is not required: The Proposed Development is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation objectives of the site.
- Appropriate Assessment is not required: Screening establishes that there is no potential for significant effects on a European Site (subject to any further changes to the Proposed Development).
- Significant effects are likely, or it is uncertain as to whether or not they are likely. Permission must be refused unless the Proposed Development is subject to Appropriate Assessment.
- Alternatively, the Screening process may recommence on the basis of modified plans.

5.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkages

The potential impacts on designated sites are dependent on the location, topography and environment at the Site, the nature of impacts arising, the sensitivity of receptors and the causal links and conduits, rather than simply the distance from source. In many cases the potential source-pathway-receptor linkages are within the immediate vicinity of the Site (<1 km) (for example noise and human disturbance), but the distances involved may be much greater if there is a significant and direct hydrological pathway e.g., a main river which flows directly through the Site, or a QI/SCI species which ranges over large areas many kilometres from a European Site for which they are a listed feature of interest.

The Steps to follow when identifying which European Designated Site may be affected by a plan or project are available from the *European Commission (2021) Commission Notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to EU Designated Sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) *OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2010 rev.) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities*.

These include that the assessment should identify:

- Any Natura 2000 sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any Natura 2000 sites with likely source-pathway-receptor linkages with the plan or project. Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;

⁸ NPWS (2010) *Guidance on Appropriate Assessment for Planning Authorities*. Available Online at: [Guidance on Appropriate Assessment for Planning Authorities | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)

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- *Natura 2000 sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g., loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range); and,*
- *Natura 2000 sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.*

European Sites with potential pathways for impacts are identified and assessed based on factors such as proximity to the proposed works, the QIs of the European Sites (and the QI/SCI species or habitats upon which these rely), and their conservation status.

Section 5 provides information on the EU Designated Sites within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development (**Figure 5** and **Figure 6**). These can then be assessed based on factors such as proximity to Proposed Development, QIs/SCIs, and their conservation status. A screening matrix is provided regarding the potential impacts and likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on these designated sites (**Table 2**).

Within each section, the site's conservation objectives are laid out, the potential for the Proposed Development to affect them is considered, and a conclusion on the potential for the Proposed Development to have a significant effect on its QIs/SCIs (and therefore on the European Site) is made.

The Proposed Development boundary is located within and is considered to have hydrological connection to two EU Designated Sites; Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627) and Cummeen Strand SPA (004035) (**Figure 5**), however, no works will occur within the boundaries of the adjoining SAC and SPA with the closest works occurring c. 25m north of the SAC and c. 30m north of the SPA.

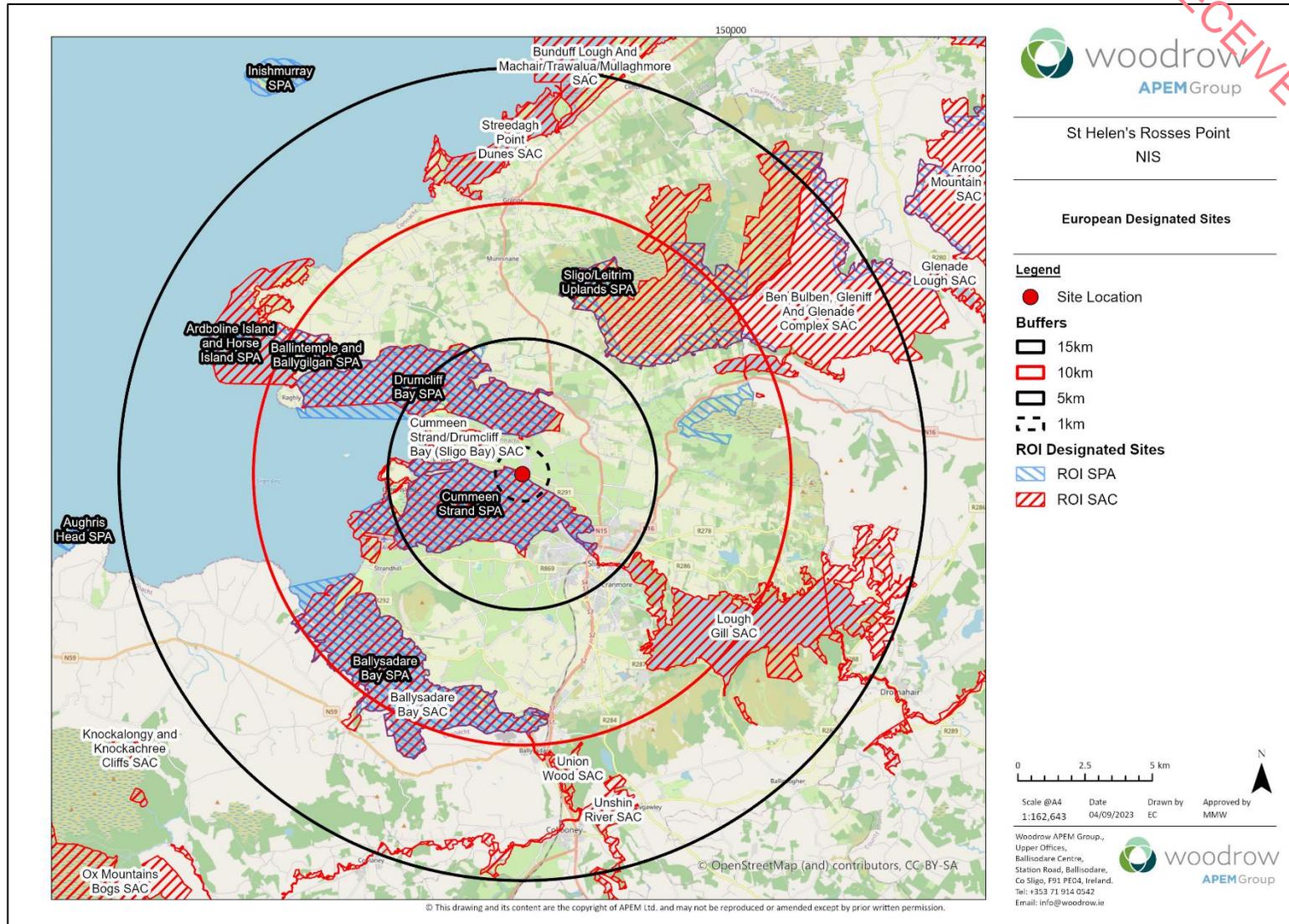
It is considered that, although the demarcated boundaries of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA overlap within the Site boundary, none of the QI habitats or species for which these EU Sites have been designated occur within this area and there will be no direct habitat loss with the boundaries of the Cummeen Strand and Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA. These sites are further considered to be hydrologically connected with the Proposed Development through a small, modified stream (**Figure 6**).

In addition, Cummeen Strand SPA forms part of the larger Sligo Bay complex that comprises Cummeen Strand in the middle, Drumcliff Bay to the north, and Ballysadare Bay to the south. Waterbirds are thought to range across these sites collectively. Therefore, it is considered that several adjoining SPA designated sites may have the potential for connectivity and associated source-pathway-receptor linkages with the Proposed Development. These include;

- Ballysadare SPA (004129); and
- Drumcliff Bay SPA (004013)

A further eight EU Designated Sites, Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (000623), Sligo / Leitrim Uplands SPA (004187), Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (004234), Unshin River SAC (001898), Union Wood SAC (000638), Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (001680), Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135) and Glenade Lough SAC (001919), were noted to occur within 15 km of the Site, but were considered to have no potential for source-pathway-receptor linkages.

Each of the EU Designated Sites assessed, and their associated features of Qualifying Interest (QIs) have been listed in **Table 2** below. The potential for the Proposed Development to affect them has been considered and a conclusion on the potential for the Proposed Development to have a significant effect on the QIs (and therefore the EU Designated Site) is made. In reaching the conclusions, the conservation objectives for each EU Designated Site were considered.



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Figure 5: European Designated Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development

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Figure 6: Hydrological Connectivity with EU Designated Sites and location of the modified stream present

Table 2: Screening Matrix of Impacts on all EU Designated Sites in the Vicinity of the Proposed Development

Sites highlighted in grey have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development.

European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9,10}	Conservation Objectives
Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marsh Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	The SAC extends to within the Site boundary.	Yes	<p>Potential impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction and the potential water quality impacts on the SAC including habitat degradation, associated impacts on habitats used by mobile QI species and mobile QI species coming into direct contact with contaminants.</p> <p>Potential localised contribution to eutrophication of the SAC as a result of the discharge of wastewater from the proposal.</p> <p>Potential disturbance to mobile QI species during construction works.</p>	NPWS (2013a)

⁹ EPA Maps - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> - Information from this website has been used to assist this screening exercise.

¹⁰ EPA Flood Maps - <http://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/> - Information from this website has been used to assist this screening exercise.

