

Sligo County Council

**Proposed Amendments to
Tobercurry Local Area Plan 2015-2021
Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Statement**

Prepared by the Heritage Office of Sligo County Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Legislative Context

Sligo County Council is in the process of preparing the Tobercurry Local Area Plan 2015-2021(LAP) in line with the provisions of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017. The review follows the procedure set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) relating to the preparation and adoption of local area plans.

In accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (Natura 2000 sites¹), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan. This is to determine whether or not the implementation of plan policies could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called an Appropriate Assessment (AA) and must be carried out on all stages of the plan making process.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

Article 6(3): “Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6(4): “If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

This document provides a record of the second phase of the Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) process for the draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021 (LAP). All Natura 2000 sites within the

¹ Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction, or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands.

potential impact zone of the plan have been screened to determine whether there is potential for significant impacts on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites arising out of any of the amendments which are proposed to be made to the plan arising from the submissions and observations made during the first public consultation process (2 April 2015 – 15 May 2015). The amendments proposed arise from the recommendations contained in the First Chief Executives Report and a series of resolutions proposed on the 13 July 2015 by the members of the Ballymote – Tobercurry Municipal District. In all, 22 amendments are proposed to the Draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan (2015-2021).

Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs the plan making process. It involves the analysis and review of draft policies, objectives, zonings and associated amendments as they emerge during each stage of plan making, to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats and species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard must also be had to the potential for policies, objectives or zonings to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans or policies.

The process may result in the development of new policy areas and/or the modification or removal of certain policies, objectives or proposed amendments to be presented in the final plan. The results of this analysis and review are presented in Appropriate Assessment Screening Statements, or in Natura Impact Reports which are produced for the draft plan, amendments and the final plan. At the end of the plan making process, a final report will be produced which contains a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites have been integrated into the plan. The final report and a declaration in relation to the potential for the plan to affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within its potential impact zone will also be produced at this time (AA Conclusion Statement).

1.2 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This document has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission Environment DG document *“Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC”*, referred to as the *“EC Article 6 Guidance Document”*. The guidance document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive, and is viewed as an interpretation of the EU Commission’s document *“Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC”*, referred to as *“MN2000”*. In addition, *“Appropriate Assessment Guidance for Planning Authorities”* was published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2009 (DEHLG, 2009) and amended in March 2010. Cognisance has been taken of this document in carrying out this assessment. In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and with reference to the guidance documents mentioned above, this AA has been broadly structured as follows:

1) Stage 1 – Screening for Appropriate Assessment

- Description of the plan;
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result from implementation of the Plan;
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity.

- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects.

2) Stage 2 –Appropriate Assessment

- Description of the Natura 2000 sites that will be considered further in the AA;
- Description of significant impacts on the conservation features of these sites likely to occur from the Plan;
- Mitigation Measures; and
- Conclusions.

3) Stage 3- Assessment of Alternative Solutions

4) Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and Compensation Measures).

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. In the first instance, the Plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Following that, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the Plan is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible then, it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the Plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

Appropriate Assessment of the proposed amendments to the Tobercurry Local Area Plan (LAP) was undertaken and the findings of the assessment are presented in this Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report. The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows *European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, 2002*, and *Local Government and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009*.

2.2 Data Sources

The appropriate assessment of potential impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites in this report is based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. References and data used are cited in the back of this report.

2.3 Consultation

This report will be placed on public display and be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process for the proposed amendments. Submissions on same will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final plan and accompanying Habitats Directive Assessment.

3 STAGE 1 – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

3.1 Description of the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan

The proposed amendments to the Draft Tobercurry LAP are outlined in Table 3 below.

3.2 Features of the proposed amendments that could Impact on Natura 2000 Sites

Impacts arising from the implementation of objectives of the draft plan which could cause significant impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites include activities which give rise to:

- direct impacts on habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive and for which the site is designated;
- reduction in the area of any habitats within the site;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) in the Natura 2000 site;
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
- direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated;
- activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.

All of the proposed amendments were reviewed as part of the screening process. Consideration was given to direct and indirect impacts which may arise from activities which could be encouraged by amendments to objectives contained in the draft plan. Such activities could include new residential, commercial, infrastructural, recreational or other development which may give rise to direct impacts on habitats or species (loss of habitat, disturbance to species); as well as activities which could have indirect impacts (e.g. activities which could affect water quality or hydrology which could in turn affect the status/health of populations of water dependant habitats or species).

