



## **AASR APPENDIX B**

### **WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT**

## **Bird Report-F-10.03.2022 - 210937**

Proposed Residential  
Development at Cairns  
Road, Co. Sligo





## DOCUMENT DETAILS

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

MKO has been appointed by NOVOT Holding Ltd to undertake winter bird surveys for the period January 2022 to February 2022 for a proposed residential development at Cairns Road, Co. Sligo. The site is located approximately 3km south of Sligo Town. Woodtown Lodge, Hilltop Park, and Ard Cairn housing developments are located to the north of the site. From the access point to the Woodtown Lodge development, the site has footpath connectivity to Sligo Town, with a designated cycle path commencing at the junction between Cairns Road and the Pearse Road (N287). The area is predominantly residential in nature, with the Hawthorns Residential Development and the Carraroe Retail Park located adjacent to the west site, though not directly connected to the site itself at present.

A site location map is provided as Figure 1.1.

The objective of the winter surveys is to assess the suitability of the proposed development site to support a variety of wintering wildfowl and waders, including the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) for the Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA.

The assessment objectives can be summarised as follows:

- To undertake field surveys to assess for the presence of suitable habitat and the occurrence of wintering bird species within and adjacent to the development site.
- To identify and assess the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed development on wintering bird species, in particular the Special Conservation Interest bird species of the Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA.
- The study seeks to determine the distribution of the species within and adjacent to the proposed development site and to determine the presence of feeding/roosting areas within/adjacent to the proposed development site.

Section two of this report provides the methodology, constraints, survey information, weather conditions and survey coverage. The results of the desk study and field surveys are presented in section three of this report. An evaluation and discussion of the results is provided in Section four. The concluding section of the report considers the findings and potential impacts of the proposal in-combination with other developments within the environs of designated sites.

## 1.1 Statement Of Authority

Bird surveys were undertaken by Cathal Bergin (B.Sc.) and Rudraksh Gupta (B.Sc. M.Sc.). Cathal is an experienced Ecologist with over two years professional experience. Rudraksh is an experienced ecologist with one years 'experience. This report has been reviewed by Patrick Ellison (BSc., MSc., ACIEEM). Patrick has over 5-years' experience in professional ecological consultancy, management and assessment and is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).



### Map Legend

Site Boundary

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Drawing Title	
<b>Site Location</b>	
Project Title	
<b>Cairns Road, Co Sligo</b>	
Drawn By	Checked By
CB	PE
Project No.	Drawing No.
210937	Fig 1.1
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## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Desk Study

A number of sources were assessed to determine the likely usage of both breeding and wintering bird species, including Bird Atlases, National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC), birdwatch Ireland and Conservation Objectives Supporting Documents from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for nearby Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Results of the desk study are provided in section 3.1.

### 2.2 Field Survey Methodology

Prior to the commencement of surveys, an initial field visit was undertaken to assess the habitats on site and plan the surveys as well as to identify suitable vantage points. The survey area covered the development site and the area of shoreline within Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA, approximately 2.7km, 7.5km and 4km from the proposed development site respectively. The surveys were undertaken at the site over two dates: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Surveys within these SPAs were taken from 1hr to 2 hrs after low tide. This allowed for a good overview of the species of birds that utilize these areas. The addition of the incoming tide also provided an opportunity to observe if any birds departed from the designated areas in the direction of the proposed development site. These three sites were additionally chosen for their proximity to the development site and due to different species likely to be foraging and roosting in different areas of Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA and the surrounding terrestrial habitats, depending on the stage of the tidal cycle.

The surveys were undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced ecologists. All observations were recorded, and detailed point data was gathered for each species observation, with all bird species denoted using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) codes and with the number of each species recorded next to each registration. The species recorded in the surveys were those covered by Irish Wetlands Bird Survey (I-WeBS) counts, i.e. all divers, grebes, cormorant, shag, herons, swans, geese, ducks, rails, crakes, waders, gulls and kingfisher. However, in addition to this, all other bird species, including all common and widespread passerines, were also recorded from within the proposed development site.

#### 2.2.1 I-WeBS Surveys

The winter bird surveys at the nearby SPAs followed the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) methodology; the simple 'look-see' method, whereby all birds present within a predefined area are counted (Gilbert et al., 1998; Birdwatch Ireland, 2018). The surveys were carried out at suitable vantage points, located overlooking sections of Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA in close proximity to the proposed development site. Vantage points were chosen to have as large as possible a view of the identified wetland site and potential adjacent daytime foraging habitat in the vicinity of the proposed development. Vantage points focused on areas which were deemed to be of likely significance to wintering waterbirds of Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA.