European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] 				
Lough Gill SAC (001976)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092] • Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] • River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] • Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] 	c. 4.4 km (south-east).	No	None – This SAC lies upstream of Sligo Bay into which the modified stream identified in the Site discharges to, as such there is no hydrological, or other, connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SAC.	NPWS (2021a)
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (000623)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] • European dry heaths [4030] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] 	c. 5.4 km (north-east).	No	None – There is no hydrological link between the Proposed Development and the SAC.	NPWS (2021b)

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European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid Sites) [6210] • Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) * [6230] • Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] • Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* [7220] • Alkaline fens [7230] • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] • Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120] 				

European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] 				
Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow-mouthed snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] 	c. 7 km (south-west).	No	None – Potential water quality impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction could discharge into Sligo Bay waterbody, given the small scale of the development, distance to this SAC and waterbody separating the Proposed Development and the SAC, there is no likelihood significant effects on the EU Site.	NPWS (2013b)
Unshin River SAC (001898)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid Sites) [6210] 	c. 9.7 km (south).	No	None – There is no hydrological link between the Proposed Development and the SAC.	NPWS (2021c)

European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) * [91E0] • Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] 				
Union Wood SAC (000638)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] 	c. 10.1 km (south south-east).	No	None – There is no hydrological link between the Proposed Development and the SAC.	NPWS (2021d)
Glenade Lough SAC (001919)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092] • Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] 	c. 11.3 west (south-west).	No	None – There is no hydrological link between the Proposed Development and the SAC.	NPWS (2021e)
Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (001680)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] 	c. 10. 1 km (north).	No	None – There is no hydrological link between the Proposed Development and the SAC as they occur in two different coastal waterbodies.	NPWS (2015)

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European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 				
Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light – bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetlands [A999] 	The SPA extends to within the Site boundary.	Yes	<p>Potential impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction and the potential water quality impacts on the SPA including habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitats used by QI species, and QI species coming into direct contact with contaminants.</p> <p>Potential localised contribution to eutrophication of the SPA as a result of the discharge of wastewater from the proposal resulting in habitat degradation.</p> <p>Potential temporary disturbance and displacement of QI species within the SPA during construction works.</p>	NPWS (2013c)
Drumcliff Bay SPA (004013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] 	c. 1.4 km (north).	Yes	Potential impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction and the potential water quality impacts including habitat degradation of roosting and feeding	NPWS (2013d)

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European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands [A999] 			<p>habitats used by QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex, and QI species coming into direct contact with contaminants.</p> <p>Potential temporary disturbance and displacement of QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex during construction works.</p>	
Sligo / Leitrim Uplands SPA (004187)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] 	c. 6.2 km east (north-east).	No	None – Given the size and location of the Proposed Development (> 6 km away from this SPA), it is considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on the SPA as a result of the Proposed Development.	NPWS (2022a)
Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) A157 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetlands [A999] 	c. 7.1 km (south-west).	Yes	<p>Potential impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction and the potential water quality impacts including habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitats used by QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex, and QI species coming into direct contact with contaminants.</p> <p>Potential temporary disturbance and displacement of QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex during construction works.</p>	NPWS (2013e)

European Site Name (Site Code)	Qualifying Interests (QI's) [QI code] * = Priority Habitats	Approximate Distance of the European Site from the Proposed Development at the Closest Point	Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage?	Potential for Significant Effects and nature of potential impact ^{9, 10}	Conservation Objectives
Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (004234)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] 	c. 8.8 km (north-west).	Yes	<p>Potential impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction and the potential water quality impacts including habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitats used by QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex, and QI species coming into direct contact with contaminants.</p> <p>Potential temporary disturbance and displacement of QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex during construction works.</p>	NPWS (2022b)
Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [0A017] Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] 	c. 10.9 km (north-west).	Yes	<p>Potential impacts arising from surface water run-off or a pollution event during construction and the potential water quality impacts including habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitats used by QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex, and QI species coming into direct contact with contaminants.</p> <p>Potential temporary disturbance and displacement of QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex during construction works.</p>	NPWS (2022c)

5.3 Results of Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The Proposed Development involves the construction of a side and rear extension to the existing property and the removal of an existing extension, the incorporation of a new garage, construction of a leisure building, creation of a new site entrance and installation of a new tertiary treatment system, and associated works. The location for the Proposed Development is largely within the area of an existing property and gardens, and it is immediately adjacent to the Sligo Bay shoreline. The Proposed Development is described in more detail in **Section 2.2**.

The Proposed Development boundary overlaps with two EU Designated Sites, Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA, and is approx. 25m north of the SAC and approx. 30m north of SPA. These EU Designated Sites are considered to occur within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development and a source-pathway-receptor linkage has been identified. As such the SAC and SPA are at risk from direct and indirect impacts¹¹ and potential likely significant effects may arise from the Proposed Development on these EU Designated Sites and their QI's. The Proposed Development is not necessary for the management of any EU Designated Sites.

Below, the six EU Designated Sites Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA, Ballysadare Bay SPA, Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA and Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA and their QI's which are considered to be within the Zone of Influence and have a source-pathway-receptor linkage identified are discussed below. Due to the fact that these EU Designated Sites could be affected by the Proposed Development for the reasons outlined below, it is deemed necessary using the precautionary principle to 'screen in' these EU Designated Sites and to undertake an Appropriate Assessment in order to consider if the Proposed Development could affect the integrity of these EU Designated Sites.

5.3.1 Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)

Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC is within the Proposed Development boundary and is c. 25 m south of the nearest works associated with the Proposed Development. A small stream was identified in the Site during the survey, surface water run-off discharging via this stream into Sligo Bay, which is hydrologically connected with the SAC, cannot be ruled out. While the topography of lands within the Proposed Development slopes towards the shoreline of the SAC, the existing garden vegetation and amenity grassland would act as a natural filter for any sediments within the surface water run-off. There is limited potential for the Proposed Development to result in disturbance impacts on mobile QI species due to the fact that there is an existing property present and works proposed are limited and towards the north of the site furthest from the SAC. However, the Proposed Development has the potential to result in indirect water quality impacts in the receiving aquatic environment and potentially effect QI habitats and species.

The following QI's of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC could be affected by water quality impacts:

- Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095]
- River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099]

¹¹In this report, direct impacts constitute direct or primary impacts to EU Designated Sites, for example habitat loss or mortality of QI species. Indirect or secondary impacts constitute pollution of water courses which may flow into a EU Designated Site.

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1365]

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Conservation Objectives for the Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

The site-specific conservation objectives for sea lamprey, river lamprey, estuaries, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide and harbour seal is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the habitat / species, which is defined by a list of attributes and targets (NPWS, 2013a).

5.3.2 Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)

Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

Cummeen Strand SPA is within the Proposed Development's boundary and is c. 30 m south of the nearest works associated with the Proposed Development. Given the proximity to the SPA, the construction works have the potential to result in disturbance of QI birds associated with the SPA. Albeit disturbance impacts are expected to be minimal given there is an existing property present and works proposed are limited and towards the north of the site furthest from the SPA. A small stream was identified in the Site during the survey, surface water run-off discharging via this stream into Sligo Bay, which is hydrologically connected with the SPA, cannot be ruled out. While the topography of lands within the Proposed Development slopes towards the shoreline of the SPA, the existing garden vegetation and amenity grassland would act as a natural filter for any sediments within the surface water run-off. However, the Proposed Development has the potential to result in indirect water quality impacts in the receiving aquatic environment and potentially effect habitats which QI species rely on for feeding and roosting, and through direct contact with contaminants in surface water run-off.

The following QI's of the Cummeen Strand SPA could be affected by disturbance and water quality impacts:

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

The following QI's of the Cummeen Strand SPA could be affected by hydrological impacts:

- Wetlands [A999]

Conservation Objectives for the Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

The site-specific conservation objectives for light-bellied brent goose, oystercatcher, redshank and wetlands are to maintain the favourable conservation condition, which is defined by a list of attributes and targets (NPWS, 2013c).

5.3.3 Drumcliff Bay SPA (004013)

Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

Drumcliff Bay SPA is c. 1.4 km north of the Proposed Development. This SPA is also a part of the larger Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. Given the mobile nature of the QI species that travel between SPAs within the Sligo Bay SPA complex, QI species associated with the Drumcliff Bay SPA may occur in close proximity to the Proposed Development. As such, the construction works have the potential to result in disturbance of QI birds associated with the SPA. Albeit disturbance impacts are expected to be minimal given there is an existing property present and works proposed are limited and towards the north of the site furthest from the SPA. A small stream was identified in

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the Site during the survey, surface water run-off discharging via this stream into Sligo Bay, cannot be ruled out. While the topography of lands within the Proposed Development slopes towards the shoreline of the SPA, the existing garden vegetation and amenity grassland would act as a natural filter for any sediments within the surface water run-off. However, the Proposed Development has the potential to result in indirect water quality impacts in the receiving aquatic environment and potentially effect habitats which QI species rely on for feeding and roosting, and through direct contact with contaminants in surface water run-off.

The following QI's of Drumcliff Bay SPA could be affected by disturbance and water quality impacts:

- Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) [A144]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]

Conservation Objectives for the Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

A site-specific conservation objective for sanderlings, bar-tailed godwits and wetland and water birds aims to maintain favourable conservation condition, which is defined by a list of attributes and targets (NPWS, 2013d).

5.3.4 Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129)

Qualifying Interests

Ballysadare Bay SPA is c. 7.1km south-east of the Proposed Development. Although the distance between this SPA and the Proposed Development is in exceedance of 7km, QI species include light-bellied brent geese a QI species of the SPA and a traditional winter migrant to Ireland who are known to travel up to 10km between foraging and roosting locations, particularly during early Spring (Clausen *et al.*, 2013). Although they are not known to use habitats adjacent to the Proposed Development, there is potential for light-bellied brent geese to use these habitats. For this reason, this SPA is being screened in.

The following QI's of Ballysadare Bay SPA could be affected by disturbance and water quality impacts:

- Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) [A149]
- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) A157
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

Conservation Objectives for the Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence.

The site-specific conservation objectives for light-bellied brent geese aims to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, which is defined by a list of attributes and targets (NPWS, 2013e)

5.3.5 Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (004234)

Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence

Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA is c. 8.8km north-west of the Proposed Development. However, Barnacle geese, a traditional wintering visitor and QI species of the SPA, are known to travel up to 25km between foraging areas and night roosts during the winter period¹². Although they are not

¹² Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance: Assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3, June 2016.

known to use habitats adjacent to the Proposed Development, there is potential for barnacle geese to travel to and use habitats adjacent to the Proposed Development. For this reason, this SPA is being screened in.

The following QI's of Drumcliff Bay SPA could be affected by disturbance and water quality impacts:

- Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]

Conservation Objectives for the Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence.

The site-specific conservation objectives for Barnacle geese aims to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, which is defined by a list of attributes and targets (NPWS, 2022b).

5.3.6 Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)

Qualifying Interests

Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA is c. 10.9km north-west of the Proposed Development. However, Barnacle geese, a traditional wintering visitor and QI species of the SPA, are known to travel up to 25km between foraging areas and night roosts during the winter period¹³. Although they are not known to use habitats adjacent to the Proposed Site, there is potential for barnacle geese to use these habitats. For this reason, this SPA is being screened in.