3.3 Brief description and identification of the Natura 2000 sites to be screened

Nine Natura 2000 sites were identified during the screening of the proposed Tobercurry Local Area Plan that could potentially be impacted by the draft Plan These were:

Special Areas of Conservation:

- Ox Mountains Bogs (Site Code 002006)
- Lough Hoe Bog (Site Code 000633)
- River Moy (Site Code 002298)
- Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs (Site Code 000636)
- Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog (Site Code 000634)
- Turloughmore (Site Code 000637)
- Flughany Bog (Site Code 000497)

- Doocastle Turlough (Site Code 000492)
- Cloonakillina Lough (Site Code (001899)

Special Protection Areas: None

Screening of the proposed amendments focused on the above sites. Screening was based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. Figures 1 and 2 below provide the locations of the SACs and SPAs within 15km of the Plan boundary, respectively. These sites along with their qualifying interests and principal threats are listed in Table 1 (SACs) below.

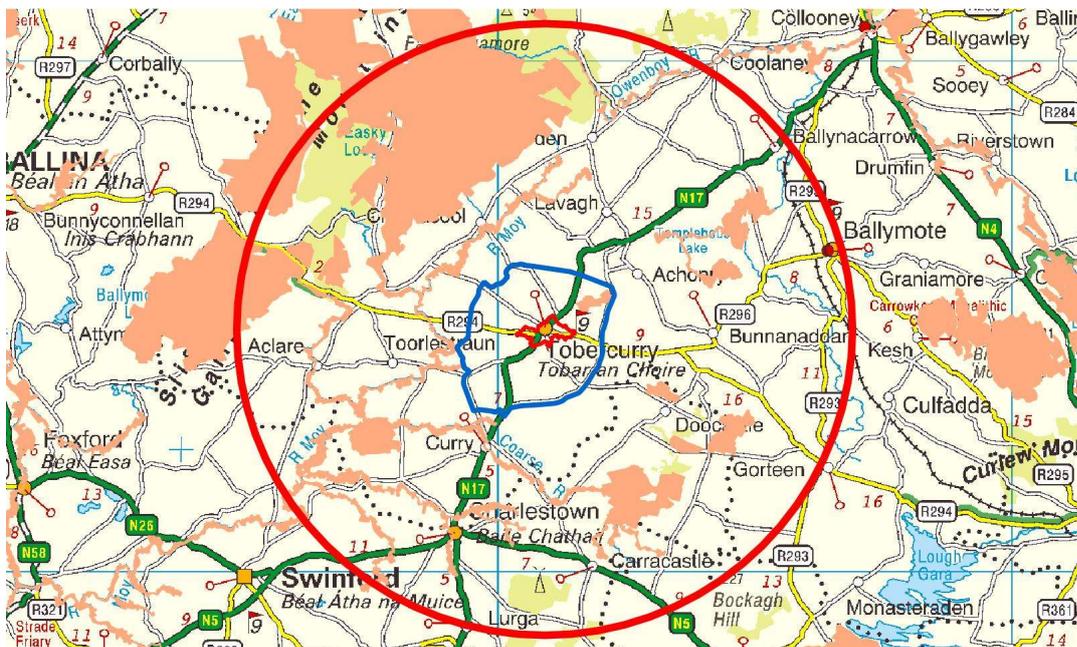


Fig. 1 Special Areas of Conservation (orange) within 15km (red circle) of Tobercurry.

