

2.

SUMMARY OF ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

The Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening report, that is provided as Appendix 1 to this NIS, identified the potential for the proposed development to result in significant effects on the following European Sites:

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

Each of these sites are discussed individually below in terms of the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) with the potential to be affected and the pathways by which any such effects may occur. The location of the proposed development in relation to these EU designated sites is provided as Figure 2.1.

2.1

Lough Gill SAC

The individual pathways for effect that were identified in Table 3.1 of the AA Screening Report (Appendix 1) and the QIs with the potential to be affected are described below. Taking a precautionary approach, the works have potential, in the absence of mitigation, to impact on surface water quality and downstream aquatic ecological receptors through the release of pollutants including hydrocarbons, fuel, cement and sedimentation.

This European Site is located approximately 1.2km to the east of the site boundary of the proposed development. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the below listed aquatic influenced QIs of the SAC was identified in the form of deterioration in water quality during the construction and operational phases of the development as it shares the same sub-catchment with the SAC:

Habitats

- > Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]
- > Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]

Species

- > *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]
- > *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- > *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey) [1096]
- > *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- > *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
- > *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

The potential effect requires further assessment and will be considered under the conservation objectives for the above listed QI's.

2.2

Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Strand (Sligo Bay) SAC

The individual pathways for effect that were identified in Table 3.1 of the AA Screening Report (Appendix 1) and the QIs with the potential to be affected are described below. Taking a precautionary approach, the works have potential, in the absence of mitigation, to impact on surface water quality and downstream aquatic ecological receptors through the release of pollutants including hydrocarbons, fuel, cement and sedimentation.

This European Site is located approximately 2.3km to the north-west of the site boundary of the proposed development. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the below listed aquatic QIs of the SAC was identified in the form of deterioration in water quality during the construction and operational phases of the development as it shares the same sub-catchment with the SAC:

Habitats

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Estuaries [1130]
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220]

Species

- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]

2.3

Ballysadare Bay SAC

The individual pathways for effect that were identified in Table 3.1 of the AA Screening Report (Appendix 1) and the QIs with the potential to be affected are described below. Taking a precautionary approach, the works have potential, in the absence of mitigation, to impact on surface water quality and downstream aquatic ecological receptors through the release of pollutants including hydrocarbons, fuel, cement and sedimentation.

This European Site is located approximately 4.0km to the south-west of the site boundary of the proposed development. A potential pathway for indirect effects on the below listed aquatic QIs of the SAC was identified in the form of deterioration in water quality during the construction and operational phases of the development as the site of the proposed development shares the same groundwater catchment as the SAC:

Habitats

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]

Species

- Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1365]

2.4

Cummeen Strand SPA

Taking a precautionary approach, a potential pathway for indirect effects on the supporting habitat for SCI bird species, 'Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]', was identified in the form of deterioration of surface water quality resulting from pollution associated with construction and operational activities:

➤ [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds

This SPA is located 2.7km to the north-west of the site boundary of proposed development. The potential effect requires further assessment and will be considered below under the conservation objectives for the above listed SCI. This assessment has considered impacts to potential supporting habitat of SCI species under the A999 conservation objective.