Details of the surveys carried out including date, time, duration, location and weather conditions are provided in Table 2.1 with locations in Figure 2.2.

#### 2.2.2 Transects

Walked transects were undertaken within the site boundary. Due to the topography of the site, vantage points were taken at a single location within the site before completing the walked transects. The purpose of doing this was to scan the site to identify if bird species were foraging before completing the walked transect. During the surveys species of note were recorded both within and adjacent to the development site. All bird species were denoted using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

codes and with the number of each species recorded next to each registration. Transects walked are shown in Figure 2.1. During the surveys species of note were recorded both within and adjacent to the development site.



# Map Legend

- ▭ Site Boundary
- Bird Survey Route
- Vantage Point

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Drawing Title

## Bird Surveys

Project Title

### Cairn Road, Sligo

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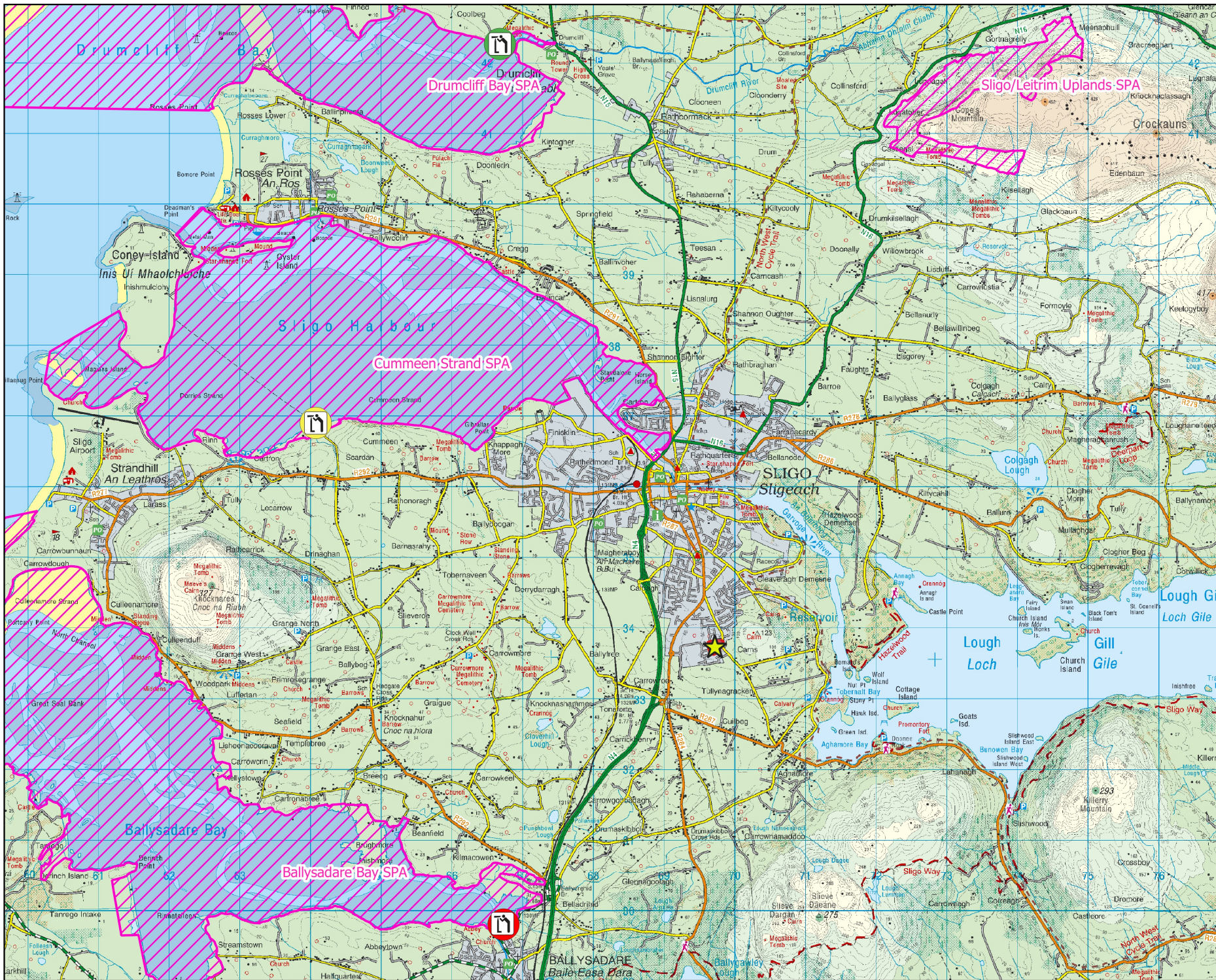
Project No.	Drawing No.
210937	Figure 2.1