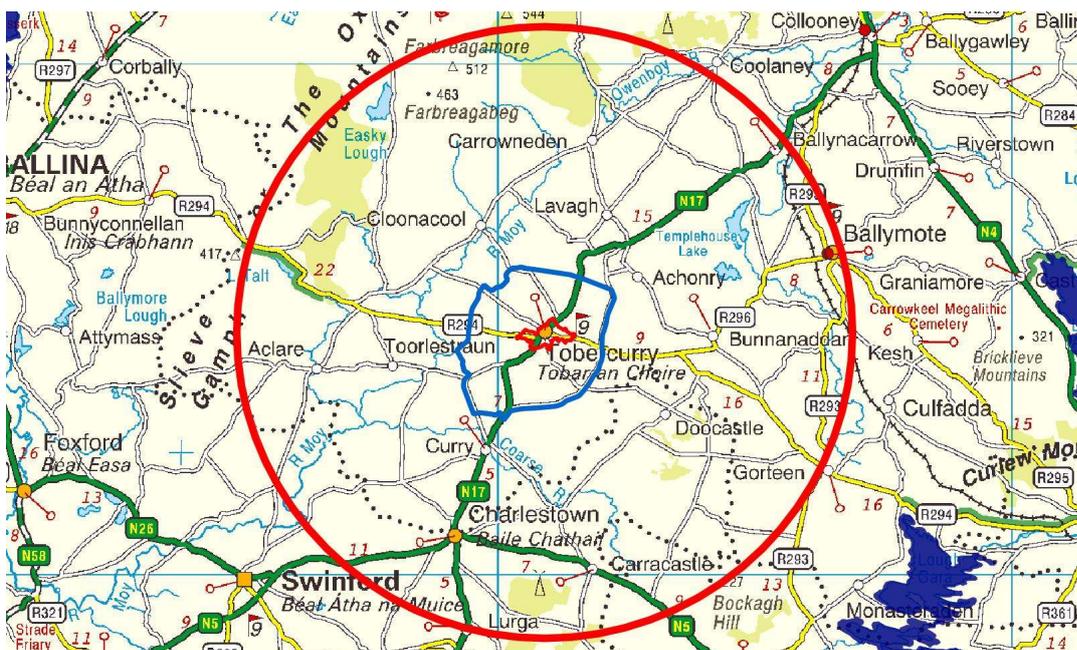


Fig. 2 Special Protection Areas (blue) within 15km (red circle) of Tobercurry.

Table 1 List of Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation) within 15km of the Tobercurry Local Area Plan area including known threats.

Site Name	Qualifying Feature		Potential Threats
	Annex I Habitat	Annex II Species	
Ox Mountains Bogs SAC 002006	7130 Blanket bog (*active only) 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	1013 Vertigo geyeri Geyer's Whorl Snail	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Peat Extraction Overgrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
Lough Hoe SAC 000633	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Peat Extraction Overgrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
River Moy SAC 002298	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alkaline fens [7230] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Changes in water flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents(WWTP) Recreation/amenity use Developments – marinas Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Felling/Removal of Trees Crayfish Fishing
Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Lough SAC 000636	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	None	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Changes in water flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents(WWTP) Recreation/amenity use

			Developments – marinas Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Site Name	Qualifying Feature		Potential Threats
	Annex I Habitat	Annex II Species	
Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC 000634	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	None	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Peat Extraction Overgrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Turloughmore SAC 000637	Turloughs [3180]	None	Agricultural improvements /Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology water quality/pollution (including groundwater) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/Undergrazing Direct loss of habitat to development Bracken and scrub encroachment Impacts to local geology/geomorphology eg quarrying/rock blasting Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Flughany Bog SAC 000497	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	None	Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Changes in local hydrology including drainage Peat Extraction Overgrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation Introduction of alien invasive species Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
Doocastle Turlough SAC 000492	Turloughs [3180]	None	Hunting Grazing Fertilisation
Cloonakillina Lough SAC 001899	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	None	Moving/cutting of grassland Leisure fishing Grazing Fire and fire suppression Sylviculture/forestry Grazing

Note A number of species and habitats are given ‘Priority’ status in the Habitats Directive by the EU because they are considered to be particularly vulnerable and are mainly, or exclusively, found within the European Union. There are no ‘Priority Species’ currently known from Ireland. Priority Habitats are present in Ireland and are present within the Natura 2000 Sites adjoining Tobercurry. These are prefixed with an asterisk (for example, ‘Blanket Bogs (*if active bog)’) in **Table 1** above and in subsequent tables in this report. The importance of Priority Habitat is emphasised at several places in the Directive (Articles 4 and 5 and Annex III), not only in terms of the selection of sites, but also in the measures required for site protection under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

3.4 Conservation Objectives

A Natura 2000 site's conservation objectives are defined by DAHG and are, "intended to ensure that the relevant Annex I habitats and Annex II species present on a site are maintained in a favourable condition" (DEHLG, 2010). The DEHLG guidelines state that, "The Conservation Objectives derive from the qualifying interests, the Natura 2000 standard data form, and the management plan for the site, with summary information also available in the site synopsis." Whilst the Natura 2000 standard data forms and site synopses do present details of the qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites, and list the generic threats to those features, they do not define the conservation objectives of the site.

For the purposes of this assessment, information on the conservation objectives for the sites has been gained from existing information available on www.npws.ie and NPWS generic Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites where no management plan is yet available.