The following QI's of Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA could be affected by disturbance and water quality impacts:

- Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]

Conservation Objectives for the Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence.

The site-specific conservation objectives for Barnacle geese aims to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, which is defined by a list of attributes and targets (NPWS, 2022c).

5.3.7 Conclusions

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment has concluded that there is potential for likely significant effects on Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA, Ballysadare SPA, Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA and Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA and that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required. These EU Designated Sites and QIs within the Zone of Influence (presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** and above) are assessed as part of the NIS. The NIS is presented from **Section 6** of this report.

6 DESCRIPTION OF EU DESIGNATED SITES AND QUALIFYING INTERESTS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

6.1 EU Designated Sites Identified within the Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment (**Section 5**) specifically deals with the potential for likely significant effects on EU Designated Sites and their QI's, the Natura Impact Statement aims to assess whether the Proposed Development may adversely affect the integrity of any EU Designated Sites.

¹³ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance: Assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3, June 2016.

The conclusions of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment exercise can be found in **Section 5.3.7** of this NIS. There is overlap with the Proposed Development boundary and the two EU Designated Sites, however no element of the Proposed Development occurs within any EU Designated Site boundary. The nearest element of the Proposed Development is approx. 25m north of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and 30m north of the Cummeen Strand SPA (**Figure 5**). In total, the Screening for Appropriate Assessment identified that there are potential source-pathway receptor linkages to six EU Designated Sites within 15 km from the Proposed Development which might result in significant impact on the EU Designated Sites and their QI's habitats and / or species. **Table 2** Error! Reference source not found.details the EU Designated Sites for which the Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded significant effects could not be ruled out, it is a potential significant effects matrix which includes the QIs potentially affected as well as the impact type and cause. These six EU Designated Sites and their specific QIs, as outlined in **Section 5**, are considered to be in the Proposed Development's Zone of Influence.

6.2 Description of EU Designated Sites with identified Source-Pathway-Receptor linkage

6.2.1 Description of Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC¹⁴

This SAC overlaps with the Proposed Development boundary and is c. 25 m south of the nearest works. This SAC has two potential hydrological links to the SAC via the modified stream identified within the site which discharges to Sligo Bay and surface water flowing over land which could reach Sligo Bay due to the close proximity and sloping topography towards Sligo Bay shoreline of the lands within the Proposed Development Site. While the topography of lands within the Proposed Development slopes towards the shoreline of the SPA, the existing garden vegetation and amenity grassland would act as a natural filter for any sediments within the surface water run-off.

The SAC is a large coastal site from Cullamore in the north-west to Killaspug in the south-west, and from Sligo town in the south-east to Drumcliff village in the north-east. It encompasses two large, shallow bays, Drumcliff Bay and Sligo Harbour, and both Ardboline and Horse Island. The site supports a large number of coastal and terrestrial habitats.

Following the Screening for Appropriate Assessment the following QIs for Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC are being further assessed:

- Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095]
- River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099]
- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1365]

¹⁴ NPWS (2016). Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (Site Code: 000627): Site Synopsis. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000627.pdf> [Accessed September 2023].

6.2.1.1 Site-specific conservation objectives and favourable conservation status

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site (NPWS, 2013a). According to Articles 1(e) and 1(f) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) and as cited in NPWS (2013a), favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

According to NPWS (2013a), favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The conservation objectives of the QIs of Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC are detailed below in Error! Reference source not found.3 and consist of attributes, measures, and targets for each conservation objective. Pressures recorded nationally and the national conservation status of the QIs of Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC within the Zone of Influence are presented in Error! Reference source not found.below. Threats, impacts and activities impacting on Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC are presented in Error! Reference source not found.5.

Table 3: Conservation Objectives for the QIs of Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC within the Zone of Influence.

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries [1130] in Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	Habitat area was estimated as 1258ha using OSi data and the defined Transitional Water Body area under the Water Framework Directive
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community and the Mytilidae-dominated community complex, subject to natural processes.	Based on intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012) and subtidal survey in 2010 (Aquafact, 2011). See marine supporting document for further information
Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> density	Shoots / m ²	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes	Estimated during intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details

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Community structure: <i>Mytilus edulis</i> density	Individuals / m ²	Conserve the high quality of the Mytilidae-dominated community complex, subject to natural processes	Estimated during intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012) and subtidal survey in 2010 (Aquafact, 2011). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal fine sand with <i>Peringia ulvae</i> and <i>Pygospio elegans</i> community complex; Estuarine mixed sediment to sandy mud with <i>Hediste diversicolor</i> and oligochaetes community complex; Fine sand with <i>Angulus</i> spp. and <i>Nephtys</i> spp. community complex; Sand to mixed sediment with amphipods community; Intertidal reef community. See map 5	Based on intertidal and subtidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012; Aquafact, 2011) and an intertidal walkover undertaken in 2013. See marine supporting document for further information
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] in Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Habitat area was estimated using OSi data as 2288ha
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community and the Mytilidae-dominated community complex, subject to natural processes. See map 5	Based on intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information
Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> density	Shoots / m ²	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes	Estimated during intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details
Community structure: <i>Mytilus edulis</i> density	Individuals / m ²	Conserve the high quality of the Mytilidae-dominated community complex, subject to natural processes	Estimated during intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal fine sand with <i>Peringia ulvae</i> and <i>Pygospio elegans</i> community complex; Estuarine mixed sediment to sandy mud with <i>Hediste diversicolor</i> and oligochaetes community complex; Fine sand with crustaceans and <i>Scololepis</i> (<i>Scololepis</i>) <i>squamata</i> community complex; Fine sand	Based on intertidal surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2010 (ASU, 2007, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information

		with <i>Angulus</i> spp. and <i>Nephtys</i> spp. community complex. See map 5	
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To restore the favourable conservation condition of Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] in Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution: extent of anadromy	% of estuary accessible	No barriers for migratory life stages of lamprey moving from freshwater to marine habitats and vice versa	This SAC only covers marine/estuarine habitat and it is not anticipated that it contains suitable spawning or nursery habitat. Migrating adult lamprey pass through the site en route to/from the Garavogue River, which flows out of Lough Gill. Lough Gill SAC (site code: 1976), which is adjacent to this SAC, encompasses the freshwater elements of sea lamprey habitat. Potential barriers for migrating lamprey include anthropogenic physical barriers and chemical barriers e.g. oxygen depletion or discharge of noxious pollutants
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] in Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution: extent of anadromy	% of estuary accessible	No barriers for migratory life stages of lamprey moving from freshwater to marine habitats and vice versa	This SAC only covers marine/estuarine habitat and it is not anticipated that it contains suitable spawning or nursery habitat. Migrating adult lamprey pass through the site en route to/from the Garavogue River, which flows out of Lough Gill. Lough Gill SAC (site code: 1976), which is adjacent to this SAC, encompasses the freshwater elements of river lamprey habitat. Potential barriers for migrating lamprey include anthropogenic physical barriers and chemical barriers e.g. oxygen depletion or discharge of noxious pollutants
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] in Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use.	See marine supporting document for further details

Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	Conserve the breeding sites in a natural condition. See map 8	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish breeding populations, review of data summarised by Summers et al. (1980), Harrington (1990), Lyons (2004) and unpublished National Parks and Wildlife Service records. See marine supporting document for further details
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	Conserve the moult haul-out sites in a natural condition. See map 8	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, review of data from Lyons (2004), Cronin et al. (2004), NPWS (2010), NPWS (2011), NPWS (2012) and unpublished National Parks and Wildlife Service records. See marine supporting document for further details
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	Conserve the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition.	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, review of data from Lyons (2004) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site	See marine supporting document for further details

Table 4: National Pressures and Conservation Status of the Qualifying Interests (QI) of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC within the Zone of Influence.

QI of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC within the Zone of Influence	National Pressures and Conservation Status of Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence
Estuaries [1130]	<p>Pressures The principal pressures on estuaries include pollution to surface waters, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, bottom culture, suspension culture, nautical sports, estuarine and coastal dredging, other outdoor sports and leisure activities, piers/ tourist harbours or recreational piers, and slipways (NPWS, 2013g). NPWS (2013f) states that 'pollution and fishing/aquaculture related activities affect habitat quality, particularly in some highly sensitive areas'.</p> <p>Conservation Status The range, area and future prospects of this habitat are assessed as favourable, whilst the specific structures and functions are inadequate. Therefore, the overall status of this habitat is assessed as inadequate (NPWS, 2013f).</p>
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	<p>Pressures The principal pressures on mudflats and sandflat not covered by seawater at low tide include pollution to surface waters, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, bottom culture, suspension culture, hand collection, estuarine and coastal dredging, other outdoor sports and leisure activities, and nautical sports (NPWS, 2013g). NPWS (2013f)</p>

QI of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC within the Zone of Influence	National Pressures and Conservation Status of Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence
	<p>states that 'pollution, fisheries/aquaculture and diverse use of the foreshore are likely to affect habitat quality, particularly eelgrass beds'.</p> <p>Conservation Status The range, area and future prospects of this habitat are assessed as favourable, whilst structures and functions are assessed as inadequate. Therefore, the overall status of this habitat is assessed as inadequate (NPWS, 2013f).</p>
<p>Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]</p>	<p>Pressures The principal pressures on sea lamprey include canalisation, reduction in migration/ migration barriers and pollution to surface waters (NPWS, 2013h). NPWS (2013f) states that 'sea lamprey juveniles are rarely encountered and, when found, numbers are very low. Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat, are considered the major impediment to good conservation status for sea lamprey.</p> <p>Conservation Status The range, population and future prospects of the species is assessed as bad, whilst the habitat for the species is assessed as favourable. Therefore, the overall status of this species is assessed as bad (NPWS, 2013f).</p>
<p>River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]</p>	<p>Pressures NPWS (2013f) states that 'there are extensive areas of suitable habitat and no significant pressures impacting these species. The pressures that have been recorded on river lamprey include dredging / removal of limnic sediments, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, reduction in migration / migration barriers, other point source pollution to surface water, invasive non-native species, and diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities (NPWS, 2013h).</p> <p>Conservation Status The range, population, habitat for the species, future prospects is assessed as favourable. Therefore, the overall status of this species is assessed as favourable (NPWS, 2013f).</p>
<p>Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]</p>	<p>Pressures The principal pressures are fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, seismic exploration, explosions, marine and freshwater aquaculture, illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, noise nuisance, noise pollution, and changes in abiotic conditions (NPWS, 2013h). NPWS (2013f) states that that threats and pressures to harbour seals 'include disturbance by human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear, competition for prey resources, disease, illegal killing, pollution and other habitat degradation'.</p> <p>Conservation Status The range, population, habitat for the species and future prospects for this species is assessed as favourable. Therefore, the overall status of this species is assessed as favourable (NPWS, 2013f).</p>

Table 5: Threats, pressures and activities impacting the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC.