Scale	Date
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### Map Legend

- ★ Site location
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Vantage Points
- Ⓡ Ballysadare
- Ⓢ Cummeen Strand
- Ⓣ Drumcliff Bay

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Drawing Title	
Vantage Point Survey Locations	
Project Title	
Cairns Road, Sligo	
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## 2.2.3 Survey Details

Details of the surveys including survey dates, weather conditions and survey duration are provided in Table 2.1.

Table 2-1 Survey Effort

Date	Survey duration	Location	Tide	Weather conditions
12/01/2022	2 hours	Development Site	2hrs either side of low tide within SPAs	Wind speed: Light breeze Cloud cover: approx.30% Visibility: Good (> 2km) Rain: No Frost: None Snow: None
15/02/2022	2 hours	Development site	1hr prior to high tide within the SPAs.	Wind speed: Light breeze Cloud cover: approx.60% Visibility: Good (> 2km) Rain: No Frost: None Snow: None
	30mins	Cummeen Strand SPA	1hr after low tide within the SPAs.	Wind speed: Light breeze Cloud cover: approx.60% Visibility: Good (> 2km) Rain: No Frost: None Snow: None
	30mins	Drumcliff Bay SPA		
	30mins	Ballysadare Bay SPA.		

## 2.2.4 Survey Constraints

No significant survey constraints limited the survey approach, and a comprehensive assessment was undertaken.

Surveys were undertaken during optimal weather conditions where possible as poor weather conditions and high wind can lead to decreased bird movements and hinder surveyor visibility.

All lands within the proposal site were accessible during the survey visits. Surrounding private lands were not accessed. However, these lands were scanned using a spotting scope from elevated vantage points along the public road and from within the site where possible. Any significant flocks of wintering wildfowl or waders would be recorded using such an approach.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 Desk Study

A number of sources were assessed to determine the likely usage of the site by both breeding and wintering bird species, including Bird Atlases, National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), BirdWatch Ireland and Conservation Objectives Supporting Documents from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for nearby Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

#### 3.1.1 Breeding and Wintering Bird Atlases

The Bird Atlas 2007-11: The breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland (Balmer et al., 2013) provides the most up-to-date information regarding the distribution and relative abundance of bird species in Britain and Ireland, based on surveys carried out between 2007 and 2011. The atlases show data for breeding and wintering birds respectively in individual 10 km x 10 km squares (hectads). Table 3.1 shows any species found in the relevant hectad (G63) which are recorded as breeding in the most recent atlas. It also provided species that have been recorded within the relevant tetrads (G63W & G73B) on National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) datasets as well as any listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive recorded on the BoCCI Red List. Birds listed under Annex I are offered special protection by the EU Birds Directive. Those listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) Red List meet one or more of the following criteria:

- IUCN: Global conservation status (Critically Endangered (CE), Endangered (E) or Vulnerable (V), but not Near Threatened). These species are recognised as the highest priorities for action at a global scale and are thus priorities at an all-Ireland level.
- European conservation status. The conservation status of all European species was assessed most recently by Birdlife International (2004), one of the main changes in the revision being to include the IUCN criteria. These species are those of global conservation concern (including those classified as Near Threatened) and are Red-listed.
- The Irish breeding population has undergone significant historical decline since 1800.
- The Irish non-breeding population has undergone a significant decline of 50% in the last 25 years.
- The Irish breeding range has undergone a decline of 70% or more in the last 25 years.

No species listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive have been recorded within the relevant tetrads (G63W & G73B). No red-listed birds of conservation concern have been recorded breeding within the relevant tetrads with 7 amber listed species being recorded.