For cSACs, generic conservation objectives are as follows:

- To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the extent of species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; and
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

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

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

The favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

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

3.5 Documented Threats to the Special Areas of Conservation

Documented threats to Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species in Ireland are presented in the 'backing documents' and 'Natura 2000 Data Form' for each habitat and species which are available from NPWS in www.npws.ie. Not all of these threats will apply to all cSACs in which these habitats and species are present; however gathering information on the documented perceived threats to the qualifying features of the sites (and therefore to the conservation objectives of the sites and the integrity of the sites) is an important prerequisite for assessing what are the 'likely significant effects' on the sites resulting from the Plan. Threats include:

- Reduction in Habitat Area
- Disturbance to Key Species
- Habitats or Species Fragmentation
- Reduction in Species Density
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality etc.)

Table 1 (above) presents details of those threats, identified by NPWS, which it is considered likely will apply to the SAC's that are included in this assessment.

It is important to realise that many of these threats do not necessarily represent activities that occur within the boundary of the Natura 2000 site. This applies in particular to aquatic and marine features and systems which can be affected by impact sources that occur a large distance from the site.

3.6 Likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites

The possible impacts that might arise from the proposed amendments to the Draft Tobercurry LAP have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. **Table 2** below presents a summary of the findings of this exercise. The assessment of potential impacts identified that two of the Natura 2000 sites are hydrologically linked to the plan area, namely Turloughmore SAC and the River Moy SAC, while the Lough Hoe Bog SAC contains the primary public water supply source for Tobercurry (Lough Talt). These sites were taken forward for screening of the proposed amendments as part of the Habitats Directive Assessment.

Table 3 below provides the screening matrix for the proposed amendments to the Plan with an Appropriate Assessment screening response provided in each case. Those for which no potential impacts are anticipated as a result of implementation of the Plan do not require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and are 'screened-out' at this stage of the assessment.

Table 2 Potential Impacts of Proposed Amendments on Natura 2000 Sites

Site Name	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitats or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality etc.)
Ox Mountains Bogs (Site Code 002006)	None	None	None	None	None
Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs (Site Code 000636)	None	None	None	None	None
Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog (Site Code 000634)	None	None	None	None	None
Turloughmore (Site Code 000637)	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts
Flughany Bog (Site Code 000497)	None	None	None	None	None
Doocastle Turlough (Site Code 000492)	None	None	None	None	None
Cloonakillina Lough (Site Code (001899)	None	None	None	None	None
Lough Hoe Bog (Site Code 000633)	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts
River Moy (Site Code 002298)	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts

3.7 Screening Analysis of Proposed Amendments

Amendments have been proposed to the text of the Draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan (narrative, several policies and objectives and also the legend of some maps and illustration) and also to the Zoning and Transport objective maps.

The proposed amendments to the text of the draft LAP are shown as follows:

- in red, strikethrough type ~~like this~~ for text proposed to be deleted
- in blue type like this for text proposed to be inserted

In the case of sites proposed to be zoned for residential uses and sports/playing fields, the amendments to the Zoning Map and Zoning Detail are indicated by a black outline and are accompanied by the number of the corresponding amendment.

The Buffer Zone proposed for elimination is shown as a grey-shaded area, instead of light green. The surrounding Plan Limit, which would also be eliminated, is shown as a black line, instead of blue.

The amendment to Map 11 (Transport and Circulation objectives – detail) is indicated in the legend, where objective TCO-5 (red line with arrows) is marked as “proposed for elimination”.

The text in green beside each proposed amendment represents the Planning Authority’s assessment of the amendment’s potential to have a significant effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites and their conservation objectives within the impact zone of the draft plan as identified above.

Amendments to the draft Zoning Map are indicated by a **black outline** and are accompanied by the number of the proposed amendment.

Impacts arising from the implementation of the proposed amendments to the draft plan which are likely to cause significant impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites include activities which give rise to:

- direct impacts on habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive and for which the site is designated;
- reduction in the area of any habitats within the site;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) in the Natura 2000 site;
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
- direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated;
- activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.

All of the proposed amendments were reviewed as part of the screening process to identify potential likely significant effects of the draft Plan on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites. Consideration was given to direct and indirect impacts which may arise from activities which could be encouraged by proposed amendments to the draft plan. Such activities could include new

residential, commercial, infrastructural, recreational or other development which may give rise to direct impacts on habitats or species (loss of habitat, disturbance to species); as well as activities which could have indirect impacts (e.g. activities which could affect water quality or hydrology which could in turn affect the status/health of populations of water dependant habitats or species).

Table 3 below provides the plan analysis/screening matrix for the proposed amendments to the draft Tubbercurry Local Area Plan with an Appropriate Assessment screening response provided in each case. Those proposed amendments for which no potential impacts are anticipated as a result of implementation of the Plan do not require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and are 'screened-out' in Stage 1 of the Appropriate Assessment.