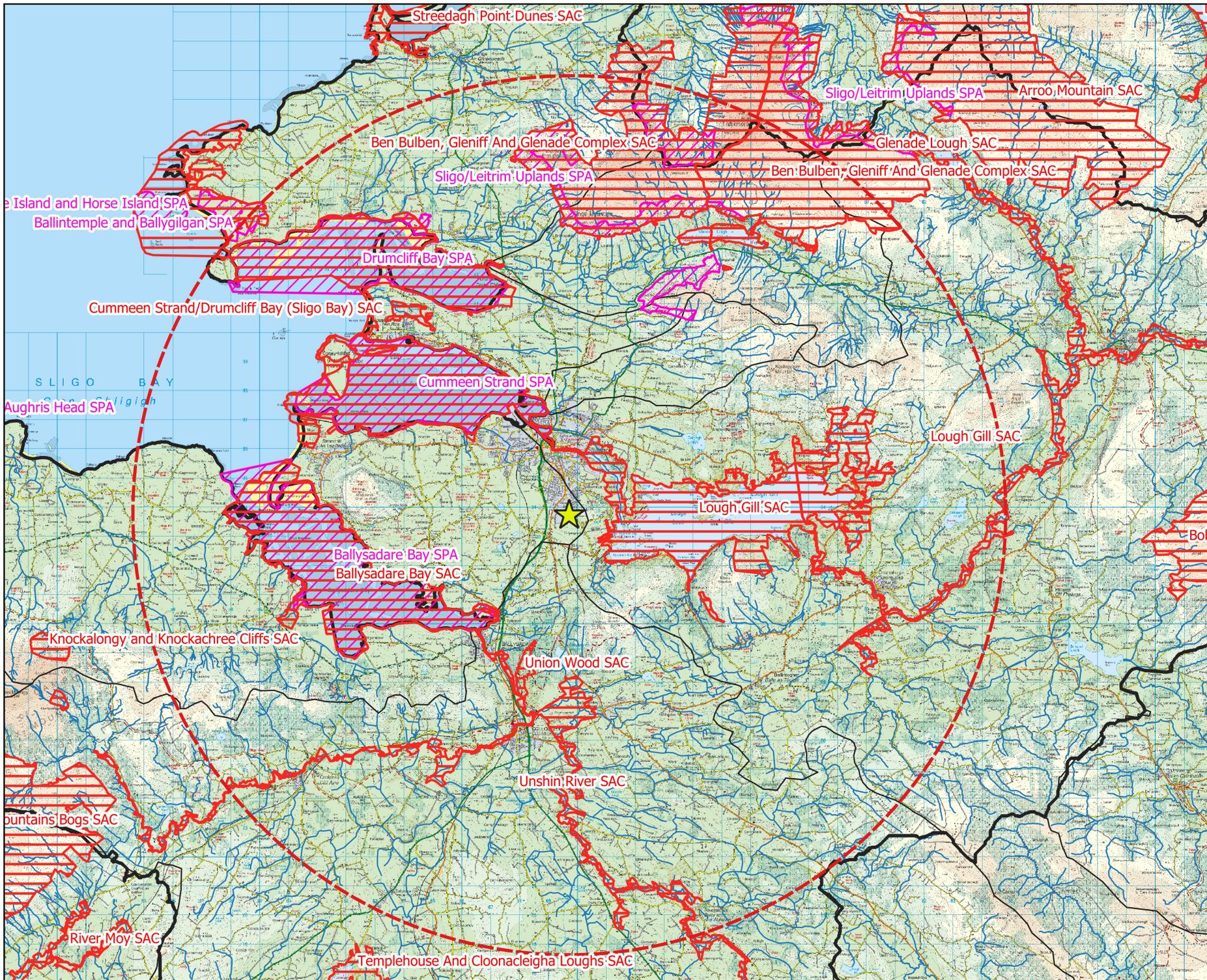
2.5

Ballysadare Bay SPA

Taking a precautionary approach, a potential pathway for indirect effects on the supporting habitat for SCI bird species, 'Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]', was identified in the form of deterioration of surface water quality resulting from pollution associated with construction and operational activities:

➤ [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds

This SPA is located 4.0km to the south-west of the site boundary of proposed development. The potential effect requires further assessment and will be considered below under the conservation objectives for the above listed SCI. This assessment has considered impacts to potential supporting habitat of SCI species under the A999 conservation objective.



- ### Map Legend
-  Site Location
 -  15k Buffer
 -  Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 -  Special Protection Areas (SPA)
 -  River Waterbodies (WFD)
 -  Catchments (WFD)
 -  SubCatchments (WFD)



Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. AR
0021820 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/
Government of Ireland

Drawing Title
EU Designated Sites within 15km

Project Title
Cairns Road, Co. Sligo

Drawn By: **RG** Checked By: **PE**

Project No: **210937** Drawing No: **Fig 2.1**

Scale: **1:170000** Date: **02.03.22**



MKO
Planning and Environmental Consultants
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 WW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
email: info@mkofireland.ie
Website: www.mkofireland.ie