Table 3.1 – NBDC Bird data and Bird Atlas data (Tetrad G63W &amp; G73B)

Common Name	Scientific name	Bird Atlas		Designation	
		Breeding 2008-2011	Wintering 2007-2011		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Not Confirmed	Present	Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Annex II, III	
Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Not Confirmed	Present		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Not Confirmed	Winter		Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Probable	Present		
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Not Confirmed	Winter		
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Confirmed	Present	Birds of Conservation Concern – Green List	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Not Confirmed	Winter		
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Not Confirmed	Winter		
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Confirmed	Present		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Confirmed	Present		

3.1.2

## Sites designated for Wintering Bird Species within 15km of the Proposed Development Site

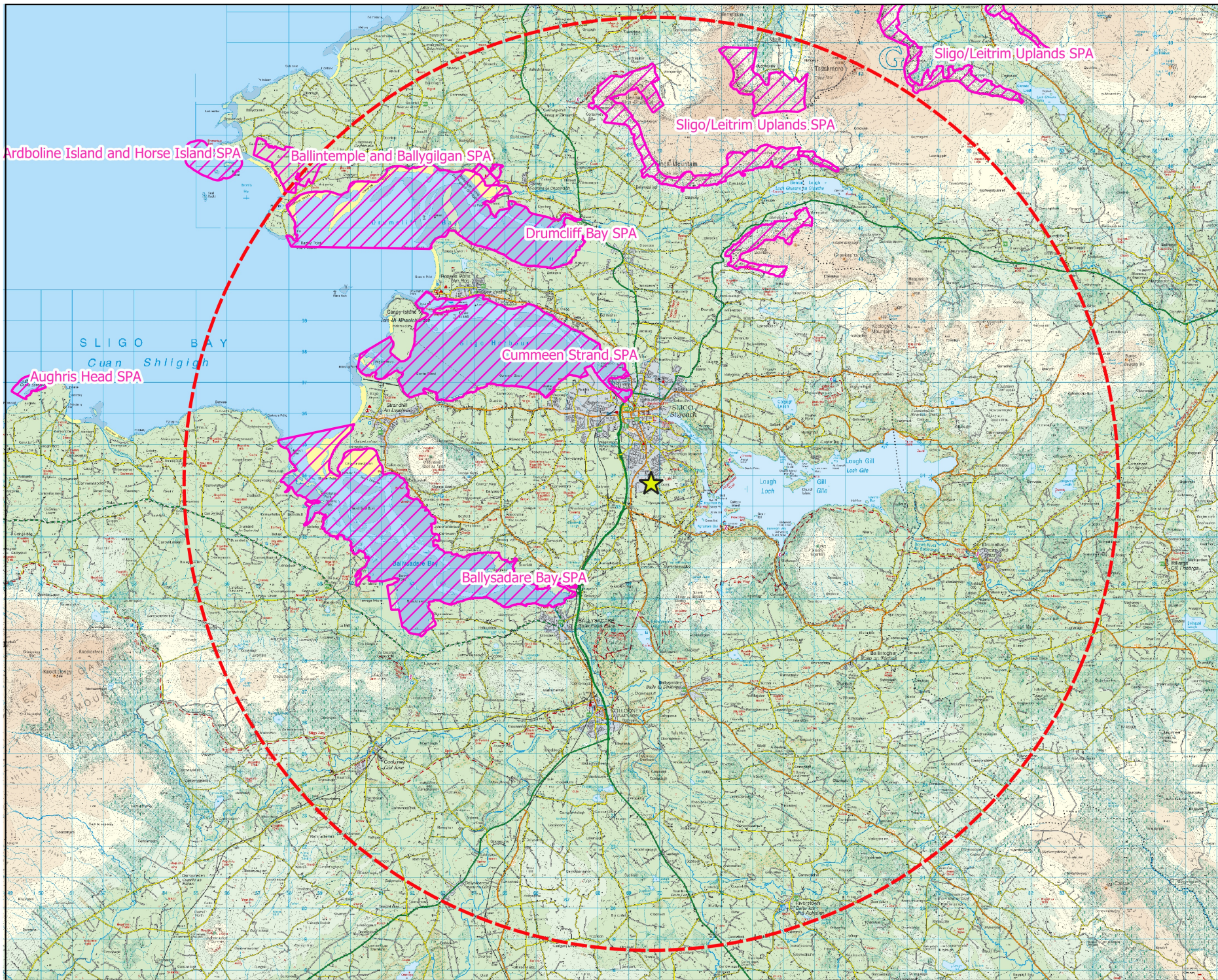
Using QGIS Software (Version 3.16.5) designated sites within a 15km radius of the proposed development site were identified. The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)), were considered at the time of preparation of this report (22/02/2022). Details of these sites, including their distance from the proposed development site, are provided in Table 3.2. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the proposed works in relation to all sites designated for wintering bird species within 15 km.