LAP-amending resolutions passed at the 13th July meeting

R-1. "1) Extend the development limit to include the site marked 7B on the Submissions Map.

2) Change the zoning of the site from Buffer to Residential.

3) Amend the Zoning Map and Chapter 5 (Housing) to incorporate HO-3 on the Zoning Map; permit the construction of 2 houses.

4) Amend Map 4 (Residential phasing) to include the site as Infill."

Note: The inclusion of this site as Infill would also involve corresponding amendments to Table 3D in Chapter 3 (Housing).

R-2. "Reject the Chief Executive's recommendation on Submission no. 15 and for the zoning on this site be retained for Transport and Parking Node."

R-3. "Page 72 – Transport and circulation objectives. Omit 'one-way systems and access restrictions'. Reword objective TCO-5 to state: 'Carry out traffic study and prepare and implement traffic management plan for town centre'".

Note: The elimination of the one-way system reference in objective TCO-5 would also involve corresponding amendments to the text and illustrations of Chapter 8 (Transport and Circulation) and an amendment to Map 11 (Transport and circulation objectives – detail).

R-4. "Propose to reject the Buffer Zone as proposed in the Tubbercurry Local Area Plan 2015."

Note: The elimination of the Buffer Zone would also involve corresponding amendments to the text and illustrations of Chapter 1 (Plan context), Chapter 3 (Core Strategy), Chapter 5 (Housing, chapter 7 (Heritage), Map 2 (Zoning), Map 3 (Zoning detail and the Strategic Flood risk Assessment).

Table 3 Proposed Amendments – Appropriate Assessment Screening

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-1	<p>A-1 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-4</p> <p>In Section 1.2.1 Geography (page 3 of the Draft LAP), amend the text by deleting all references to the buffer zone and Plan limit, including corresponding modifications to the title and contents of Fig. 1.A The extent of the Plan area (inside the blue line) and the development zone (inside the red line).</p>	No impacts identified
A-2	<p>A-2 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-4</p> <p>Delete the entire Section 3.3.3 Development Limit and buffer zone (pages 21 and 22 of the Draft LAP), including Fig. 3.E Extent of the buffer zone outside the development limit of Tobercurry and the Buffer zone policies.</p>	No impacts identified
A-3	<p>A-3 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-4</p> <p>On Map 2 Zoning and Map 3 Zoning detail, eliminate the Buffer Zone and the surrounding Plan Limit.</p> <div data-bbox="472 890 1048 1342" style="text-align: center;"> <p>Map 2. Zoning</p> </div>	No impacts identified

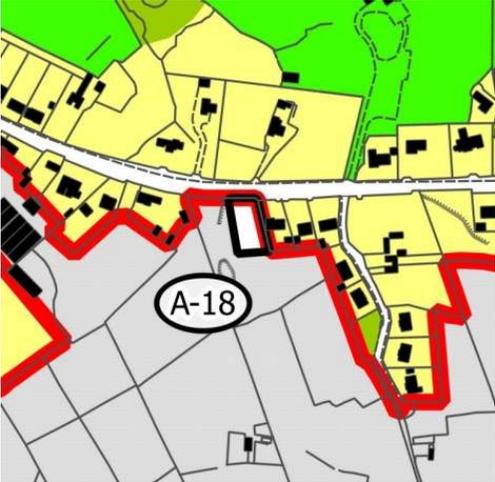
Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-4	<p>A-4 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Insert the following objective in Section 4.4 Retail Development:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">RDO -1 No retail development shall be permitted on the site (marked RDO-1 on the Zoning Map) zoned for mixed uses adjoining the Sligo Road (N-17) at Tobercurry Td.</p>	No impacts identified
A-5	<p>A-5 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Modify the final paragraph of Section 5.3.9 Housing in the buffer zone (p. 36 of the Draft LAP) as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">While development will be generally discouraged within the buffer zone, proposals for single houses may be accommodated subject to the Council’s rural housing policies (Section 5.7 of the CDP), and the additional policies outlined in this chapter and the transport objective TCO-15 (refer to p. 73 in Chapter 8 Transport), which commits the Council to safeguarding the carrying capacity of the national primary road N-17, in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DoECLG, 2012).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Note: The elimination of the Buffer Zone (proposed amendments A-1, A-2 and A-3), if adopted, would also eliminate Section 5.3.9 Housing in the buffer zone. In this event, it would not be possible to adopt the proposed amendment A-5 (above).</i></p>	No impacts identified
A-6	<p>A-6 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Insert the following objective in Chapter 5 Housing (Housing objectives, p. 37):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">HO-2 On the site marked HO-2 on the Zoning Map, permit the construction of one house only, subject to archaeological assessment.</p>	No impacts identified