Threats and Pressures code	Threats & Pressures	Rank*	+/-*	I/O/B*
G02.01	Golf course	M	-	I
G01.02	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles	M	-	I
A02.01	Agricultural intensification	M	-	I
J02.11.01	Polderisation	L	-	I
I01	Invasive non-native species	M	-	I
D03.01	Port areas	M	-	I
G05.01	Trampling, overuse	L	-	I
E01.03	Dispersed habitation	M	-	I
E03.03	Disposal of inert materials	L	-	I
J01.01	Burning down	L	-	I
G01.03.02	Off-road motorized driving	M	-	I
J02.12.01	Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages	L	-	I
G02.08	Camping and caravans	L	-	I
F01.01	Intensive fish farming, intensification	H	-	I
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	M	-	I
G02.09	Wildlife watching	M	+	I

*Where Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low; +/- = Positive/ Negative Impact; and I/O/B = Inside/ Outside/ Both.

6.2.2 Description of Cummeen Strand SPA¹⁵

This SPA overlaps with the Proposed Development boundary and is c. 30 m south of the nearest works. This Proposed Development has two potential hydrological links to the SPA via the modified stream identified within the site which discharges to Sligo Bay and surface water flowing over land which could reach Sligo Bay due to the close proximity and sloping topography towards Sligo Bay shoreline of the lands within the Proposed Development Site. While the topography of lands within the Proposed Development slopes towards the shoreline of the SPA, the existing garden vegetation and amenity grassland would act as a natural filter for any sediments within the surface water run-off.

Given the proximity to the SPA, the construction works have the potential to result in disturbance of QI birds associated with the SPA. Albeit disturbance impacts are expected to be minimal given there is an existing property present and works proposed are limited and towards the north of the site furthest from the SPA.

Cummeen Strand is a large shallow bay stretching from Sligo Town westwards to Coney Island. It is one of three estuarine bays within Sligo Bay and is situated between Drumcliff Bay to the north and Ballysadare Bay to the south. The Garavogue River flows into the bay and forms a permanent channel. At low tide, extensive sand and mud flats are exposed. These support a diverse macro-invertebrate fauna which provides the main food supply for the wintering waterfowl.

Cummeen Strand supports important concentrations of wintering waterfowl, including an internationally important light-bellied brent goose flock (223) and nationally important populations of oystercatcher (680) and redshank (408). The regular presence of golden plover and bar-tailed godwit

¹⁵ NPWS (2014). Cummeen Strand SPA (Site Code: 004035): Site Synopsis. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004035.pdf> [Accessed September 2023].

is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site also supports a large number of other bird species.

Following the Screening for Appropriate Assessment the following QIs for Cummeen Strand SPA are being further assessed:

- Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Wetlands [A999]

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6.2.2.1 Site-specific conservation objectives and favourable conservation status

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site (NPWS, 2013c). According to Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) and as cited in NPWS (2013c), *favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:*

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

According to NPWS (2013c), favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The conservation objectives of the QIs of Cummeen Strand SPA are detailed below in **Table 7**: and consist of attributes, measures and targets for each conservation objective. The population significance, extent and character, and conservation condition of the QIs of Cummeen Strand SPA are presented in

Table 8:. Threats, impacts and activities impacting on Cummeen Strand SPA are presented in **Table 9**:.

Table 7: Conservation Objectives for the QIs of Cummeen Strand SPA within the Zone of Influence.

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Goose in Cummeen Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document

Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of area	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in Cummeen Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Cummeen Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of area	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Cummeen Strand SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than 1732 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 1732ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document

Table 8: Population Significance, Extent and Character, and Conservation Condition of the Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Cummeen Strand SPA within the Zone of Influence.

Qualifying Species	Population Significance	Extent and Character	Conservation Condition of QIs within the Zone of Influence
Light-bellied brent goose	International importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the biogeographic	Favourable

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Qualifying Species	Population Significance	Extent and Character	Conservation Condition of QIs within the Zone of Influence
(<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]		population of light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 223 individuals. The recent site data (2006/07 – 2010/2011) was 481.	
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 680 individuals. The recent site data (2006/07 – 2010/2011) was 792.	Favourable
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 408 individuals. The recent site data (2006/07 – 2010/2011) was 280.	Unfavourable
Wetlands [A999]	N/A	The wetland habitats contained within Cummeen Strand SPA are identified of conservation importance for non-breeding (wintering) migratory waterbirds. Therefore, the wetland habitats are considered to be an additional Special Conservation Interest.	N/A

Table 9: Threats, Pressures and Activities impacting on Cummeen Strand SPA.

Threats and Pressures Code	Threats & Pressures	Rank*	+/-*	I/O/B*
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	H	-	I
D01.02	Roads, motorways	M	-	O
H	Pollution	H	-	I
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	H	-	I
A08	Fertilisation	M	-	O
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	H	-	O
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	M	-	O
D03.02	Shipping lanes	H	--	O
J02.01.02	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh	H	-	I
F02.03	Leisure fishing	L	-	I
F02.03	Leisure fishing	L	+	I
D03.02	Shipping lanes	H	+	I
D01.02	Roads, motorways	M	+	O

*Where Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low; +/- = Positive/Negative Impact; and I/O/B = Inside/Outside/Both.

6.2.3 Description of Drumcliff Bay SPA¹⁶

This SPA is located c. 1.4km north of the Proposed Development. Given the short distance between the SPA and the Proposed Development and the mobility of the QI species, such QI species have the potential to be adversely impacted by water quality impacts as described above or disturbance during works. Albeit disturbance impacts are expected to be minimal given there is an existing property present and works proposed are limited and towards the north of the site furthest from the shoreline.

Drumcliff Bay is the most northerly of Sligo Bay's three estuarine inlets. The bay comprises an inner area of sheltered estuarine habitat and an outer area of shallow seawater. It extends 9 km east to west from Drumcliff village to Raghly Point. Drumcliff Bay is the estuary of the Drumcliff River, a substantial river flowing from Glencar Lough to the east. The inner part of Drumcliff Bay is sheltered by a sandy/grassy peninsula extending north from Rosses Point. The northern part of the bay is fringed by fine sandy beaches - Ballygilgan Strand, Lissadell Strand and Ardtermon Strand. Salt marsh occurs in the most sheltered areas and at low tide, extensive inter-tidal flats are exposed. A bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) occurs near the south-eastern corner of the bay.

Drumcliff Bay supports important concentrations of wintering waterfowl, including nationally important populations of two species of wintering waterfowl: Sanderling (237) and Bar-tailed Godwit (336). The regular presence of whooper swan, great northern diver and bar-tailed godwit is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site also supports a large number of other bird species.

Following the Screening for Appropriate Assessment the following QIs for Drumcliff Bay SPA are being further assessed:

- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]
- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]

6.2.3.1 Site-specific conservation objectives and favourable conservation status

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site (NPWS, 2013d). According to Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) and as cited in NPWS (2013d), *favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:*

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

According to NPWS (2013d), favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and,

¹⁶ NPWS (2014). Drumcliff Bay SPA (Site Code: 004013): Site Synopsis. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004013.pdf> [Accessed October 2023].

- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The conservation objectives of the QIs of Drumcliff Bay SPA are detailed below in **Table 7**: and consist of attributes, measures and targets for each conservation objective. The population significance, extent and character, and conservation condition of the QIs of Drumcliff Bay SPA are presented in **Table 11**. Threats, impacts and activities impacting are not available for Drumcliff Bay SPA, however it can be assumed that these align with threats, impacts and activities for nearby SPAs as set out in **Table 9**.

Table 10: Conservation Objectives for the QIs of Drumcliff Bay SPA within the Zone of Influence.

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in Drumcliff Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of area	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed godwit in Drumcliff Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Drumcliff Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than 1732 hectares,	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 1843ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the

		other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	conservation objectives supporting document
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Table 11: Population Significance, Extent and Character, and Conservation Condition of the Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Drumcliff Bay SPA within the Zone of Influence.

Qualifying Species	Population Significance	Extent and Character	Conservation Condition of QIs within the Zone of Influence
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 237 individuals	Highly Unfavourable
Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>). The mean peak number of this Annex I species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 336 individuals.	Favourable
Wetlands [A999]	N/A	The wetland habitats contained within Drumcliff Bay SPA are identified of conservation importance for non-breeding (wintering) migratory waterbirds. Therefore the wetland habitats are considered to be an additional Special Conservation Interest.	N/A

6.2.4 Description of Ballysadare Bay SPA¹⁷

This SPA is located c. 7.1km south-west of the Proposed Development. Although the distance between this SPA and the Proposed Development is in exceedance of 7km, QI species include light-bellied brent geese a traditional winter migrant to Ireland who are known to travel up to 10km between foraging and roosting locations, particularly during early Spring (Clausen *et al.*, 2013). Furthermore, hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SPA has been identified.