Table 3.2 – EU Designated sites within 15km of the proposed works

EU Designated Site	Distance from Proposed development site (km)	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the Natura 2000 Site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 19/04/2021)	Conservation Objective
Cummeen Strand SPA [004035]	2.7km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	<p>This site has site specific conservation objectives (Version 1, 2013). Each species has the conservation objective to:</p> <p>“Maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.”</p> <p>This site has the additional conservation objective:</p> <p>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Cummeen Strand SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it,” (Version 1, NPWS, 2013)</p>
Ballysadare Bay SPA [004129]	4km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> </ul>	<p>This site has site specific conservation objectives (Version 1, 2013). Each species has the conservation objective to:</p>

EU Designated Site	Distance from Proposed development site (km)	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the Natura 2000 Site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 19/04/2021)	Conservation Objective
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	<p>“Maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.”</p> <p>This site has the additional conservation objective:</p> <p>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Ballysadare Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it,” (Version 1, NPWS, 2013)</p>
Drumcliff Bay SPA [004013]	7.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	<p>This site has site specific conservation objectives (Version 1, 2013). Each species has the conservation objective to:</p> <p>“Maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.”</p> <p>This site has the additional conservation objective:</p> <p>“To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Drumcliff Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it,” (Version 1, NPWS, 2013)</p>
Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA SPA [004234]	10.8km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]</li> </ul>	<p>This site has the generic conservation objective to:</p> <p>“Maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA,” (Generic Version 8.0, NPWS, 2021).</p>





### Map Legend

-  Site location
-  15km Buffer Zone
-  Special Protection Area SPAs



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Drawing Title

SPA Sites Located within 15km

Project Title

Cairn Road, Sligo

Drawn By

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Project No.

210937

Drawing No.

Figure 3.1

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1:160000

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4.1.1

## Cummeen Strand SPA [004035]

A detailed conservation objectives document is available for Cummeen Strand SPA [004035] ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie), accessed on 22/02/2022). The Special Conservation Interests of Cummeen Strand SPA [004035] and the conservation objective for each species is listed in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 SCIs of Cummeen Strand SPA [004035]

Special Conservation Interests	Conservation Objectives
Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Special Conservation Interest of Cummeen Strand SPA.
Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]	
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Cummeen Strand SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

A review of desktop literature pertaining to the SPA was conducted. The Site Synopsis, as updated in 2014, states;

*“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). Other species occurring include Shelduck (86), Wigeon (149), Teal (54), Mallard (145), Redbreasted Merganser (15), Golden Plover (428), Lapwing (695), Knot (165), Sanderling (14), Dunlin (539), Bar-tailed Godwit (85), Curlew (430), Greenshank (13) and Turnstone (62) - all figures are mean peak counts for 4 of the 5 winters between 1995/96 and 1999/2000. Whooper Swan (7) also uses the site, though not regularly.*

*Cummeen Strand SPA is of high ornithological importance with one species, Lightbellied Brent Goose, occurring in numbers of international importance. In addition, the site supports nationally important populations of a further two species. The regular presence of 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 is also important as a component of the much larger Sligo Bay complex. Cummeen Strand is a Ramsar Convention site.”*

4.1.2

## Ballysadare Bay SPA [004129]

A detailed conservation objectives document is available for Ballysadare Bay SPA ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie), accessed on 22/02/2022). The Special Conservation Interests of Ballysadare Bay SPA and the conservation objective for each species is listed in Table 3.4 below.

Table 3.4 SCIs of Ballysadare Bay SPA

Special Conservation Interests	Conservation Objectives
Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Special Conservation Interest of Ballysadare Bay SPA.
Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]	
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]	

Special Conservation Interests	Conservation Objectives
Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Ballysadare Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	

A review of desktop literature pertaining to the SPA was conducted. The Site Synopsis, as updated in 2010, states;

*“Ballysadare Bay is important for a range of waterfowl species in autumn and winter. The population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (188) is of international importance (all figures are mean peak counts for four winters in the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000). The populations of four other species are of national importance, i.e. Grey Plover (70), Dunlin (1,420), Bar-tailed Godwit (251) and Redshank (435). A range of other species occurs, including Whooper Swan (15), Shelduck (55), Wigeon (617), Teal (179), Mallard (304), Goldeneye (17), Red-breasted Merganser (26), Cormorant (43), Oystercatcher (518), Ringed Plover (96), Golden Plover (301), Lapwing (467), Curlew (508), Greenshank (22), Turnstone (40), Black-headed Gull (261) and Common Gull (203).*

*Ballysadare Bay SPA is of high ornithological importance - it supports a Light-bellied Brent Goose population of international importance as well as nationally important populations of four other wintering waterfowl species. The presence of Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover and Whooper Swan is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site forms an important component of the larger Sligo Bay complex.”*

#### 4.1.3 Drumcliff Bay SPA [004013]

A detailed conservation objectives document is available for Drumcliff Bay SPA ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie), accessed on 22/02/2022). The Special Conservation Interests of Drumcliff Bay SPA and the conservation objective for each species is listed in Table 3.5 below.

Table 3.5 SCIs of Drumcliff Bay SPA

Special Conservation Interests	Conservation Objectives
Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for Drumcliff Bay SPA.
Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Drumcliff Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

A review of desktop literature pertaining to the SPA was conducted. The Site Synopsis, as updated in 2014, states;

*“Drumcliff Bay SPA is of importance as it supports nationally important populations of two species of wintering waterfowl: Sanderling (237) and Bar-tailed Godwit (336) – all figures are four year mean peaks for four of the five winters between 1995/96 and 1999/2000.*

*Other species that occur regularly include Whooper Swan (45), Light-bellied Brent Goose (74), Shelduck (75), Wigeon (138), Teal (57), Long-tailed Duck (14), Redbreasted Merganser (20), Great Northern Diver (13), Oystercatcher (356), Ringed Plover (139), Lapwing (155), Knot (107), Dunlin (559), Curlew (177) and Redshank (138).*

*Drumcliff Bay SPA is of national importance for its winter populations of Sanderling and Bar-tailed Godwit, and the site supports a good diversity of other waterfowl species. Of note is that three of the species which occur regularly (Whooper Swan, Great Northern Diver and Bar-tailed Godwit) are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Part of Drumcliff Bay SPA is a Wildfowl Sanctuary.”*

## 4.2 Field Survey Results

The following section provides the results of the two site visits undertaken (January 2022 & February 2022, inclusive).

### 4.2.1 Walked transect results

Table 4.1 provides an overview of the target species of conservation interest recorded during the surveys carried out between January 2022 and February 2022. Non-target bird species recorded within the development site are presented in Table 4.2 along with their Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) status.

During each of the site visits undertaken, there were no observations of Special Conservation Interests species associated with the Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA.

There were no observations of Birds of Conservation Concern-Red list species.

Table 4.1. Target bird survey results Cairn Road bird survey

Species	Number of Individuals	Notes	Date	Conservation status
Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	1	Flying north of site	15/02/2022	Bird of Conservation Concern- Red list



Table 4.2 Non-target bird species recorded at Cairn Road (within development site).

Species	Scientific name	BoCCI Status	Date
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Green	15/02/2022
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Green	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	15/02/2022
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Amber	15/02/2022
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Amber	15/02/2022
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Green	12/02/2022, 15/02/2022
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Green	12/02/2022,

## 4.2.2

## Cummeen Strand SPA VP Results

A section of the Cummeen Strand SPA, approximately 2.7km northwest of the development site was surveyed. The vantage point overlooked an area of tidal mudflat in order to record bird distribution during high and low tide and was undertaken to determine whether birds listed as Special Conservation Interests of the Cummeen Strand SPA flew in the direction of the development site. During the surveys there were no movements of wintering wildfowl between the development site and this SPA. Table 4.3 provides records an overview of species recorded.

Table 4.3 Bird survey results for Cummeen Strand SPA.

Species	Number of Individuals	Notes	Date and Tidal Conditions
Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )	11	Feeding	15/02/2022
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )	30+	Roosting	
Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	1	Feeding	
Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )	1	Feeding	
Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )	2	Feeding	
Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> )	20	Feeding	
Tern ( <i>Sterna spp</i> )	1	Feeding	

4.2.3

## Ballysadare Bay SPA VP Results

Ballysadare Bay SPA, approximately 4km south of the proposed development site was surveyed, to determine whether species listed as a Special Conservation Interest of Ballysadare Bay SPA, were moving between the SPA and the proposed development site. Table 4.4 provides an overview of the species recorded at Ballysadare Bay SPA during any of the surveys.

Table 4.4 Bird survey results for Ballysadare Bay SPA.

Species	Number of Individuals	Notes	Date and Tidal Conditions
Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	3	Resting	15/02/22
Black Headed Gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )	10	Feeding/Roosting	
Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	50+	Feeding/Roosting	
Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )	10	Feeding/Wading	
Black Tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )	16	Feeding	
Redshank ( <i>Tringa tetanus</i> )	6	Feeding	
Greater Black Backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> )	1	Feeding	
Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	10	Feeding	
Red Breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> )	1	Feeding	
Loon ( <i>Gavia immer</i> )	1	Feeding	
Tern Arctic/Common ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> / <i>S. hirundo</i> )	1	Feeding	
Hooded Crow ( <i>Corvus cornix</i> )	20	Feeding	
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	40	Feeding/roosting	
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )	2	Roosting	

4.2.4

## Drumcliff Bay SPA VP Results

A section of the Drumcliff Bay SPA, approximately 7.5km northwest of the development site was surveyed. The vantage point overlooked an area of tidal mudflat in order to record bird distribution during high and low tide and was undertaken to determine whether birds listed as Special Conservation Interests of the Drumcliff Bay SPA flew in the direction of the development site. During the surveys there were no movements of wintering wildfowl between the development site and this SPA. Table 4.5 provides an overview of species recorded.

Table 4.5 Bird survey results for Drumcliff Bay SPA.

Species	Number of Individuals	Notes	Date and Tidal Conditions
Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )	30+	Heard	15/02/2022
Redshank ( <i>Tringa tetanus</i> )	20+	Feeding	
Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )	20+	Feeding	
Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	20+	Roosting/feeding	
Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	2	Feeding/Resting	
Whimbrel ( <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> )	1	Feeding	
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	10	Feeding/Roosting	
Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> )	20+	Feeding	
Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla</i> )	11	Feeding	
Greater Black Backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> )	2	Roosting	
Red Breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> )	1	Feeding	
Wigeon ( <i>Anas Penelope</i> )	5	Feeding/Roosting	
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )	30+	Feeding/Roosting	

## 5. **SUMMARY OF FIELD SURVEY AND DISCUSSION**

The surveys undertaken over the winter period January 2022 to February 2022 provide an understanding of the usage of the proposed development site by wintering bird species. A total of 13 bird species were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the proposed development site during the winter site visits. The majority of the birds recorded within the site boundary and in the surrounding habitat during the site visit were an assemblage of common passerines birds that are typical of the grassland, woodland and hedgerow habitats found within the wider area. The hedgerow and treeline habitat within the site provides suitable habitat for these species, however, these habitats are common and widespread within the local area.

Section 6.2.2.2 of the accompanying EcIA provides an assessment of potential impacts of the proposed development on avian receptors within the site.

Based on the findings, and the habitat composition, the site and the surrounding habitats do not provide any significant supporting habitat for wintering wildfowl or waders associated with Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA. The site also does not provide significant supporting habitat for BoCCI Red-List species. Habitats within the development site are predominately comprised of dry meadows and grassy verge grassland, wet grasslands, buildings and artificial surfaces and hedgerow habitat. SCI wildfowl of the relevant SPAs are not dependant on the habitats therein, which are also common and widespread in the local area. No usage of the site or the immediately surrounding area by any notable bird species was observed.

## 6. **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the two surveys carried out over January 2022 and February 2022, it can be concluded that the site does not support important bird assemblages, Red listed species or wintering wildfowl, waders or SCI species for which Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA is designated. The hedgerow and treeline habitat within the site provide suitable habitat for common passerine species, however, these habitats are common and widespread within the local area. Any clearance of such habitat will be undertaken in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1976-2019.

No potential for adverse effects on the SCI species of Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA have been identified. For this reason, there is not considered to be potential for adverse effects alone or in-combination with other developments within the environs of the Cummeen Strand SPA, Drumcliff Bay SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA.

7.

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