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-7	<p>A-7 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-1</p> <p>Insert the following objective in Chapter 5 Housing (Housing objectives, p. 37):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">HO-3 On the site marked HO-3 on the Zoning Map, permit the construction of two houses only.</p>	No impacts identified
A-8	<p>A-8 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Modify the wording of Section 8.2.1 The national road N-17 (p.64 of the Draft LAP) as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In order to alleviate these problems, the National Roads Authority (NRA) approved the construction of a bypass for Tobercurry. The bypass is part of a comprehensive realignment of the N-17 and other national roads as part of the Atlantic Road Corridor, as identified in Transport 21 (an infrastructure plan published by the government in 2005 and effectively cancelled in 2011 following the economic downturn.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The construction of the N-17 Tobercurry bypass will have a major positive impact on the nature and volume of traffic in the town. Through-traffic will be reduced significantly, creating a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists and children.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">There is a critical need to manage these assets in accordance with national policy, as outlined in <i>Smarter Travel</i> (DTTAS, 2009) and the provisions of the <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DoECLG, 2012).</p>	No impacts identified
A-9	<p>A-9 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-3</p> <p>In Section 8.3 Traffic management (p. 66 of the Draft LAP), delete the bullet point relating to the introduction of a one-way system along Teeling Street.</p>	No impacts identified

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-10	<p>A-10 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-3</p> <p>Delete the entire Section 8.3.4 One-way systems (p. 68 of the Draft LAP), including the corresponding illustration.</p>	No impacts identified
A-11	<p>A-11 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-3</p> <p>In Chapter 8 Transport and circulation, modify the Transport and circulation objectives (p. 72 of the Draft LAP) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Omit the heading Traffic Management Plan – one-way systems and access restrictions ii. Reword objective TCO-5 to state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCO-5 Carry out a traffic study, prepare and implement a traffic management plan for the town centre. 	No impacts identified
A-12	<p>A-12 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>In Section 9.2 Water supply (p. 75 of the Draft LAP), delete the following sentence from the second paragraph:</p> <p>Currently the capacity of the plant is adequate, but according to the EPA, the treatment for Cryptosporidium is inadequate.</p>	No impacts identified

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-13	<p>A-13 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>In Section 9.2 Water supply (p. 75 of the Draft LAP), reword the last paragraph as follows:</p> <p>At the time of writing (early 2015), Sligo County Council was pursuing the construction of a new water treatment plant with a capacity of 12,500 m³/day, storage reservoirs and intake works, in partnership with Irish Water (IW) as per the CIP. In parallel, the Council was discussing with IW the possibility of an interim upgrade of the water treatment plant.</p> <p>At the time of writing (mid-2015), Irish Water and Sligo County Council are currently pursuing the installation of additional water treatment capacity at this plant. Separately, works are on-going to replace approximately 17 km of defective water mains through the scheme.</p>	No impacts identified
A-14	<p>A-14 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Add the following sentence to the third paragraph of Section 9.3 Wastewater treatment (p. 76 of the Draft LAP):</p> <p>The upgrade of the Tobercurry Treatment Plan is currently being progressed by Irish Water.</p>	No impacts identified
A-15	<p>A-15 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>In Section 9.3 Wastewater treatment, modify the first paragraph of the subsection on Storm Water (page 77 of the Draft LAP) as follows:</p> <p>Such flooding was mainly for short periods of time (1 to 2 days) and was caused by extensive rainfall together with limited assimilation capacity of the storm system within this area of Tobercurry.</p>	No impacts identified