Ballysadare Bay SPA extends for approximately 10 km westwards from the town of Ballysadare, County Sligo. It is the most southerly of three inlets that form the eastern part of the larger Sligo Bay

¹⁷ NPWS (2010). Ballysadare Bay SPA (Site Code: 004129): Site Synopsis. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004129.pdf> [Accessed October 2023].

complex. The estuarine channel of the Ballysadare River winds its way through the bay, finally reaching the open sea near the Strandhill Dunes sand spit. The bay is underlain by sedimentary rocks of limestones, sandstones and shales which are exposed as low cliffs and small sections of bedrock shore at several locations.

Ballysadare Bay SPA supports important concentrations of wintering waterfowl, including an internationally important population of Light-bellied brent geese (188) and nationally important populations of Grey Plover (70), Dunlin (1,420), Bar-tailed Godwit (251) and Redshank (435). The regular presence of whooper swan, golden plover and bar-tailed godwit is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site also supports a large number of other bird species.

Following the Screening for Appropriate Assessment the following QIs for Ballysadare Bay SPA are being further assessed:

- Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) [A149]
- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) A157
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

6.2.4.1 Site-specific conservation objectives and favourable conservation status

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site (NPWS, 2013e). According to Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) and as cited in NPWS (2013e), *favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:*

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

According to NPWS (2013e), favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The conservation objectives of the QIs of Ballysadare Bay SPA are detailed below in **Table 7**: and consist of attributes, measures and targets for each conservation objective. The population significance, extent and character, and conservation condition of the QIs of Ballysadare Bay SPA are presented in

Table 8:3. Threats, impacts and activities impacting are not available for Ballysadare Bay SPA, however it can be assumed that these align with threats, impacts and activities for nearby SPAs as set out in **Table 9**.

Table 12: Conservation Objectives for the QIs of Ballysadare Bay SPA within the Zone of Influence.

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Brent Goose in Ballysadare Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of area	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of grey plover in Ballysadare Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of dunlin in Ballysadare Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of bar-tailed godwit in Ballysadare Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document

Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of redshank in Ballysadare Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Drumcliff Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than 1843 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 1843ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document

Table 13: Population Significance, Extent and Character, and Conservation Condition of the Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Ballysadare Bay SPA within the Zone of Influence.

Qualifying Species	Population Significance	Extent and Character	Conservation Condition of QIs within the Zone of Influence
Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	International Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the biogeographic population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 188 individuals.	Favourable
Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis</i>)	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>). The	Highly Unfavourable

Qualifying Species	Population Significance	Extent and Character	Conservation Condition of QIs within the Zone of Influence
<i>squatarola</i>) [A141]		mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 70 individuals.	
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) [A149]	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 1,420 individuals.	Intermediate Unfavourable
Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) A157	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>). The mean peak number of this Annex I species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 251 individuals.	Intermediate Unfavourable
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	National Importance	During winter the site regularly supports 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>). The mean peak number of this species within the SPA during the baseline period (1995/96 – 1999/00) was 435 individuals.	Intermediate Unfavourable
Wetlands [A999]	N/A	The wetland habitats contained within Ballysadare Bay SPA are identified of conservation importance for non-breeding (wintering) migratory waterbirds. Therefore the wetland habitats are considered to be an additional Special Conservation Interest.	N/A

6.2.5 Description of Ballintemple and Ballygilgan Bay SPA¹⁸

This SPA is located c. 8.8km north-west of the Proposed Development. Although the distance between this SPA and the Proposed Development is in exceedance of 8km, QI species include barnacle geese a traditional winter migrant to Ireland who are known to travel up to 25km between foraging and roosting locations.

Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA comprises two separate areas of fields supporting agriculturally-improved grassland, situated on the north side of Drumcliff Bay, Co. Sligo. This SPA supports an

¹⁸ NPWS (2014). Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (Site Code: 004234): Site Synopsis. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004234.pdf> [Accessed October 2023].

internationally important population of Barnacle geese (c. 5,000) listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive..

Following the Screening for Appropriate Assessment the following QIs for Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA are being further assessed:

- Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]

6.2.5.1 Site-specific conservation objectives and favourable conservation status

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site (NPWS, 2022b). According to Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) and as cited in NPWS (2022b), *favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:*

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

According to NPWS (2022b), favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The conservation objectives of the QIs of Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA as are “*To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA*”.

6.2.6 Description of Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA¹⁹

This SPA is located c. 10.9km north-west of the Proposed Development. Although the distance between this SPA and the Proposed Development is in exceedance of 10km, QI species include barnacle geese a traditional winter migrant to Ireland who are known to travel up to 25km between foraging and roosting locations. Furthermore, hydrological connectivity between the Site and the SPA exists via the modified stream identified on site.

Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA consist of two small marine islands located approximately 500 m from the mainland at Dooneragh Point in Co. Sligo. The islands support short coastal grassland and are underlain by Carboniferous limestone, which is exposed at low tide as intertidal reef. The surrounding seas to a distance of 200m and an area of marine water between the two islands, where seabirds forage, bathe and socialise are included in the site.

¹⁹ NPWS (2008). Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (Site Code: 004135): Site Synopsis. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004135.pdf>

[Accessed October 2023].

Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA is an important site for wintering waterfowl, including an internationally important population of Barnacle geese (3,000) listed on Annex 1 of the E.U. Birds Directive and for breeding seabirds, including nationally important populations of cormorant (179 pairs), herring gull (11 pairs) and great black-backed gull (16 pairs). Another Annex 1 species, Corncrake, was recorded breeding here (3 pairs in 2006).

Following the Screening for Appropriate Assessment the following QIs for Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA are being further assessed:

- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]

6.2.6.1 Site-specific conservation objectives and favourable conservation status

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site (NPWS, 2022c). According to Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) and as cited in NPWS (2022c), *favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:*

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

According to NPWS (2022c), favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

The conservation objectives of the QIs of Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA are “*To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA*”.

7 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The Proposed Development is adjacent to two EU Designated Sites, Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA, with a total of six sites which are within the Zone of Influence with potential source-pathway receptor linkages which might result in significant impact on these EU Designated Sites and their QI's habitats and/or species.

Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (EC, 1992) requires that any plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site must undergo an Appropriate Assessment of “*its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives*”. Such a project can only be consented if the Appropriate Assessment can demonstrate that the proposal “*will not adversely affect*

the integrity of the site concerned". EU guidance on Article 6²⁰ states, with respect to 'integrity' *"the 'integrity of the site' has been usefully defined as 'the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified'"*.

An assessment of the likely impacts affecting these EU Designated Sites is discussed in the table below. The potential for effects on each EU Designated Site within the Zone of Influence is assessed in terms of the effect those impacts have to affect the QI's of each EU Designated Site.

²⁰ European Commission (2000). Managing EU Designated Sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf [Accessed June 2023].

Potential Significant Effects Matrix for EU Designated Sites and Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)	Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]	The Proposed Development boundary overlaps with the SAC. However, the nearest works are c. 25 m north of the SAC.	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in reduction of migrating adult sea lamprey.	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SAC. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on sea lamprey or the habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
	River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]	The Proposed Development boundary overlaps with the SAC. However, the nearest works are c. 25 m north of the SAC.	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in reduction of migrating adult river lamprey.	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SAC. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on river lamprey or the habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
	Estuaries [1130]	The nearest estuary habitat is c. 88 m south of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in the reduction / loss of the floral and faunal species which the QI supports, and the maintenance of which are conservation objectives for the QI.	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SAC. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI habitat for which the SAC is designated. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The nearest mudflat habitat is c. 88 m south of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in the reduction/ loss of the floral and faunal species the maintenance of which are conservation objectives for this QI.	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SAC. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI habitat for which the SAC is designated. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
	Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]	Sligo Bay shoreline is c. 40 m south of the Proposed Development.	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) and resulting in reduction of prey species (i.e., fish).	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SAC. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
				<p>magnitude that could significantly impact on harbour seal or the habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.</p>
			<p>Disturbance of QI species during construction works</p>	<p>There is no risk of the Proposed Development resulting in disturbance to harbour seal due to the minor works associated with the Proposed Development, the fact that there is an existing property present on the site and that works proposed are towards the north of the site furthest from the SAC.</p>
<p>Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)</p>	<p>Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p>	<p>The Proposed Development boundary overlaps with the SPA. However, the nearest works are c. 30 m north of the SPA.</p>	<p>Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e. aquatic fauna).</p>	<p>There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SPA. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on QI species or the habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.</p>
			<p>Potential disturbance from the new development (including construction).</p>	<p>There is potential risk of the Proposed Development resulting in disturbance, however the disturbance impacts are considered to result in an insignificant effect due to the minor works associated with the Proposed Development, the fact that there is an existing property present on the site and that works proposed are towards the north of the site furthest from the SPA.</p>

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
	Wetlands [A999]	Estuary and mudflats are c. 88 m south of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e., aquatic fauna).	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SPA. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI habitat for which the SPA is designated. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
Drumcliff Bay SPA (004013)	Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	This SPA is located c. 1.4km north of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e., aquatic fauna).	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality and habitats for which QI species use for roosting and foraging. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication and habitat degradation of such roosting and foraging habitats. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI species or habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
			Potential disturbance from the new development (including construction).	There is potential risk of the Proposed Development resulting in disturbance, however the disturbance impacts are considered to result in an insignificant effect due to the minor works associated with the Proposed Development, the fact that there is

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
	Wetlands [A999]	This SPA is located c. 1.4km north of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e., aquatic fauna).	<p>an existing property present on the site and that works proposed are towards the north of the site furthest from the shoreline and habitats that could be used by QI species.</p> <p>There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication within the SPA. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI habitat for which the SPA is designated. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.</p>
Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129)	Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	This SPA is located c. 7.1km south-west of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e., aquatic fauna).	<p>There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality and habitats for which QI species use for roosting and foraging. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication and habitat degradation of such roosting and foraging habitats. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI species or habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.</p>

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
			Potential disturbance from the new development (including construction).	There is potential risk of the Proposed Development resulting in disturbance, however the disturbance impacts are considered to result in an insignificant effect due to the minor works associated with the Proposed Development, the fact that there is an existing property present on the site and that works proposed are towards the north of the site furthest from the shoreline and habitats that could be used by QI species.
Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (004234)	Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]	This SPA is located c. 8.8km north-west of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e., aquatic fauna).	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality and habitats for which QI species use for roosting and foraging. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication and habitat degradation of such roosting and foraging habitats. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI species or habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
			Potential disturbance from the new development (including construction).	There is potential risk of the Proposed Development resulting in disturbance, however the disturbance impacts are considered to result in an insignificant effect due to the minor works associated with the Proposed Development, the fact that there is an existing property present on the site and that works proposed are towards the north of

EU Designated Site (Site Code)	Qualifying Interest (QI)	Nearest distance with the Proposed Development	Potential effect	Assessment of Potential effect
				the site furthest from the shoreline and habitats that could be used by QI species.
Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [0A017] Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]	This SPA is located c. 10.9km north-west of the Proposed Development	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in a reduction of prey species (i.e., aquatic fauna).	There is potential for construction related pollution events to impact water quality and habitats for which QI species use for roosting and foraging. There is potential for a wastewater treatment system associated with the proposal to add increased nutrients to the estuary, thereby contributing to eutrophication and habitat degradation of such roosting and foraging habitats. Given the minor scale of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that any water quality impacts will occur at such a magnitude that could significantly impact on the QI species or habitat for which they rely on. Nevertheless, mitigation measures are proposed.
			Potential disturbance from the new development (including construction).	There is potential risk of the Proposed Development resulting in disturbance, however the disturbance impacts are considered to result in an insignificant effect due to the minor works associated with the Proposed Development, the fact that there is an existing property present on the site and that works proposed are towards the north of the site furthest from the shoreline and habitats that could be used by QI species.

8 ASSESSMENT OF IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS ON THE EU DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE

CIEEM (2018) state that 'other development projects (besides the one being assessed) can influence the baseline and need to be taken into account. This will be the case in circumstances where another development has been consented or recently constructed and is predicted to have an impact on an ecological feature being considered as part of the EclA. The baseline may also be affected where another development has an ongoing incremental 'operational' phase effect'.

Proposals with the potential to result in in-combination effects on EU Designated Sites are outlined below.

8.1 Additive / Incremental Impacts

CIEEM (2018) defines additive/incremental as 'multiple activities/projects (each with potentially insignificant effects) added together to give rise to a significant effect due to their proximity in time and space', with effects which may be 'additive (1+1 = 2) or synergistic (1+1 = 3)'.

Presented in

Table 8: and illustrated in **Figure 8** below are planning applications all of which have been finalised within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development.

There is a potential that the Proposed Development could act additively / incrementally to increase the following impact:

- Nutrient contamination of ground water and surface water.

Table 14: Planning Permission Permitted in the vicinity of the Proposed Development

Planning Ref. No.	Description	Address	Decision
PA 04425	External swimming pool with retractable raised pool cover, two sets of entrance gates and adjoining wing walls, and retention of planning permission for sewage treatment system and percolation area in revised location in previously approved development Ref: PL 02/570 at Washington House	Washington House, Cregg, Co. Sligo	APPLICATIONALION FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2004
PA 13215	Construction of a two-storey replacement dwelling and detached single storey domestic garage and proprietary wastewater treatment system. The project will also consist of a new entrance to the public road, demolition of existing dwelling and all associated siteworks and landscaping (a Natura Impact Statement will be submitted as part of the application)	Huelva House, Cregg, Rosses Point Road, Co Sligo	APPLICATIONALION FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2014
PA 1224	Retention of extension (39m ²) and retention of septic tank and percolation area	Saint Helen's, Cregg, Rosses	APPLICATIONALION FINALISED –

Planning Ref. No.	Description	Address	Decision
		Point Road, Co Sligo	CONDITIONAL 2013
PA 1129	Revision of Proposed Development as granted under PL 08/265, revisions to consist of: (a) revised house design, (b) revised Site Boundary, (c) revised coach house renovation to demolish remainder of external stair and construction of a single storey circa 16sqm shed extension	Saint Helen's, Cregg, Rosses Point Road, Co Sligo	APPLICATIONAL FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2011
PA 1267	Revision of Proposed Development granted under PL 08/265 and PL 11/29. The revisions will consist of (a) revised house design and (b) revised Site Boundary at St Helens	Cregg, Rosses Point Road, Co Sligo	APPLICATIONAL FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2012
PA 03833	Extension and alterations to house	Cregg, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo	APPLICATIONAL FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2003
PA 2053	Development consisting of the material change of use of an existing private residential apartment to short-term lettings accommodation. The apartment is located above our domestic garage	Washington Lodge, Cregg, Rosses Point, Co Sligo	APPLICATIONAL FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2020
PA 2151	Development consisting of the construction of a Synthetic Grass Tennis Court with Perimeter Fencing. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement	Washington House, Cregg, Rosses Point	APPLICATIONAL FINALISED – CONDITIONAL 2021

RECEIVED: 18/10/2023

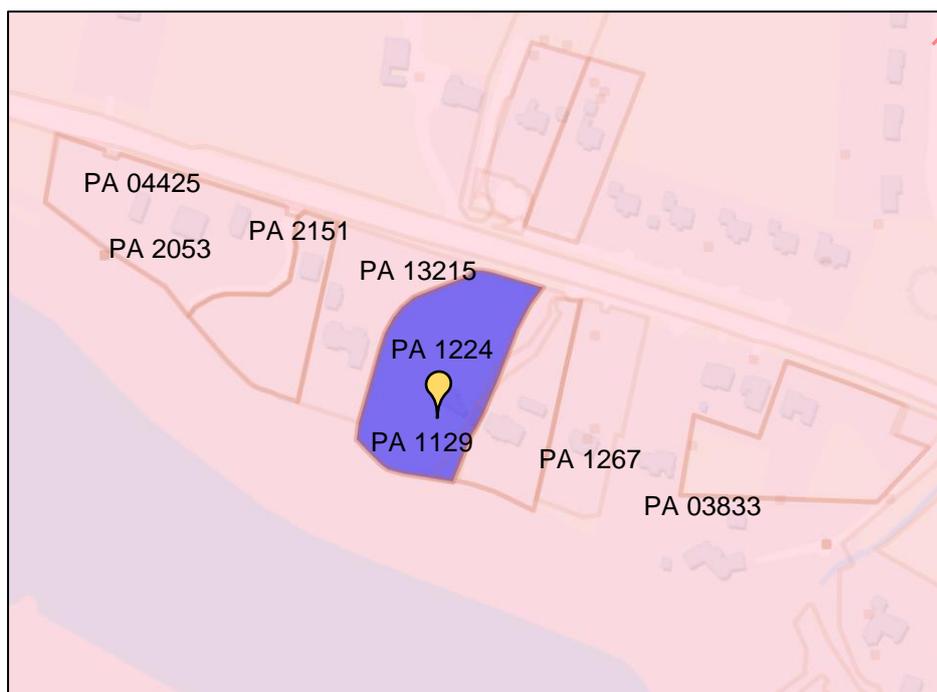


Figure 8: Location of recently granted proposals in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
The yellow pin and purple area marks the location of the Proposed Development.

8.1.1 Assessment of Additive / Incremental Developments

It has been established that any potential for significant impacts related to EU Designated Sites is linked to hydrological connectivity of the Proposed Development to these EU Designated Sites. Outside of the projects listed and discussed above, there are limited planning applications that could have the potential to result in in-combination impacts with the Proposed Development. These include granted planning applications detailed in **Table 14** which include extensions, alterations or replacement of existing properties and have the potential to have water quality impacts on the receiving environment if in construction at the same time as the Proposed Development. While water quality impacts arising from the Proposed Development have the potential to reach downstream EU Designated Sites, and those with mobile QI species which may use habitats downstream of the Proposed Development. Any in-combination impacts are considered to present a low potential impact due to the small scale of the projects, and the requirement of any planning application to be in compliance with Appropriate Assessment. Mitigation will be required to negate such potential in-combination impacts. Proposed mitigation is discussed in **Section 9**.

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9 MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

9.1 Mitigation Measures to protect Water Quality during Construction

There are a number of standard best practice guidance on working near water and standard mitigation measures for controlling of pollution and sediments from construction sites. These include the following documents:

- IFI (2016). Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during the Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters;
- CIRIA (2006). Control of water pollution from linear construction projects. Technical guidance (C648);
- SEPA (2010). Engineering in the Water Environment: Good Practice Guide: Sediment management;
- SEPA (2009). Engineering in the Water Environment Good Practice Guide: Temporary Construction Methods; and,
- NRW, NIEA and SEPA (2017). Guidance for Pollution Control. Works and Maintenance in or near Water. GPP 5.

Relevant mitigation measures from these documents will be put in place, in addition to other measures, in order to ensure no downstream water quality impacts.

9.1.1 Mitigation of Sediment Pollution

- A buffer zone of 5 m to the existing modified stream within the Site will be employed. This area will be marked off and suitably signposted during construction, and there will be no works, excavations or storage of materials within it. A single section of the stream is proposed to flow beneath a new access road. Particular attention must be paid to prevent sedimentation during works within this area with a silt fence (Hy-tex terrastop or similar) deployed along the full boundary of the construction works within this area, appropriately fixed to the manufacturer's recommendations, to avoid any potential entry of suspended sediment from the construction phase into the stream (and subsequently the SAC / SPA).
- The stream must be suitably culverted beneath the driveway to allow continued water flow and prevent flooding.
- A buffer zone of 30 m to the shore at the southern extent of the Site will be employed. This area will be marked off and suitably signposted during construction, and there will be no vehicular / plant access, works, or storage of materials within it. This will ensure no works occur within the SAC or SPA.
- Stockpiles of materials will be minimised and stored a minimum of 10 m from any watercourse on Site. Stockpiles will be covered when not in use. Stockpiles of cementitious materials will be kept under cover, with no mixing within 10 m of any watercourse on site.
- Silt bags will be used where small to medium volumes of water need to be pumped from excavations. As water is pumped through the bag, most of the sediment is retained by the geotextile fabric allowing filtered water to pass through. Silt bags will be used with natural vegetation filters.

9.1.2 Mitigation of Hydrocarbon / Chemical Pollution

- A buffer zone of 5 m to the existing modified stream within the Site will be employed. Within the small working area of the modified stream a silt fence (Hy-tex terrastop or similar) will be deployed along the full boundary of the construction works within this area, appropriately fixed to the manufacturer's recommendations, to avoid any potential entry of suspended sediment from the construction phase into the watercourse (and subsequently the SAC / SPA).
- A buffer zone of 30 m to the shore at the southern extent of the Site will be employed. This area will be marked off and suitably signposted during construction, and there will be no vehicular / plant access, works, or storage of materials within it. This will ensure no works occur within the SAC or SPA.
- Fuels stored on site will be minimised and will not be stored within 10 m of the stream. Any storage areas will be bunded appropriately.
- On site, re-fuelling of machinery will be carried out within a marked and bunded area and will not take place within 10 m of the stream. Mobile measures such as drip trays and fuel absorbent mats will be used during all refuelling operations.
- There will be a fully equipped spill kit on site, and all operatives will be trained in its use.

9.1.3 Mitigation of Cement Pollution

- A buffer zone of 5 m to the existing modified stream within the Site will be employed. Within the small working area of the modified stream a silt fence (Hy-tex terrastop or similar) will be deployed along the full boundary of the construction works within this area, appropriately fixed to the manufacturer's recommendations, to avoid any potential entry of suspended sediment from the construction phase into the watercourse (and subsequently the SAC / SPA).
- Stockpiles of cementitious materials will be kept under cover, with no mixing within 10m of any watercourse on site.
- Silt bags will be used where small to medium volumes of water need to be pumped from excavations. As water is pumped through the bag, most of the sediment is retained by the geotextile fabric allowing filtered water to pass through. Silt bags will be used with natural vegetation filter.

9.2 Mitigation of Bird Disturbance During Construction

- All vegetation, trees and ground cover adjacent to, and south of the Site must be retained until after the main construction are completed in order to provide a visual and sound screen between the proposal and affected QIs of the screened-in SPAs.

9.3 Operational Phase Mitigation Measures

Mitigation of Nutrient Enrichment Impacts Post-Construction National Guidelines need to be met with respect to the on-site treatment system. The proposal incorporates a system fully in line with EPA guidelines²¹, with the specification detailed in a cover letter and Site Characterisations Forms by F Davitt Planning & Structural Design Engineers dated 31 March 2022. This must be fully complied with to avoid any potential impact on the SAC and SPAs.

²¹ EPA (2009). Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10). EPA, Ireland. Available at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/water/wastewater/code%20of%20practice%20for%20single%20houses/> [Accessed July 2023]

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10 POTENTIAL EFFECTS AFTER MITIGATION

Table 15: Assessment of Potential effects of the Proposed Development after Mitigation Measures

Qualifying Interest within the Zone of Influence	Impact Type	Potential for Adverse Effect before mitigation?	Mitigation measures	Potential for Adverse Effect after Mitigation
Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC				
Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Estuaries [1130]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) negatively impacting habitat.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) negatively impacting habitat.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Cummeen Strand SPA				
Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitat and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No

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Qualifying Interest within the Zone of Influence	Impact Type	Potential for Adverse Effect before mitigation?	Mitigation measures	Potential for Adverse Effect after Mitigation
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Potential disturbance from the construction works of the Proposed Development.	Yes	Bird disturbance measures (see Section 9.2)	No
Wetlands [A999]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) negatively impacting habitat.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Drumcliff Bay SPA				
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitat and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
	Potential disturbance from the construction works of the Proposed Development.	Yes	Bird disturbance measures (see Section 9.2)	No
Wetlands [A999]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) negatively impacting habitat.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129)				
Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) A157 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitat and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
	Potential disturbance from the construction works of the Proposed Development.	Yes	Bird disturbance measures (see Section 9.2).	No

Qualifying Interest within the Zone of Influence	Impact Type	Potential for Adverse Effect before mitigation?	Mitigation measures	Potential for Adverse Effect after Mitigation
Wetlands [A999]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) negatively impacting habitat.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
Ballintemple And Ballygilgan SPA (004234)				
Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitat and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
	Potential disturbance from the construction works of the Proposed Development.	Yes	Bird disturbance measures (see Section 9.2).	No
Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)				
Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [0A017]	Pollution (sediment and chemical / fuel and nutrients) resulting in habitat degradation of roosting and feeding habitat and impacts due to direct contact with contaminant.	Yes	Pollution prevention measures (see Sections 9.1.1 and 9.3).	No
	Potential disturbance from the construction works of the Proposed Development.	Yes	Bird disturbance measures (see Section 9.2)	No

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11 CONCLUSIONS

This Natura Impact Statement has examined whether, in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, the proposed project either individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, may have an adverse effect on the integrity of any EU Designated Site (also known as European sites).

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment identified that the Site's redline boundary is within two EU Designated Sites, Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA, and that the Proposed Development is adjacent to these two EU Designated Sites. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that there is potential for likely significant effect on Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and the following QIs within the Zone of Influence: sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095]; river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099]; estuaries [1130]; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; and harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1365]. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that there is potential for Potential Significant Effect on Cummeen Strand SPA and the following QIs within the Zone of Influence: light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]; oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]; redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] and wetlands [A999]. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that there is potential for Potential Significant Effect on Drumcliff Bay SPA and the following QI's within the Zone of Influence: Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]; Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]; and, Wetlands [A999]. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that there is potential for Potential Significant Effect on Ballysadare Bay SPA and the following QIs within the Zone of Influence: light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]; Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]; Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) [A149]; Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) A157; Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]; Wetlands [A999]. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that there is potential for Potential Significant Effect on Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA and the following QIs within the Zone of Influence: Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded that there is potential for Potential Significant Effect on Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA and the following QIs within the Zone of Influence: Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [0A017]; and, Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045].

The six EU Designated Sites and QIs within the Zone of Influence were assessed as part of the Natura Impact Assessment process. This process found that whilst a number of potential impacts, namely water quality (construction and wastewater treatment system) and inappropriate dumping for the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, and water quality (construction and wastewater treatment system), bird disturbance and inappropriate dumping for the listed SPA's were identified, that the mitigation measures presented in **Section 9** eliminate the Potential for Adverse Effect on the EU Designated Sites, and their QIs within the Zone of Influence. Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any EU Designated Site.

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Appendix I – I-WeBs Data Request Results (Source: Birdwatch Ireland)

SiteCode	Sitename	SPAcode	SubSite_Code	Subsite	Grid reference	TaxonomyIOC	SpeciesName	1% National	1% International	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	270	Light-bellied Brent Goose	350	400	142	51	13	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	371	Shelduck	100	2500		1	42	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	435	Wigeon	560	14000	18	4	36	12
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	457	Mallard	280	53000	12	76	40	4
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	479	Teal	360	5000	2		6	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	565	Red-breasted Merganser	25	860	4		5	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5562	Oystercatcher	610	8200	14	5	42	17
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5657	Ringed Plover	120	540		16		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5806	Curlew	350	7600	41	4	72	7
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5811	Bar-tailed Godwit	170	1500	10			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5826	Turnstone	95	1400	25	15	9	13
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5837	Knot	160	5300	2			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5859	Dunlin	460	13300	60		51	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5963	Redshank	240	2400	102	2	3	6
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	5973	Greenshank	20	3300	7	14		2
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6089	Black-headed Gull			57	64	64	41
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6122	Common Gull			33		33	28
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6131	Great Black-backed Gull			1	1		1
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6152	Herring Gull			86	9	7	24
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6165	Lesser Black-backed Gull			2			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6393	Great Northern Diver	20	50	3		3	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6814	Cormorant	110	1200	6	104	1	22
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	6821	Shag			1	3	2	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	7058	Grey Heron	25	5000	3	1	3	2
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	7111	Little Egret	20	1100	1		1	

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SiteCode	Sitename	SPAcode	SubSite_Code	Subsite	Grid reference	winter	SpeciesName	TaxonomyIOC	1% National	1% International	Oct	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Light-bellied Brent Goose	270	350	400	41		11	142	9
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Wigeon	435	560	14000				5	18
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Mallard	457	280	53000	6		12		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Teal	479	360	5000				2	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Red-breasted Merganser	565	25	860	4		3		1
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Oystercatcher	5562	610	8200			1	14	5
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Curlew	5806	350	7600	3		2	41	5
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Bar-tailed Godwit	5811	170	1500				10	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Turnstone	5826	95	1400					25
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Knot	5837	160	5300	2				
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Dunlin	5859	460	13300				60	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Redshank	5963	240	2400	102		2	4	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Greenshank	5973	20	3300	7				1
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Black-headed Gull	6089						57	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Common Gull	6122			1			33	5
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Great Black-backed Gull	6131			1			1	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Herring Gull	6152			4		6	86	38
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Lesser Black-backed Gull	6165							2
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Great Northern Diver	6393	20	50					3
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Cormorant	6814	110	1200	6		1	3	2
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Shag	6821					1		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Grey Heron	7058	25	5000	1		2	1	3

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SiteCode	Sitename	SPAcode	SubSite_Code	Subsite	Grid reference	winter	SpeciesName	TaxonomyIOC	1% National	1% International	Oct	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2016/17	Little Egret	7111	20	1100	1				1
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Light-bellied Brent Goose	270	350	400				51	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Shelduck	371	100	2500				1	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Wigeon	435	560	14000				4	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Mallard	457	280	53000	76		2	4	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Oystercatcher	5562	610	8200			5		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Ringed Plover	5657	120	540				16	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Curlew	5806	350	7600	3		2	4	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Turnstone	5826	95	1400	6		15		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Redshank	5963	240	2400	1			2	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Greenshank	5973	20	3300	14			2	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Black-headed Gull	6089						64	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Great Black-backed Gull	6131						1	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Herring Gull	6152			2		3	9	
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Cormorant	6814	110	1200			104		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Shag	6821			3				
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2017/18	Grey Heron	7058	25	5000	1				
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Light-bellied Brent Goose	270	350	400		10	13		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Shelduck	371	100	2500			42		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Wigeon	435	560	14000		86	85		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Mallard	457	280	53000	18	40			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Teal	479	360	5000		6			

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SiteCode	Sitename	SPAcode	SubSite_Code	Subsite	Grid reference	winter	SpeciesName	TaxonomyIOC	1% National	1% International	Oct	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Red-breasted Merganser	565	25	860			5		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Oystercatcher	5562	610	8200		42	28		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Curlew	5806	350	7600	1	16	72		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Turnstone	5826	95	1400			9		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Dunlin	5859	460	13300			51		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Redshank	5963	240	2400		3			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Black-headed Gull	6089					64		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Common Gull	6122				4	33		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Herring Gull	6152				7			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Great Northern Diver	6393	20	50		3	2		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Cormorant	6814	110	1200		1			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Shag	6821				2	1		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Grey Heron	7058	25	5000	1	1	3		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2018/19	Little Egret	7111	20	1100	1				
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Wigeon	435	560	14000		12			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Mallard	457	280	53000			4		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Oystercatcher	5562	610	8200		17	11		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Curlew	5806	350	7600		4	7		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Turnstone	5826	95	1400		8	13		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Redshank	5963	240	2400		6	2		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Greenshank	5973	20	3300		2	2		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Black-headed Gull	6089					41		

SiteCode	Sitename	SPAcode	SubSite_Code	Subsite	Grid reference	winter	SpeciesName	TaxonomyIOC	1% National	1% International	Oct	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Common Gull	6122					28		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Great Black-backed Gull	6131					1		
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Herring Gull	6152			16	24			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Cormorant	6814	110	1200	9	22			
0C492	Sligo Harbour	004035	0C464	Ballincar	G646395	2019/20	Grey Heron	7058	25	5000	2				

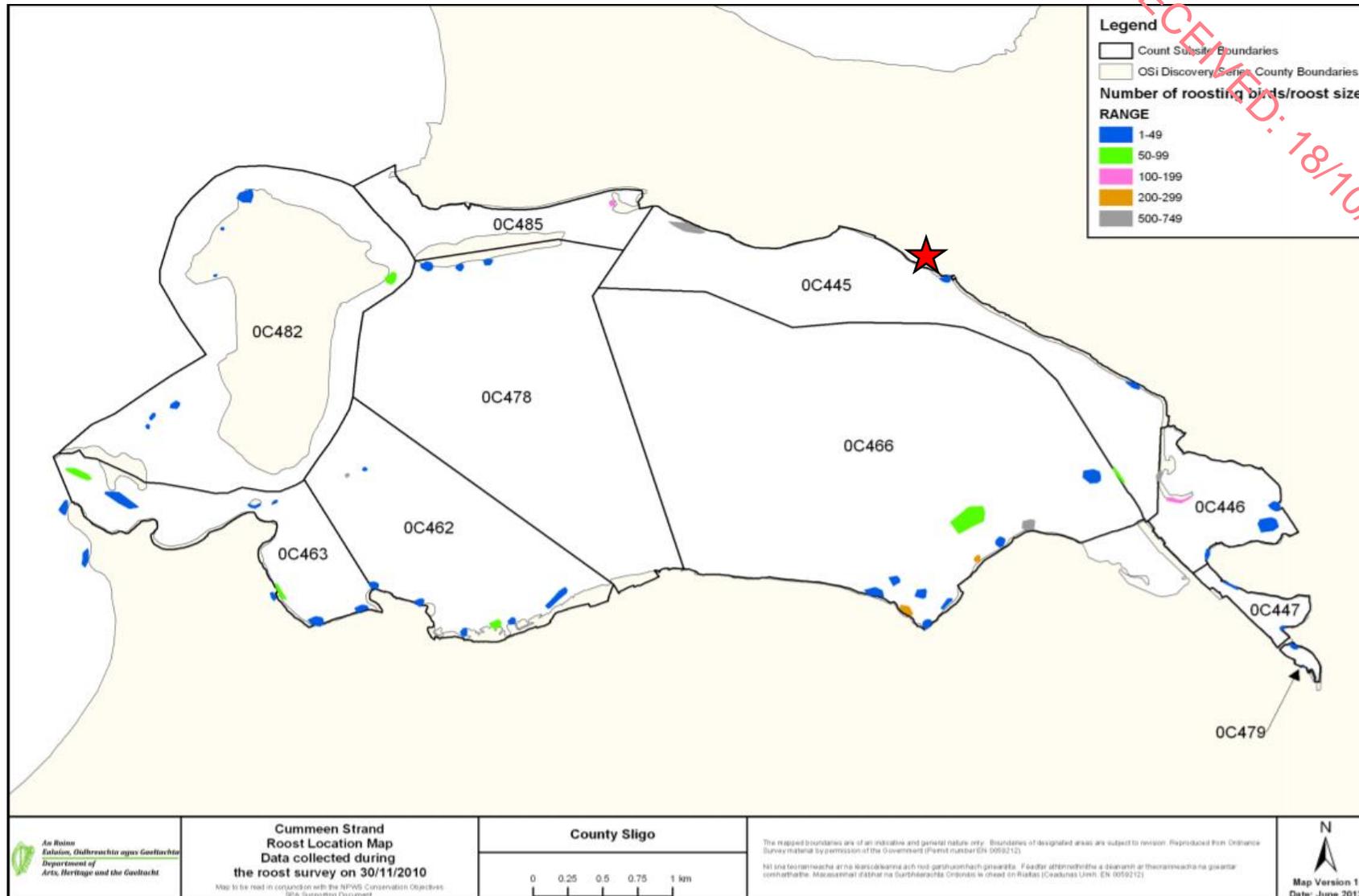
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I-Webs Subsite Details – Red Star is location of the Proposed Development Site (Source of Information: Birdwatch Ireland <https://bwi.maps.arcgis.com/>)

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Key Roosting Sites in the SPA (Source: NPWS, 2013)

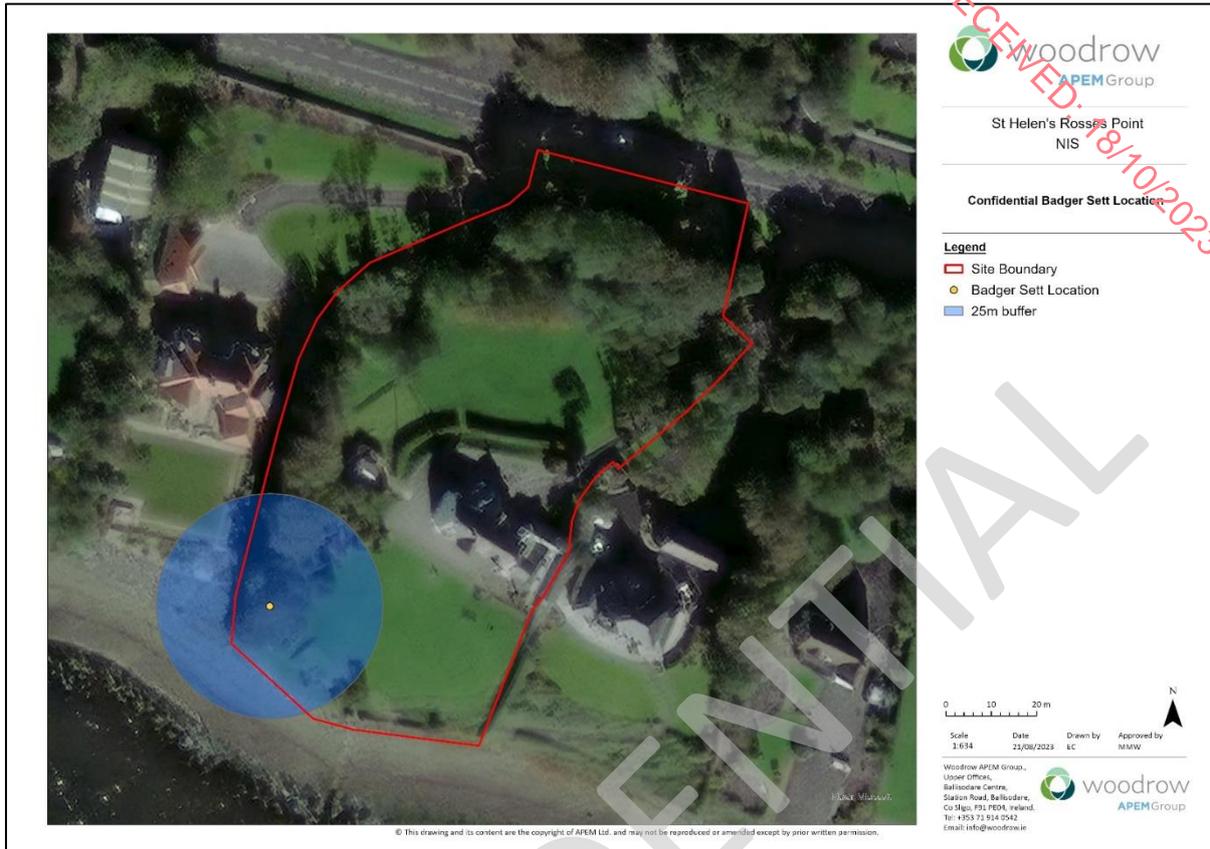
Appendix II – CONFIDENTIAL Badger Report

A D-shaped entrance with freshly dug earth was located in the south-west corner of the Site boundary. However, no obvious smell, droppings or latrines were confirmed around the sett entrance.

The sett entrance is >25m outside of any proposed works which appear to be c. 35m from the mammal burrow and are therefore beyond the disturbance distance required. However, this area should be kept out of bounds during construction and vegetation cover should be retained.



Badger sett entrance identified in vicinity of Site



Badger Sett Location