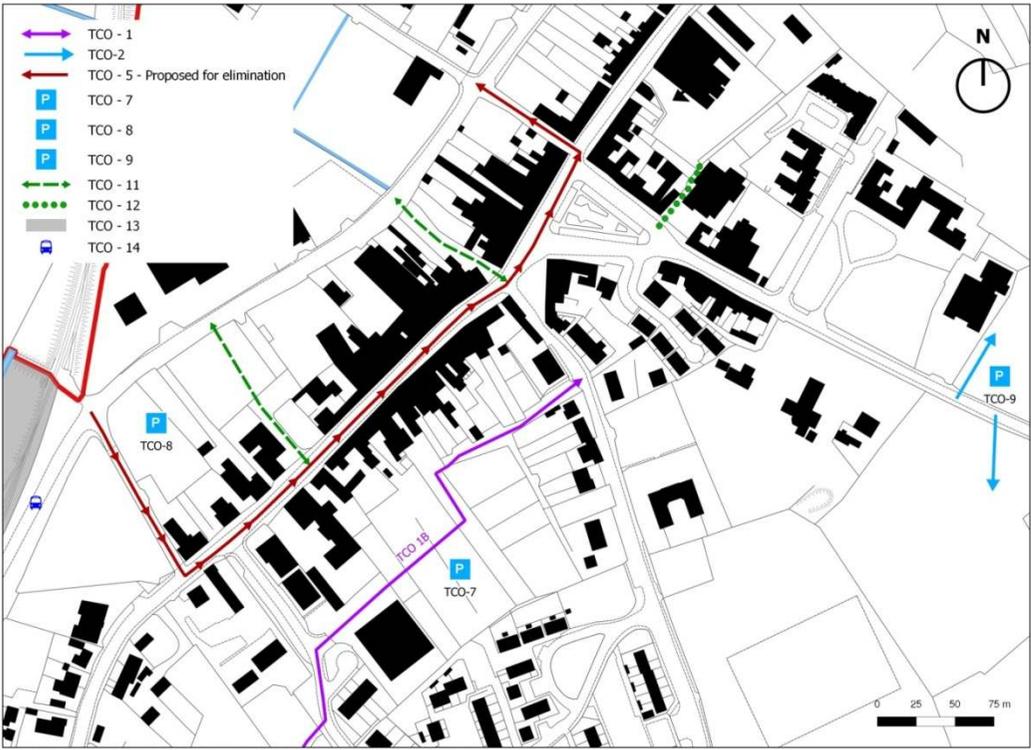
Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-16	<p>A-16 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Include an Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery section as an appendix to the Tobercurry LAP 2015-2021</p> <p><i>(Note: see last section of this document).</i></p>	No impacts identified
A-17	<p>A-17 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On Map 2 (Zoning) and Map 3 (Zoning Detail), change the zoning of the site marked 3 on the Submissions Map (submission by Roger and Patricia McCarrick) from buffer to residential and extend the development limit to incorporate the site. ii. Include the site on Map 4 (Residential Phasing) as Infill. 	No impacts identified

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>A-18</p>	<p>A-18 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On Map 2 (Zoning) and Map 3 (Zoning Detail), change the zoning of the site marked 7A on the Submissions Map (submission by Peter J Brennan) from buffer to residential, extend the development limit to incorporate the site and mark it HO-2 (as per proposed amendment A-6). ii. Include the site on Map 4 (Residential Phasing) as Infill. 	<p>No impacts identified</p>

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>A-19</p>	<p>A-19 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On Map 2 (Zoning) and Map 3 (Zoning Detail), change the zoning of the site marked 7B on the Submissions Map (submission by Peter J Brennan) from buffer to residential, extend the development limit to incorporate the site and mark it HO-3 (as per proposed amendment A-7). ii. Include the site on Map 4 (Residential Phasing) as Infill. 	<p>No impacts identified</p>

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>A-20</p>	<p>A-20 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>On Map 2 (Zoning Map) mark the site of the specific objective RDO-1 (no retail development to be permitted on this site, as per proposed amendment A-4)</p> 	<p>No impacts identified</p>

Reference	Proposed Amendments	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>A-21</p>	<p>A-21 – recommended by the Chief Executive</p> <p>On Map 2 (Zoning) and Map 3 (Zoning Detail), change the zoning of the site marked 10 on the Submissions Map (submission on behalf of Tobercurry GAA Club) from buffer to sports and playing fields and extend the development limit to incorporate the site</p> 	<p>No impacts identified</p>

Reference	Proposed Amendments – Chief Executive’s Recommendations	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>A-22</p>	<p>A-22 – resulting from Members’ resolution R-3</p> <p>On Map 11 (Transport and circulation objectives - detail), delete the red arrows marked as objective TCO-5 (as per proposed amendment A-11)</p> <p>Map 11. Transport and circulation objectives</p> 	<p>No impacts identified</p>

3.8 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The Habitats Directive Screening analysis undertaken in **Table 3** on the proposed amendments to the Draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan examined the key environmental factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network e.g. disturbance, habitat loss, etc. In undertaking the screening, there was a focus on determining if the implementation of the Plan with the proposed amendments would give rise to any likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites in view of any site’s conservation objectives and integrity within the impact zone of the draft LAP.

Table 4 below summarises the findings of the screening assessment in a screening matrix for the nine Natura 2000 sites that were screened. The tables indicates “None” for sites where no negative impact is predicted on the conservation objectives or on the overall integrity of the site and “Potential Impact” for those sites where it is certain, likely or uncertain at the screening stage that impacts on the site may arise as a result of implementation of the Plan.

On the basis of this report, it is concluded therefore, that there is no potential for impacts on any Natura 2000 site, arising from the implementation of the draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan.

Table 4 Summary of HDA Screening Matrix for the proposed amendments to the Draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan within the plans zone of impact

Site Name	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitats for Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality etc.)
Lough Hoe Bog SAC 000633	None	None	None	None	None
River Moy SAC 002298	None	None	None	None	None
Turloughmore SAC 000637	None	None	None	None	None

4.0 Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix and Screening Conclusion Statement

Plan Name	Draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan 2015-2021
Name and location of Natura 2000 sites subject to screening for appropriate assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (Site Code 002006) • Lough Hoe Bog SAC (Site Code 000633) • River Moy SAC (Site Code 002298) • Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC (Site Code 000636) • Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC (Site Code 000634) • Turloughmore SAC (Site Code 000637) • Flughany Bog SAC (Site Code 000497) • Dooastle Turlough SAC (Site Code 000492) • Cloonakillina Lough SAC (Site Code (001899) <p>The screening identified 3 Natura 2000 sites which were determined to lie within the impact zone of the plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Hoe Bog SAC (Site Code 000633) • River Moy SAC (Site Code 002298) • Turloughmore SAC (Site Code 000637)
Description of the proposed amendments to the draft Plan	See section 3.1 above and Table 3.
Is the proposed draft plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites identified above	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)	<p>Tobercurry is hydrologically linked to the River Moy SAC through the Maiden River and, Turloughmore SAC through groundwater . All surface water drains into the Maiden River and all waste water is discharged into the Maiden River and on into the River Moy SAC. Lough Talt within the Lough Hoe Bog SAC is the primary source for potable water supply for Tobercurry. Development is guided by the relevant statutory plans adopted by Sligo County Council. The County Development Plan may give rise to projects which may take place within and adjacent to the plan area. This may result in increased pressure on SACs, particularly in terms of water quality, pressure to infill and reclaim parts river floodplain, increase in recreational activity as well as recreational activity along the Maiden River and adjacent to Turloughmore SAC. Any such projects could contribute to habitat loss and give rise to significant disturbance to species within SACs when considered cumulatively. The proposed upgrade of the N17 also has the potential to impact on Natura 2000. All plans and projects with a potential for significant impact on Natura 2000 sites will be subject to appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p>

Assessment of Significant Effects	
Describe how the proposed Plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect Natura 2000 sites	No aspect of the proposed amendments to the draft Plan have been identified which could give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 network which could be considered to be significant.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	<p>The draft plan does not direct development within or near any Natura 2000 site. There are no increased demands on existing water or wastewater infrastructure.</p> <p>The proposed Members resolutions to remove the buffer zone from the draft Tobercurry Local Area Plan (proposed amendments A-1 to A-4) have the potential for environmental effects generally in terms of increased demand for water supply, increased risk to ground water and surface water pollution. However such impacts are not considered to have the potential for likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 network and that general environmental effects could be avoided, reduced or mitigated through the rigorous application of County Development Plan policies regarding implementation of the Habitats Directive and environmental protection generally through the development management process.</p> <p>On the basis of this assessment, it is concluded therefore, that no potential for significant impacts has been identified for any Natura 2000 site arising from the proposed amendments and implementation of the draft plan.</p>
List of agencies consulted	This screening report will be available to the public during the consultation process on the proposed amendments to the draft plan, and will be referred to statutory consultees for review during this period.
Response to the consultation	Submissions made during the consultation process (proposed amendments) will be reviewed and considered at the end of the consultation process for the draft plan.
Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment	
Who carried out the assessment	Siobhán Ryan, Heritage Officer, Sligo County Council
Sources of data	National Parks and Wildlife Service Site Synopses and other data relating to Natura 2000 sites.
Level of assessment completed	Screening
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed	This report
Date assessment completed	September 2015

5.0 Relevant Documents and References

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Various Years. Natura 2000 Site Synopses.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.

European Communities. 2000. Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxembourg.

European Communities. 2002. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxembourg.