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BnM

Oweninny Wind Farm – Phase 3

Turbine Delivery Route – Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

BUILT ON KNOWLEDGE

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1. INTRODUCTION

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TOBIN have been commissioned by Bord na Móna PowerGen (BnM) to prepare a Stage One Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and a Stage Two Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in respect of a Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) (hereafter referred to as the proposed project) for the permitted Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3, which is located in north Co. Mayo. A description of the proposed project is provided in Section 2. The purpose of this report is to inform the AA process, which is carried out by the competent authority (in this case Donegal County Council, Sligo County Council and Mayo County Council).

1.1 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This report was authored by Laura Higgins and reviewed by Laura Kennedy.

Laura Kennedy (M.Sc.) is an experienced environmental consultant, having studied and worked in environmental sciences in Canada and Ireland for over 17 years. She has led ecological efforts on nationally significant infrastructure projects, building on her early career in Canada where she worked as an ecologist on mining, liquefied natural gas, and pipeline developments. As Technical Director and Lead Ecologist at TOBIN, Laura manages a multidisciplinary team of terrestrial and aquatic ecologists, and ornithologists. Her responsibilities span delivery of client engagements, stakeholder consultation, senior technical review, commercial finances, business development, resource planning, and quality control. Her expertise also includes Project Management, Environmental Impact Assessment Reporting, Appropriate Assessments, ecological field survey design and execution, and data analysis.

Laura Higgins B.A. (Mod.) MCIEEM. Laura is a Senior Ecologist with TOBIN and is skilled in the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments, Appropriate Assessment Screenings and Natura Impact Statements. Laura has been responsible for the management and delivery of a wide range of project types for the public and private sectors including large scale residential, industrial and infrastructure developments. She is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), she is therefore also bound by their Code of Professional Conduct.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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The purpose of this proposed project is to facilitate the delivery of turbines to the permitted Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 (planning application number ABP-309375-21). The full project description is available in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR) accompanying this planning application, a summary of the project description, as relevant to the consideration of ecological impacts is provided below.

The proposed Port of Entry is Killybegs Harbour, which has been previously used for the importation of turbines associated with a number of projects including the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase I and Phase II. It is proposed that loads will exit Killybegs Harbour and travel through counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Mayo via National and Regional Road networks before reaching the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. The entire route is approximately 185km in length.

BnM is seeking consent for both minor, temporary works and permanent works located in 3rd party lands in counties Donegal, Sligo and Mayo. Two locations along the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) require permanent works to facilitate the delivery of turbine components to site, these are located at Carricknagat, Co. Sligo and Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. Minor temporary works in Donegal are proposed at Killybegs, Glebe, Aghayeevoge, Cashelreagh Glebe, Bruckless, Aighan and Darney. Minor temporary works in Sligo are proposed at Carrownacreevy, Abbeytown, Corhownagh and Carricknagat. Minor temporary works in Mayo are proposed at Lecarrow, Crossmolina, Abbeytown, Knockalegan, Glebe, Gortskeddia, Ballina, Abbeyhalfquarter and Bunree. These works areas are captured in the project Red Line Boundary (RLB) and are presented in the Planning Drawing Pack accompanying this planning application.

Additional areas which fall outside of the project Red Line Boundary (RLB) have been surveyed to give full context to the baseline environment and for completeness in terms of assessing any interactions along the full TDR. Activities at these additional areas will be agreed with each local authority and TII as required following planning consent, prior to commencement of the project. Permanent and temporary works and/or activities will occur in 74 locations, hereafter referred to as Points of Interest (POIs- numbered in sequence from the port of arrival in Killybegs to the Wind Farm entrance at Oweninny). Table 2.1 presents a full list of works and activities associated with the proposed project, with areas within the project RLB, for which consent is being sought, specifically identified.

2.1.1 Permanent Works 1: Carricknagat

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Permanent works are required at Carricknagat, Co. Sligo (POI 38) to facilitate blade load deliveries. The permanent works include the construction of a permanent slipway to exit the N4 and cross over to theR290 before traversing under a railway overbridge (UBS592) (54.194754, -8.494418) and continuing north on the R290. This new slipway off the N4 will only be used for the delivery of blades. Bollards will be placed along the interface of the N4/R290 when the route is not in use.

The permanent works also include the breaking out of the existing bedrock outcrops (approximately 6,117m^3 of material to be removed) to the west of the R290 and laying of a Load Bearing Surface to allow the vehicles carrying the turbine components to navigate the bend on the road. Excess excavated material will be removed off site to be disposed of or recycled at a licensed waste facility in accordance with all applicable waste management regulations.

Existing roadside drainage will be modified to accommodate the local realignment of the R290.

A temporary construction compound with site offices, welfare facilities and parking will be established within the site boundary in Carricknagat.

2.1.1.1 Construction Methodology for Permanent Works at Carricknagat

The anticipated timescale for construction at Carricknagat is 2-3 months.

The works will be timed and sequenced in tandem with other works along the TDR and in consultation with Sligo Co. Co. Roads Department and TII. The following description outlines the anticipated construction activities at Carricknagat.

- The works area will be surveyed for services prior to the commencement of works.
- Temporary compounds will be set up.
- The material and plant required for the works will be brought to and stored at the temporary construction compound.
- Local traffic management measures will be implemented. A Traffic Management Plan is included as part of this planning application.
- Widening and realignment works will begin with the use of excavators that will first remove any topsoil / vegetative layer which may be present.
- Rock breaking will commence thereafter using suitable machinery (excavators and or/ rock breakers) with excavated material loaded onto dumper trucks that will remove the excess material from site. Excess excavated material will be removed off site to be disposed of or recycled at a licensed waste facility in accordance with all applicable waste management regulations.
- Once the section of the widened road is exposed; a layer of geogrid or geotextile material may be placed along its formation depending on ground conditions.
- The stone required at the work area will be spread out locally with the use of excavators on top of the geogrid / geotextile material. This will be compacted with the use of a roller
- Roadside drains will be constructed to manage clean and dirty water runoff along widened and upgraded access roads.
- The final running surface of the new widened / upgraded roads will be capped with a minimum 150mm layer of hard-wearing stone or similar suitable material using a road grader.

- The exposed rockface will be battered back to a safe angle of repose.
- Site temporary construction compound will be decommissioned when works are complete.

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2.1.2 Permanent Works 2: Crossmolina

The permanent works at Crossmolina, Co. Mayo (POI 62-68) comprise the construction of the proposed TDR, approximately 6m wide, off the N59, through the 'community fields', immediately adjacent to the Crossmolina GAA Grounds. This access point will be temporary vehicle access point for the duration of the delivery of the turbine components. The proposed project will cross the community fields for approximately 675m until it reaches the River Deel crossing point. It is proposed to construct a permanent bridge, from precast concrete sections, which will be craned into place.

The structural deck will be reinforced concrete with a pre-sprayed on waterproofing membrane. Installation of heavy gauge product such as Visqueen between the pre-cast member and in-situ concrete will be undertaken to prevent leakage of concrete. Bituminous layers will be placed on the carriageway, and in-situ concrete on the footways. The abutment supporting piles will be bored cast in-situ concrete. The bridge will measure approximately 33m in length by approximately 7.5m wide with buffer zones of 10m to the east and 9.1m to the west of the river course.

The TDR will be constructed on the western side of the proposed bridge, through agricultural fields and then connect on to Abbeytown lane which is to be widened by approximately 3.5m, before joining the R135 progressing in a westward direction. Approximately 275m west of the Abbeytown Lane/R315 junction, the TDR will be constructed and will traverse agricultural lands via a temporary access point for approximately 660m before rejoining the N59 adjacent to St. Tiernan's Cemetery. The TDR within the agricultural fields here are temporary and the fields will be reinstated once the TDR is no longer required.

The TDR will also comprise a permanent amenity track with integrated cycleway and walkway which will be a permanent feature available to the public when the TDR is not in use and will be closed off by means of secure traffic bollards as per TII standards. When the TDR is not in use the proposed amenity track and cycleway will be available to the public, there will be no vehicle access allowed on the amenity track at any times. Vegetation (such as hedgerows and trees) along Abbeytown Lane will be replanted.

It is important to note the proposed project will be used solely to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and, if turbine components are required, during routine maintenance. Any such use will be agreed in advance with the Local Authorities and TII.

A temporary construction compound will be located in the community fields on the eastern side of the river, approximately 150m from the riverbank.

The TDR shall be constructed according to current TII standards and in compliance with the specifications of the designer.

The TDR at Crossmolina will be constructed using suitable granular fill after excavation to a suitable stratum. A geogrid or geotextile layer may be installed at the surface, subject to designer confirmation. On top of the granular fill, a layer of suitable material such as Cl. 804 will

be placed, followed by an unbound wearing course to achieve the required profile and grading. Additionally, a compacted layer of quarry dust may be applied before surface dressing, as specified by the designer.

Drawings of the proposed project, amenity track and bridge are included in the Planning Drawing Pack accompanying this application.

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2.1.2.1 Construction Methodology for Permanent Works at Crossmolina

The following is the anticipated sequence of the activities involved in constructing the proposed project at Crossmolina. The construction period of the proposed project is anticipated to last approximately 6-9 months and comprise the following elements:

- Temporary signage and traffic management systems will be installed in advance of the works. These traffic control measures will be implemented in coordination with Local Authorities. A Traffic Management Plan is included as part of this planning application.
- The works area will be surveyed for any services prior to the commencement of works.
- Temporary site entrances and compounds will be constructed and surfaced using a permeable gravel surface.
- Construction of trackside drainage system.
- Ground works will be conducted and will comprise excavation, vegetation clearance, levelling and laying of suitable load bearing surfaces. The land profile is quite flat in the area so ground works will likely be minimal.
- Once a section of the excavated access road is exposed to suitable formation, a layer of geogrid or geotextile material may be placed along its formation depending on ground conditions.
- Ducting for lighting and drainage channels will be installed.
- The required stone will be delivered to the work area and spread out locally with the use of excavators and compacted with the use of a roller. Road make up will be a combination of crushed stone, Cl804, hard wearing class of stone and a macadam top surface dressing (to be applied after completion of the bridge installation).
- The installation of localised lighting along the TDR.

2.1.2.1.1 Construction Methodology for the River Deel Bridge at Crossmolina

The following sequence is proposed for the construction of the permanent bridge crossing the River Deel:

- A secure access route and working zones with fencing and environmental protection measures will be established. Including installation of silt fencing and buffer zones to safeguard the river and surrounding habitats.
- Construction of reinforced concrete abutments, supported by piled foundations set back from the riverbank, avoiding any instream works. The pilecaps and abutments will be cast insitu concrete in formwork. The piles can be cast in a steel sleeve in the ground through the overburden, which can be left in place to minimise loss of concrete.
- Appropriate construction techniques will be implemented adjacent to the bank, with no machinery entering the watercourse.
- The precast bridge beams will be delivered to site via the newly constructed TDR.

- Sections will be lifted and positioned using cranes stationed on the bank, ensuring full span installation without instream supports. Deck surfacing, edge protection, and safety features will be installed thereafter.
- Deck surfacing, edge protection, and safety features will be installed thereafter.

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At Crossmolina a temporary construction compound will be used for storage of materials which are delivered to the site to suit the proposed construction programme. Materials will generally be transported around the site by means of teleporter/small dumpers/tractor and trailer. Storage containers will be delivered to the site and craned into place using a hiab crane on the trucks. Material and equipment will be typically delivered to the site as it is needed during the construction phase. Deliveries will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods and sensitive community times.

All works will be carried out in compliance with the CEMP included in Appendix A of this document.

2.1.3 Minor Temporary Works

Works required in Donegal to facilitate the delivery of turbine blades and components are minor and temporary in nature and comprise laying of load bearing surface, fences, bollard, gate, lights, walls and chevrons removal and hedgerow and tree trimming. All temporary works areas in Donegal will be reinstated to their original condition upon completion of delivery of turbine components.

Temporary works required along the TDR in County Sligo comprise laying of load bearing surface, fences, bollard, lights, walls removal and hedgerow and tree trimming All temporary works areas in Silgo will be reinstated to their original condition upon completion of delivery of turbine components.

Temporary works required along the TDR in County Mayo comprise tree and hedge trimming, land reprofiling, load bearing surfaces laid on verges, removal/replacement of bollards, utility poles, lighting road signs, fences, and walls. All temporary works areas in Mayo will be reinstated to their original condition upon completion of delivery of turbine components.

Temporary works areas associated with turbine delivery routes will be reinstated to their original, pre-construction condition. This includes the removal of temporary road widenings, set down areas, and temporary track surfaces. Reinstatement will involve regrading and compacting surfaces, replacing drainage systems and where agricultural land was temporarily used, it will be reinstated with topsoil and reseeded with appropriate grass mixes to restore its previous function. Hedgerows and vegetation will be replanted.

2.1.4 Additional Activities, Outside of the Project Redline Boundary

As mentioned above, additional activities are required in a number of locations along the proposed project for which planning permission is not being sought. These largely comprise vegetation trimming, land reprofiling, load bearing surfaces laid on verges, removal/replacement of bollards, utility poles, road signs, fences and walls. These will be confirmed with each local authority and TII as required following planning consent, prior to commencement of the project.

Table 2.1: Summary of Works and Activities Proposed at the POIs of the Proposed Project

Note: Works for which planning permission are being sought (*i.e.* works proposed within the RLB) are highlighted in grey. All vegetation clearance proposed outside of the permanent works areas in Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POIs 62-68) will be reinstated following works.

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Planning drawing reference
1	-	N/A
2	▪ Laying of load bearing surface & fence removal, lights to be removed/relocated	12141-2001_Location Map & Layout Plan_1_Donegal
4	-	N/A
5	▪ Removal of bollards from traffic island	N/A
6	-	N/A
7	-	N/A
8	▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Temporary removal of bollard	12141-2003_Location Map & Layout Plan__Donegal
9	▪ Road sign removal	N/A
10	▪ Tree trimming	N/A
11	▪ Laying of load bearing surface on the eastern verge; ▪ Temporary removal of gate, wall and chevrons ▪ Vegetation clearance.	12141-2004_Location Map & Layout Plan_4_Donegal
12	▪ Temporary removal of road signal, bollards, lighting columns, wall and fence to be removed. ▪ Hedgerow and tree trimming	12141-2005_Location Map & Layout Plan_5_Donegal
13	▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Removal of hedgerows, ▪ Temporary removal fence and wall	12141-2006_Location Map & Layout Plan_6_Donegal
14, 15, 16	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Vegetation clearance ▪ Tree trimming	N/A
17, 18	▪ Temporary removal of fence ▪ Vegetation to be removed	12141-2007_Location Map & Layout Plan_7_Donegal
19	▪ Modifications to street furniture required. ▪ Land reprofiling ▪ Vegetation removal	N/A
20	-	N/A
21	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
22	▪ Trimming of trees	N/A
23	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage ▪ Trimming of trees ▪ Laying of load bearing surface	N/A

POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Planning drawing reference
24	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles ▪ Vegetation clearance	N/A
25	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Vegetation trimming	N/A
26	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
27	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface.	N/A
28	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole.	N/A
29	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole.	N/A
30	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
31	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
32	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole ▪ Vegetation clearance	N/A
33, 34	-	N/A
35	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
36	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
37	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Vegetation clearance.	N/A
Permanent Works 1: Carricknagat 38	▪ Vegetation trimming. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Removal of trees and vegetation ▪ Remove of bedrock outcrop area ▪ Removal of fence and wall	12141-2008_Location Map & Layout Plan_8_Sligo
39	▪ Temporary removal of one traffic signal, three road signs, one bollard, one pole, a bridge railing, pedestrian guardrail and wall.	12141-2009_Location Map & Layout Plan_9_Sligo
40	▪ Temporary removal of wall, fence, utility poles and ▪ Vegetation to be removed	12141-2010_Location Map & Layout Plan_10_Sligo
41	▪ Laying of load bearing surface;	N/A

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Planning drawing reference
	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Temporary removal of a wall and gate ▪ Tree trimming	
42, 43	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole.	N/A
44	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and utility poles ▪ Trimming of trees and vegetation	N/A
45	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage ▪ Vegetation clearance	N/A
46	▪ Trees and vegetation trimming ▪ Laying of load bearing surface	12141-2011_Location Map & Layout Plan_11_Sligo
47	▪ Tree trimming	N/A
48	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and utility poles	N/A
49	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Temporary removal of one utility pole, two traffic signals, one bench, two junction boxes, a wall, bridge parapet and bridge railing from southern parapet; ▪ Vegetation clearance.	12141-2012_Location Map & Layout Plan_12_Mayo
50	▪ Modifications to street furniture required	12141-2013_Location Map & Layout Plan_13_Mayo
51	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Land reprofiling; ▪ Berm regrading; ▪ Temporary removal of a gat and fence.	12141-2014_Location Map & Layout Plan_14_Mayo
52, 53	▪ Load bearing surface to be laid, ▪ Temporary removal of wall and gate.	12141-2014_Location Map & Layout Plan_14_Mayo
54	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface on; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles and decorative planters	N/A
55	▪ Tree trimming	N/A
56, 57, 58	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Removal of one road sign and six bollards; ▪ Temporary removal of a wall	12141-2015_Location Map & Layout Plan_15_Mayo
59	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, a utility pole and one decorative structure	N/A
60	▪ Tree trimming	N/A

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Planning drawing reference
61	▪ Tree trimming	N/A
Permanent Works 2: Crossmolina 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	▪ Construction of proposed bridge ▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Vegetation removal Construction of TDR and amenity track; ▪ Ground works.	12141-2016_Location Map & Layout Plan_16_Mayo 12141-2017_Location Map & Layout Plan_17_Mayo 12141-2018_Location Map & Layout Plan_18_Mayo 12141-2019_Location Map & Layout Plan_19_Mayo
69	▪ Tree trimming	N/A
70, 71, 72	▪ Tree and vegetation trimming; ▪ Removal of one road sign	N/A
73	-	N/A
74	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A
75	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage ▪ Tree trimming	N/A

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3. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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3.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as the 'Habitats Directive', provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 network.

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

> "*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 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) states:

> "*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] 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 Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*"

The provision for an AA is transposed into Irish law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2010 (as amended). Section 177U (4) of the said Acts provides for screening for AA as follows:

> "*The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of [...] a proposed development [...] is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the [...] proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.*"

Section 177U (5) provides as follows:

> "*The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a [...] proposed development , [...], is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the [...] proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.*"

An AA should be based on best scientific knowledge and the competent authority should ensure that expertise such as ecological, geological, and hydrological are utilised, where relevant.

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has made a number of rulings in relation to AA, regarding when it is required, its purpose, and the standards it should meet. Consideration has been given to the evolution in interpretation and application of directives and national legislation arising from jurisprudence of the European and Irish courts, in respect of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

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3.2 Stages Involved in Appropriate Assessment

There are potentially four stages in the AA process; the result of each stage determines the requirement for assessment under the next.

Stage 1: Screening / Test of Significance

This process identifies the likely significant effects upon a European site from a proposed project or plan. Its purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European site, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect upon the European site, in view of its conservation objectives. A project may be 'screened-in' if there is a possibility or uncertainty of possible effects upon the European site, requiring a Stage Two AA. If there is no evidence to suggest significant effects due to the proposed plan or development the project is 'screened-out' from further assessment.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

In this stage, consideration is given to ascertain whether the plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site(s), either alone or in- combination with other plans or projects, with respect to the European site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. This stage of the assessment is carried out by the consenting authority and is informed by a NIS. A NIS is required where there is uncertainty as to whether or not an adverse effect arises, uncertainty of the effect itself, or a potential effect has been defined which requires further procedures/mitigation to remove uncertainty of a defined impact (i.e., significant effects cannot be excluded). Where there are adverse effects, an assessment of the potential mitigation to ameliorate those effects is required. If the assessment results in a negative conclusion, i.e., adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded (by design or mitigation) or there is uncertainty as to whether an adverse impact arises, then the process must consider alternatives (Stage 3) or proceed to Stage 4.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternatives

This stage of the potential process arises where adverse effects on the integrity of a European site cannot be excluded and examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site. However, in circumstances where there will not be any adverse effects on any European site, the developer places no reliance upon this third stage of the process in the context of this application for planning permission for the proposed project.

Stage 4: Assessment Where Adverse Effects Remain

This is the derogation process of Article 6(4), which examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest [IROPI] for allowing a project to proceed where adverse

effects on the integrity of a European site have been predicted. Compensatory measures must be proposed and assessed as part of this stage and the EU Commission must be informed of the compensatory measures. Again, the developer places no reliance upon this stage of the process in the context of the application for planning permission for the proposed project.

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This report details a Stage One: Screening and Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment (NIS), to assist the competent authority in carrying out its AA for the proposed project.

3.3 GUIDANCE FOR THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This report has been carried out using the following guidance:

- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission [EC], 2000).
- Nature and Biodiversity Cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2006).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (EC, 2018).
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission (EC, 2013).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government [DoEHLG], 2010).
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the Concepts of: Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2007).
- Assessment of Plans and Projects in Relation to Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021a).
- 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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2021b).
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Practice Note PN01 (OPR, 2021).
- Guidance Document on the Strict Protection of Animal Species of Community Interest Under the Habitats Directive (EC, 2021c).

Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with "*Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*" (EC, 2018):

- Favourable conservation status (FCS) can only be defined and achieved at the level of the natural range of a species or a habitat type. A broad conservation objective aiming at achieving FCS can therefore only be considered at an appropriate level, such as for example the national, biogeographical or European level. The conservation measures have to correspond to the ecological requirements of the natural habitat types in Annex

I and of the species in Annex II present on the site. The ecological requirements of those natural habitat types and species involve all the ecological needs which are deemed necessary to ensure the conservation of the habitat types and species. They can only be defined on a case-by-case basis and using scientific knowledge.

- The integrity of a European site is defined as the coherent sum of the site's ecological structure, function, and ecological processes, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is designated.
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives and ecological characteristics.

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4. METHODOLOGY

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4.1 CONSULTATION

TOBIN and BnM undertook a consultation exercise to identify key environmental issues, engage relevant stakeholders, and ensure full compliance with regulations. The responses are summarised below.

A consultation meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) was held on 24th of September 2025 and with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) on the 17th of November 2025, in relation to freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) which have been recorded at the proposed bridge crossing at Crossmolina (POIs 62-68), within the River Moy Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The key points of discussion are included in Table 4.1:

Table 4.1: Consultations

Consultee / Date	Issues raised	Response
NPWS / 24th of September 2025	Freshwater pearl mussel - shading	Freshwater pearl mussel is not a qualifying interest of the River Moy SAC. Impacts on freshwater pearl mussel have been assessed as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) accompanying this planning application.
	Freshwater pearl mussel - hydrological/hydrogeological regime	Freshwater pearl mussel is not a qualifying interest of the River Moy SAC. Impacts on freshwater pearl mussel have been assessed as part of the EcIA accompanying this planning application.
	Freshwater pearl mussel - vibration	Freshwater pearl mussel is not a qualifying interest of the River Moy SAC. Impacts on freshwater pearl mussel have been assessed as part of the EcIA accompanying this planning application.
	Construction related turbidity during construction.	CEMP produced for this proposed project, and mitigation measures detailed in Section 12.
	Japanese knotweed and the proper use of chemical treatment.	Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) produced for this proposed project, and mitigation measures detailed in Section 12.
	Riparian cover for otter	Potential effects on otter associated with the River Moy SAC have been included in the relevant sections throughout this report.
IFI / 17th of November 2025	Construction methodologies and surface water quality protection measures associated with the proposed bridge at the Crossmolina N59 Bypass.	CEMP produced for this proposed project, and mitigation measures detailed in Section 12. ISMP produced for this proposed project, and mitigation measures detailed in Section 12.

4.2 ZONE OF INFLUENCE AND STUDY AREAS

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The Zone of Influence (ZoI) and study areas for the desktop study and field surveys were identified by considering the nature of the proposed project, the size and location of the proposed project and the ecological features likely, or known, to be present. Further details describing the survey area for the ecological surveys undertaken are provided in Section 4.4.

4.2.1 Zone of Influence Methodology

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2018) defines the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of a project as the area within which ecological features may be impacted by biophysical changes. The ZoI often extends beyond the immediate project site, especially when ecological or hydrological connections exist beyond site boundaries.

To establish the ZoI for the activities associated with the proposed project, an assessment was conducted using the source-pathway-receptor (S-P-R) model (OPR, 2021). This S-P-R model, a standard tool used in environmental assessments, provides a structured approach to identify potential impacts by examining:

- **Source(s):** potential impacts from the proposed project, e.g. loss of habitat, direct emissions (water, air, noise and light);
- **Pathway(s):** hydrological[1], hydrogeological[2], physical[3] or ecological[4] connectivity between the proposed project and the European site (e.g. water bodies and proximity); and
- **Receptor(s):** qualifying interests (QI) and/or special conservation interests (SCI) of the European sites.

The assessment identified relevant pathways and receptors beyond the proposed project to delineate the ZoI for impact sources consistent with CIEEM (2018) guidance. For an impact to be established all three elements (source, pathway, and receptor) must be present.

In this report, 'relevant' European sites are those with QIs and/or SCIs within the ZoI of activities as identified through the S-P-R model. Activities associated with this proposed project refer to those which are proposed at POIs. The ZoI of potential impact sources (S) varies in extent depending on the nature of the pathway (P) and whether the receptor (R) is sensitive to or impacted by those specific pathways.

Following the guidance set out by the NRA (2009), the proposed project has been evaluated based on an identified ZoI with regard to the potential impact pathways to ecological feature (e.g. mobile and static). The ZoI of the proposed project on mobile species (e.g. birds, mammals, and fish), and static species and habitats (e.g. saltmarshes, woodlands, and flora) is considered differently. Mobile species have a 'range' outside of the European site in which they are a QI or a SCI. The range of mobile QI/SCI species varies considerably, from several metres (e.g. in the case of whorl snail, *Vertigo* spp.), to hundreds of kilometres (in the case of migratory wetland birds). Whilst static species and habitats are generally considered to have ZoIs within close

[1] Pathways via surface water
[2] Pathways via groundwater
[3] Pathways via physical interaction/overlap
[4] Pathways via ecological interaction (e.g. overlap of foraging/commuting routes or breeding/resting sites)

proximity of the proposed project, they can be significantly affected at considerable distances from an effect source; for example, where an aquatic QI habitat or plant is located many kilometres downstream from a pollution source. Section 6.1.1.1.1 elaborates on the hydrological pathways associated with the POIs for the proposed project.

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The ZoI for the proposed project is defined in hereunder.

4.2.2 Zone of Influence and Study Area of the Proposed Project

There are several elements associated with the proposed project that may give rise to direct and indirect impacts that have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites. The significance of these impacts depends on the scale of the impact as well as the ecological condition and the sensitivities of the QIs/SCIs.

The ZoI for the proposed project has been defined by the results of the desktop study and field surveys, in conjunction with the nature of the potential impacts associated with the proposed project and is outlined below.

Overview

As discussed in Section 2, the proposed project comprises four main areas:

1) Permanent Works 1: Carricknagat;
2) Permanent Works 2: Crossmolina (including the proposed bridge structure at the River Deel;
3) Minor Temporary Works within the project RLB; and
4) Additional Activities, located outside of the project RLB.

The proposed project is approximately 185km in length and stretches from Killybegs Harbour to the permitted Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. Due to the distance which will be traversed by the proposed project, traffic associated with turbine deliveries will pass through, or directly adjacent to the following 16 European sites:

- Donegal Bay SPA;
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh SAC);
- Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC;
- Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC;
- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC;
- Drumcliff Bay SPA;
- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC;
- Cummeen Strand SPA;
- Unshin River SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA;
- River Moy SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC; and
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC.

As previously mentioned in Section 2, the proposed project is present along existing National and Regional Roads. Works and activities will occur at 74 POIs to facilitate the successful delivery of turbine components. It is considered that there is potential for likely significant effects on European sites to arise at these POIs. The ZoI is therefore defined with regard to the location of the POIs, and the nature/extent of the proposed works and activities.

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It is not considered that likely significant effects will arise throughout the remainder of the proposed project as a result of increased traffic volumes associated with turbine deliveries for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. It is estimated that there will be 200 movements in total during the operational phase of the proposed project. European sites and their associated QIs/SCIs which are present along the proposed project are already sited in proximity to main roads and are therefore, already subject to ongoing disturbance from existing road use.

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Impacts associated with the loss of habitats, and therefore the study area and ZoI, is confined to the areas of proposed works and activities (i.e. the habitats located within the POIs), as outlined in Figure 4.1 and Appendix D

Surface Water

With regards potential surface water quality effects associated with the release of sediment and other pollutants to surface water, the study area and ZoI of the proposed project is considered to include receiving water bodies adjacent to or downstream of the POIs (i.e. areas of proposed works and activities) during the construction phase of the proposed project. The proposed project involves the construction and placement of a new bridge over the River Deel as part of the Crossmolina permanent works, therefore the ZoI also includes the receiving downstream water bodies during the operational phase of the proposed bridge.

It is not considered that likely significant effects will arise with regards to surface water quality throughout the remainder of the proposed project, outside of the POIs. Turbine deliveries for serving the consented Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 via the proposed project will utilise the existing National and Regional road network. It is estimated that there will be 200 movements in total during the operational phase of the proposed project. These roads accommodate a large amount of daily traffic and there are existing surface water drainage systems in place.

Hydrological linkages between the POIs and European sites (and their QIs/SCIs) can occur over significant distances. However, any effect will be site specific depending on the receiving water environment and nature of the potential impact. The distance downstream is associated with the current biological condition of the accepting water body and its capacity to accept and assimilate sediment and other pollutants. Considering the ZoI for impacts associated with water pollution, hydrological connectivity is not considered effective past the first water body of depositional nature (e.g. lake water body or transitional water body).

Groundwater

A full assessment of groundwater related effects is included in Chapters 4 (Soils & Geology) & 5 (Water) of the PECR (TOBIN, 2026) which accompanies this planning application. The study area and ZoI for groundwater effects is considered to be limited to receiving water bodies adjacent to or downgradient of the works at Carricknagat and Crossmolina. All other potential groundwater effects are excluded. For the purposes of this assessment, these potential effects

on groundwater are considered within the potential surface water quality effects above, and no additional groundwater quality specific effects are anticipated. With regards potential groundwater quality effects, the majority of available rainfall does not infiltrate to ground. Accidental spillage during refuelling of construction/excavation plant with petroleum hydrocarbons is a significant contamination risk to soils, groundwater, and associated ecosystems.

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Shallow excavations are required as part of construction works for the proposed project, including in relation to the roads, clear span bridge and construction compounds. Excavations will be shallow which will limit the potential groundwater inflows. Therefore, effects on groundwater flow as a result of the works associated with the proposed project are unlikely. Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes to groundwater flow.

Dust

The temporary generation of dust in the locality of the works areas are likely to arise due to general construction phase activities (i.e., movement of construction vehicles and machinery, road upgrade works, removal of vegetation, excavation activities). Plant communities may be affected by dust deposition (effects on photosynthesis, respiration, transpiration) which could in turn, alter community structure. Dust deposits on vegetation can stunt growth and indirectly impact local fauna who utilise vegetation for roosting and/or foraging purposes.

The Institute of Air Quality Management provide guidelines which prescribes potential dust emission risk classes to ecological receptors (Holman *et al.*, 2014). The guidelines specify that receptor sensitivity is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' at 50m. The spatial limit of dust, and therefore the study area and ZoI is considered to be 50m from the locations of works or activities with the potential to result in dust.

Noise and Disturbance

The construction and operation phase of the proposed project have the potential to cause disturbance to resting, foraging and commuting QIs/SCI species in close proximity to locations of works and activities with the potential for elevated noise levels, particularly at the locations of permanent works in Carricknagat and Crossmolina. It is not considered that likely significant effects will arise with regards to noise, disturbance or mortality throughout the remainder of the proposed project, outside of the locations of works and activities. Turbine deliveries for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 will utilise the existing National and Regional road network. It is estimated that there will be 200 movements in total during the operational phase of the proposed project. Movements will occur at night and will vary depending on construction requirements; however, convoys will typically comprise up to three components, five nights of the week. These movements will not represent a significant increase in traffic, as these roads are busy National and Regional roads, and accommodate a large amount of daily traffic. Therefore, fauna present in the vicinity are habituated to vehicles and road related noise and disturbance.

Individual species will elicit differing behavioural responses to disturbance at different distances from the source of disturbance. Below is a summary of the documented ZoI for the relevant species:

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formally the National Roads Authority) has produced a series of best practice planning and construction guidelines (NRA, 2008) for the treatment of certain protected mammal species (e.g. otter), which state that works likely to cause disturbance and are within 150m of a breeding holt will require a derogation licence from the NPWS. Therefore, the study area and ZoI (as a result of construction works) for otter and their resting places is not expected to extend beyond 150m from locations of works and activities with the potential for elevated noise levels, in areas of suitable riparian habitat;
- Disturbance to bird species will be considered individually where required with reference to Goodship and Furness (2022) and Cutts *et al.* (2013). Goodship and Furness (2022) reviewed the likely sensitivity to disturbance of 63 bird species. Of these 63 species the largest recommended buffer zone (breeding and non-breeding) for species which have ranges that are likely to overlap with the proposed project was 600m. Therefore, a maximum distance of 600m from permanent works at Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POIs 62-68) will be used to represent the maximum likely disturbance distance of birds and the study area and ZoI. The disturbance ZoI at other locations of works and activities will be far more localised due to the minor nature of the activities proposed (e.g. tree trimming and minor roadworks);
- Disturbance to aquatic species such as salmon, lamprey species and white-clawed crayfish may arise from construction activities at rivers, which could result in avoidance of the area by these species. The study area and ZoI for disturbance effects on aquatic species is considered to be limited to the watercourses where works or activities are proposed, in particular the location of the proposed bridge associated with the permanent works at Crossmolina.
- Direct mortality may affect fauna species present within the proposed construction works area. The study area and ZoI for direct mortality effects on fauna is considered to be limited to the locations where works and activities will take place within semi-natural habitats.
- Vibration levels (measured as peak particle velocity or PPV) decrease significantly with distance from the source due to soil damping and energy dissipation. The most rapid decrease often occurs within the first few meters. The study area and ZoI for vibration impacts was defined by a 100m buffer distance from the proposed project (i.e. the piling of foundations for the proposed installation of a precast bridge) as a maximum worst-case scenario, based on plan distances for vibration levels measured for piling activities (BSI 2014).

The maximum study area and ZoI for construction phase noise/disturbance was therefore established as a 600m buffer of the permanent works at Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POIs 62-68), and localised effects, not likely to extend more than a few metres at all other locations of works and activities. The study area and ZoI for operational phase noise/disturbance was established as a 600m buffer of new infrastructure at Crossmolina (POIs 62-68).

In addition, to further establish any pathways to SPAs and SACs, the foraging/commuting ranges of SCI and QI species will be considered.

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4.3 DESKTOP STUDY

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An ecological desktop study was carried out to identify European sites within the ZoI of activities associated with the proposed project through the identification of potential pathways of impact from the proposed project to the European sites.

Principal sources of information utilised for the desktop study included the following:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service natural heritage database for designated areas of ecological interest and sites of nature conservation[5];
- National Parks and Wildlife Service site synopsis for European sites identified through potential pathways from the proposed project[6];
- National Parks and Wildlife Service Natura 2000 data forms and Conservation Objectives for relevant European sites[7];
- National Parks and Wildlife Service datasets on Annex I habitats, Annex II species and Annex I bird species[8];
- Article 17 habitats and species datasets[9] compiled to meet the Habitats Directive reporting requirements, covering the status, trends, conservation measures, and threats to Annex I habitats and Annex II species;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) online database[10];
- Natura 2000 viewer[11];
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mapping database[12]; and
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) Spatial Resources[13].

Reference was also made to the following plan documents:

- Mayo County Development Plan 2022 – 2028;
- Sligo County Development Plan 2024 – 2030;
- Donegal County Development Plan 2024 – 2030.

In addition, aerial photography (Google Maps, Bing Maps) and mapping (Geological Survey Ireland) were used to identify non-designated habitats such as rivers, woodlands, and hedgerows which may provide connectivity/corridors to surrounding habitats or designated sites.

4.3.1 Aquatic Environment

A search for water bodies that could act as pathways for significant effects from the proposed project to European sites was carried out as part of the desktop study of the receiving environment. In this regard, it is relevant to establish that hydrological linkages between the

[5] Habitat and Species data | National Parks & Wildlife Service (Accessed November 2025)
[6] Protected Sites in Ireland | National Parks & Wildlife Service (Accessed November 2025)
[7] Conservation Objectives | National Parks & Wildlife Service (Accessed November 2025)
[8] Article 17 GIS and Metadata Downloads | National Parks & Wildlife Service (Accessed November 2025)
[9] Article 17 Data – 2019 | National Parks & Wildlife Service (Accessed August 2025)
[10] National Biodiversity Data Centre Documenting Ireland's Wildlife (Accessed August 2025)
[11] Natura 2000 Viewer (Accessed August 2025)
[12] EPA Maps (Accessed August 2025)
[13] Data & Maps (Accessed August 2025)

proposed development and European sites can occur over significant distances and any effect will be site specific, depending on the receiving water environment and nature of the potential effect.

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4.4 FIELD SURVEYS

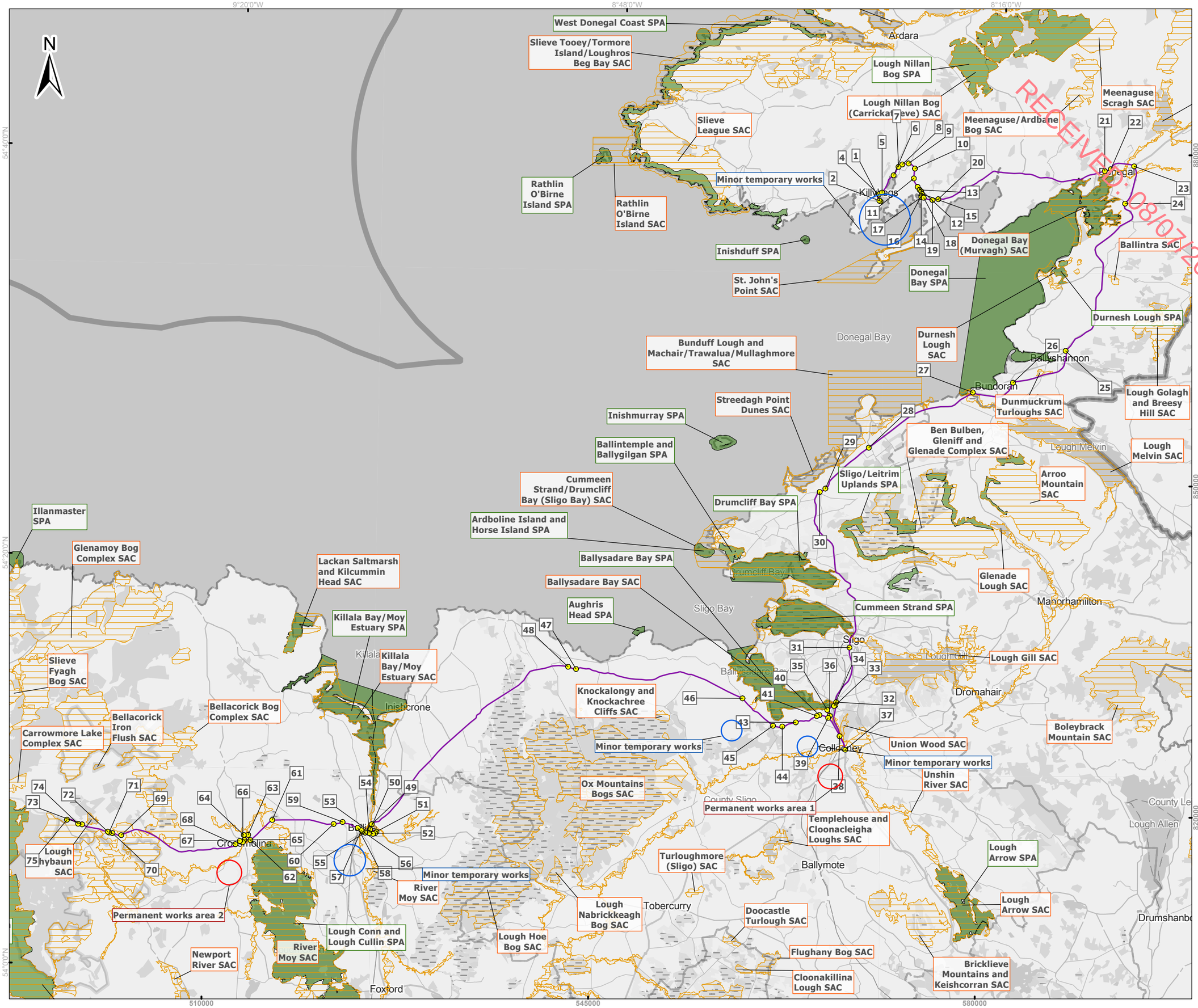
An initial multidisciplinary ecological survey was carried out of the Crossmolina permanent works area on the 19th and 20th of February 2024 and the 2nd of October 2024 by TOBIN Ecologists. Follow up multidisciplinary surveys were then carried out between the 23rd and 26th of June 2025 at the Crossmolina permanent works area, the Carricknagat Site, and along the proposed project (at the 74 POIs, i.e. locations of proposed permanent and temporary works and activities) (Figure 4.1).

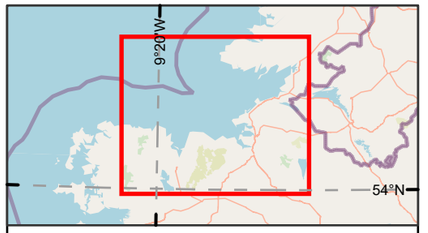
The surveys and the methodologies undertaken are further detailed hereunder.

4.4.1 Habitats and Flora

A habitat assessment was undertaken with regard to The Heritage Council's "*Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping"* (Smith *et al.*, 2011). At the majority of the POIs, the proposed works and activities are restricted to small areas on the edges of existing roadways. Given this and the minor nature of these works (e.g. vegetation trimming and minor earthworks), a buffer area was not surveyed in these locations. At the permanent works areas in Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POI 62-68) a buffer area of at least 40m of any new infrastructure was surveyed, where semi-natural habits are present. Habitats at the POIs were surveyed and were classified according to The Heritage Council's '*A Guide to Habitats in Ireland'* (Fossitt, 2000) and reference was made to the "*EU Habitats Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats"* (EC, 2013) where required.

In addition, the study area was searched for evidence of invasive alien plant species (IAPS) listed in Part 1 of the Third Schedule of S.I No. 477/2011 – European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Species protected under Flora Protection Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235/2022) or listed under the Irish Red Data List of Irish Plants (Wyse Jackson *et al.*, 2016) were also searched for.





Legend

- POI
- Transport Delivery Route
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

0 7.51 15.02
Kilometres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

Copyrights:
Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer

Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	23/06/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 4.1:
Habitat Survey Locations

Scale @ A3: 1:315,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	June 2026

TOBIN

Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
Email: info@tobin.ie
www.tobin.ie

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Map Ref: 12141-001.AA-HAB.Survey..LOC-POIs-TOB-A

Draft: A

4.4.2 Aquatic Environment

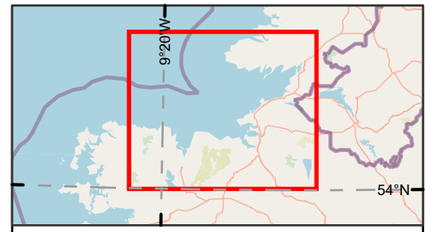
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Surveys were undertaken for the ecological characterisation of relevant aquatic habitat features along the proposed project. The proposed works and activities associated with the proposed project were considered at survey design stage. At the majority of the POIs, the proposed works and activities are restricted to small areas on the edges of existing roadways. Given this and the minor nature of these works (e.g. vegetation trimming and minor roadworks), detailed aquatic surveys were not deemed to be required at these locations, as likely significant effects can be reasonably excluded. Detailed aquatic surveys were carried out at the locations of permanent works in Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POIs 62-68), due to the likelihood of aquatic related effects arising from the proposed works. To that effect, the permanent works areas were surveyed and, depending on the local aquatic sensitivities at each of these locations (Section 6.1.1), a comprehensive suite of aquatic surveys were carried out, including aquatic habitat, kick-sampling, biological assessment (Biotic Index [Q-value] - Toner *et al.*, 2005), and Environmental DNA sampling (eDNA) (see Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2).

Table 4.2: Aquatic Surveys Conducted

Location (POI)	Aquatic Habitat (Fossitt, 2000)	Date	Map Ref.	Surveys
Carricknagat permanent works (38)	FW4 – Drainage ditches	02/10/2024	**AQ1**	▪ Aquatic habitat
Crossmolina permanent works (62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68)	FW2 - Depositing/Lowland River	20/02/2024	**AQ2**	▪ Aquatic habitat
	FW4 - Drainage ditches		**AQ3**	▪ Aquatic habitat
	FW2 - Depositing/Lowland River	20/02/2024	**AQ4**	▪ Aquatic habitat
		23/06/2025	**K1**	▪ Kick-sampling
			eDNA1	▪ eDNA
			eDNA3	▪ eDNA
	FW1 - Eroding/Upland River	20/02/2024	**AQ5**	▪ Aquatic habitat
		23/06/2025	**eDNA2**	▪ eDNA
	FW4 - Drainage ditches	20/02/2024	**AQ6**	▪ Aquatic habitat
	FW4 - Drainage ditches	23/06/2025	**AQ7**	▪ Aquatic habitat





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Legend

- Application Boundary
- Transport Delivery Route
- POI
- River Water Bodies
- Lake Water Bodies

Aquatics Linear

- FW1 - Eroding/Upland River
- FW2 - Depositing/Lowland River
- FW4 - Drainage Ditch

Aquatics Observations

- Kick-sampling
- eDNA

0 7.51 15.02
Kilometres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	23/06/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 4.2:
Aquatic Survey Locations

Scale @ A3: 1:315,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	June 2026

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Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
Email: info@tobin.ie
www.tobin.ie

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Map Ref: 12141-002.AA-AQ.Survey..LOC-POIs-TOB-A

Draft: A

4.4.2.1 Aquatic Habitat

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At each site indicated in Table 4.2, and illustrated in Figure 4.2, the aquatic habitat of a reach representative of the local habitat and hydromorphological conditions (minimum extent: 20m) was surveyed.

Relevant riparian features were recorded, including the characteristics of the river banks, such as its height, width, riparian vegetation, habitat classification (Fossitt, 2000), and land use were documented. In addition, detailed information was collected on the aquatic habitat, including wetted width, depth, water level (qualitative), flow velocity (qualitative), flow typology, and substrate composition. Instream vegetation, including macrophytes and filamentous algae (Caffrey *et al.*, 2023), were noted, along with any local pressures affecting the habitat.

The aquatic and riparian features were used to assess the physical suitability of each channel for supporting salmonids, lampreys and other fish species.

4.4.2.2 Aquatic Species

4.4.2.3 Kick-Sampling and Biological Assessment

The macroinvertebrate communities at each sampling site were surveyed with the use of a 'D' shaped net (250mm width; 500µm mesh size), which was submerged on the riverbed with its opening facing upstream. The kick-sampling method involves disturbing the river substrate immediately upstream of the net for two minutes, to dislodge the invertebrates, which are then captured in the net. The survey started at riffle areas of the reach (if available), moving along other flow types and aquatic habitats (including vegetation sweeping), finalising with one minute of stone/cobble washing. This semi-quantitative sampling methodology ensures the final sample is representative of the macroinvertebrate assemblage of the reach, and suitable for a qualitative water quality classification (Letovsky *et al.*, 2012).

The water quality for each sampling site was assessed using the EPA scheme of Biotic Indices or Quality (Q) Value (Toner *et al.*, 2005), which uses benthic macroinvertebrates as indicators due to their well-documented responses to a wide range of water quality characteristics and pollutants (Feeley *et al.*, 2020).

The Q Value system divides the benthic invertebrates into five 'Macroinvertebrate Faunal Groups' according to their tolerance to pollution (mostly related with deoxygenation and eutrophication), ranging from most sensitive species (Group A), to the most tolerant (Group E). Based on the relative taxa abundance within the sample, a Q Value is attributed, from Q1 to Q5, with intermediate values denoting transitional conditions (Toner *et al.*, 2005) (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Biotic Index Assessment Groups

Biotic Index	Pollution Status	WFD Water Quality Status
Q5	Pristine, Unpolluted	High
Q4	Unpolluted	Good
Q3-4	Slight Pollution	Moderate
Q3	Moderate Pollution	Poor
Q2	Heavy Pollution	Bad

Biotic Index	Pollution Status	WFD Water Quality Status
Q1	Gross Pollution	

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4.4.2.3.1 Environmental DNA (eDNA)

When aquatic organisms inhabit a water body such as a pond, lake or river, they continuously release small amounts of their DNA into the environment. By collecting and analysing water samples, these small traces of environmental DNA (eDNA) can be detected to confirm the presence or absence of the target species within the water body. An eDNA sampling survey is used to screen for the presence/absence of specific target species within each water body sampled. This non-intrusive, fast, highly sensitive method has the ability to detect very low levels of species presence.

Due to the nature of the watercourse present at the permanent works location in Crossmolina, an eDNA sampling survey was carried out on the 23rd June 2025 at three selected sites along the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 and Abbeytown_010 water bodies. Site 1 was located at the proposed bridge location, Site 2 was located along the Abbeytown_010 water body and Site 3 was located downstream of the confluence where the Abbeytown_010 flows into the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body. The sample locations are presented in Table 4.2. Suitable sampling habitat was not recorded at the permanent works location in Carricknagat.

Samples were collected from the three locations shown in Figure 4.2, and sent for analysis with SureScreen Scientifics Ltd following readily available and scientifically published eDNA assays and protocols (Appendix B), which summarily include:

- Extraction (incubation) of DNA within the sample; and
- qPCR test of the extracted sample against molecular markers (primers) for each of the target species (target species selected were; Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook/river lampey (*Lampreta planeri/ Lampreta fluiviatilis*), freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), and white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)).

If the eDNA analysis returned a *Positive* result, the presence of the target species within the sampled water body may be inferred from the number of positive qPCR replicates out of a series of 12 (i.e. 1/12 could allow the assumption of a low presence of the given target species, whereas a 12/12 could suggest a strong presence). However, detailed conclusions on populations of target species from the number of positive qPCR replicates is not currently supported by this methodology.

Samples were taken against the flow of the stream/river in a diagonal pattern ensuring no disturbed debris was collected. Each sample was taken from the middle of the water column (at least 10cm from bottom where possible). All samples were labelled and sent to a laboratory for analysis.

4.4.2.3.2 Instream Aquatic Survey

No aquatic surveys were undertaken during the February 2024 and October 2024 survey as these survey dates were outside the optimal survey season.

Instream aquatic surveys were instead undertaken in June 2025 within the Deel River at the Crossmolina permanent works. The surveys however were stopped shortly after starting due to the discovery of a population of freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) (FPM) at the proposed bridge location. The TOBIN Ecologists did not have the correct licence at the time, to carry out the survey and therefore ceased all instream surveys to ensure the FPM population was not disturbed. An assessment of habitat suitability was instead undertaken from the banks of the river.

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4.4.2.3.3 Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Following on from the identification of a population of FPM at the proposed bridge location by TOBIN Ecologists, a Stage 2 FPM survey was commissioned and conducted by APEM Ltd. under licences (C217/2015, C218/2025, C219/2025 and C220/2025), granted by NPWS. Surveys were conducted on the 12th and 13th of August 2025 during optimal survey conditions (i.e. bright and sunny with good visibility instream). While FPM is not listed as a QI of the River Moy SAC, the River Deel is known to support an extensive population (O'Connor, 2004).

The purpose of the Stage 2 FPM survey was to quantify the distribution and abundance of this species within the River Deel. The study area comprised the River Deel (EPA code: 34D01), forming part of the River Moy hydrological catchment, which was broken into two 500m sections (site 1, which covered the proposed bridge location, and site 2), approximately 100-200m apart. Each section was treated as representative of 1km of river channel, accounting for a total survey length of 2km.

Surveys were carried out in accordance with NPWS guidelines (Anon, 2004), via snorkelling in a downstream direction, commencing at the upstream extent of each site. The only exception to this was where the river channel became too shallow and snorkelling was deemed impractical. At this point, the channel was waded using clear-bottomed bathyscopes, with particular care taken to avoid disturbing any FPM underfoot. As all the survey channel exceeded 3m in width, surveys were conducted by four personnel, consisting of three surveyors working in tandem and one bank manager. The aim was to survey 500m of river channel, recording all live FPM and dead shells separately. Surveys were not conducted where visibility was less than 50cm. An overall population estimate for each km of river surveyed was extrapolated from the observed counts, based on the proportion of channel length covered during the survey. To form a basis of comparison with the Moorkens and Killeen (2009) study, mussel numbers were also expressed in terms of the number of mussels per 100m stretch of river, which enabled assignment to four abundance categories: abundant = >1,500 mussels; common = 301-1,500; frequent = 41-300, occasional = 1-40.

4.4.3 Terrestrial Fauna

A multi-disciplinary survey was undertaken to detect the presence, or likely presence/evidence of Annex I and Annex II protected fauna likely to occur within the study area. Habitats were assessed for field signs and/or usage by fauna, such as well-used pathways, droppings, places of shelter and features or areas likely to be of particular value as foraging resources. At Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POI 62-68), a buffer area of at least 40 of any new infrastructure was surveyed, where semi-natural habitats are present. At the remainder of the POIs, the proposed works and activities are restricted to small areas on the edges of existing

roadways. Given this and the minor nature of these works (e.g. vegetation trimming and minor roadworks), likely significant effects are not anticipated, and therefore, a buffer area was not surveyed in these locations.

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Details of the specific fauna surveys undertaken at particular locations are included under the relevant headings below.

4.4.3.1 Otter

Dedicated otter *(Lutra lutra)* surveys were undertaken at accessible water bodies at the Crossmolina permanent works area (between POIs 62-68). The Deel River and drainage ditches were surveyed for evidence of otter, which included resting and commuting, and foraging habitat. The survey included a 150m buffer area surrounding the water bodies to account for noise disturbance impacts, following methodologies outlined within the NRA (2008) "*Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes"* and Chanin (2003) "*Monitoring the Otter Lutra lutra"*. Dedicated otter surveys were not carried out at other POIs due to lack of habitat suitability for otter and the construction works/activities proposed at these locations are considered to be comparable to routine road maintenance works that would regularly occur. Therefore, these works and activities are not reasonably expected to cause disturbance to otter, and likely significant effects are excluded on that basis.

A trail camera (Browning Strike Force HD Pro X) was deployed on a potential otter holt which had been identified during the 2024 initial walkover surveys. This camera was deployed under license (License No. 019/2025) for a total period of 10 days. The aim of the trail camera survey was to establish whether the holt is currently in active use by otters.

4.4.3.2 Bats

4.4.3.2.1 Ground Level Roost Assessment

A daytime, preliminary roost assessment survey was undertaken of treelines and buildings present within the likely ZoI of works or activities associated with the proposed project. Trees and buildings were assessed for bat roost potential i.e. for the presence of potential roosting features (PRFs) for bats, using methodology adapted from "*Bat surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines "*(Collins, 2023). Trees and buildings were assessed from ground level for the presence of PRFs which may be used by bats. Examples of such features in trees include hollows, cavities, knotholes, cracks and splits, loose bark and ivy cover. In buildings, features include broken tiles, attic spaces, cracks in bricks/mortar and sash windows.

4.4.3.2.2 Walked Bat Activity Transect

Given the scale of the works proposed, and the suitability of habitat for bats, a walked bat activity transect was carried out on the 24th of June along the hedgerows proposed to be removed located either side of Abbeytown Lane, at the site of permanent works in Crossmolina.

Weather conditions were suitable for bat activity surveys; it was overcast and mild (14°C) with a light westerly breeze and some drizzle. The survey commenced at 22:00, prior to sunset at 22:14. The surveyors observed a group of large beech trees and some farm buildings for 30 minutes at the outset of the survey. These were located at the northernmost point of the transect. The surveyors began walking south along the transect route at 22:30 at a slow pace using a handheld Duet detector (Batbox), and an EchoMeter Touch 2 (Wildlife Acoustic, Inc.),

attached to a mobile device. The transect was walked twice by the surveyors. Notes on the time, location and activity of bat species were taken on mobile devices using ArcGIS Field Maps (ESRI). This survey was conducted to gather information on the usage of the hedgerows along Abbeytown Lane by commuting and foraging bats. The survey concluded at 23:30 due to heavy rain.

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4.4.3.2.3 Static Bat Detector Survey

A static bat detector survey was undertaken along the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body, at the location of the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area. A Song Meter SM4BAT ZC (Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.) static detector was installed along the river for 15 nights (24th of June to 9th of July 2025) to identify the bat species utilising the area. The static detector was set to record from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise. The microphone of the static detector was positioned on the end of a branch, as close to the river as possible, and away from vegetation. The bat recordings were downloaded and analysed using Wildlife Acoustics Kaleidoscope Pro. The Auto-Id function was used for all sound files, and manual verification was also used to ensure accuracy of the auto-id function.



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Legend

- Application Boundary
- POI
- Abbeytown lane- bat transect
- Bat Roosting Features
- Static Detector Locations
- River Water Bodies
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

0 75 150
Metres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	23/06/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 4.3:
Bat Survey Locations at POI 62 to 68

Scale @ A3: 1:5,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	June 2026

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Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
Email: info@tobin.ie
www.tobin.ie

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Map Ref: 12141-003.AA-Bat.Survey..LOC-POIs-TOB-A

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4.4.3.3 Bird Surveys

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Breeding bird transect surveys were undertaken at the Crossmolina permanent works area, considering the scale of proposed permanent works, and the suitable bird habitat available. Additionally, birds were recorded during the multi-disciplinary walkover surveys of the Crossmolina permanent works area in 2024, which were carried out over the wintering bird season (Table 4.4). The remainder of the proposed project is located along busy roads, with suboptimal habitat present and was considered unlikely to support significant numbers of bird species. Targeted bird surveys were therefore not undertaken within these areas; however, bird species of note were recorded when encountered during multi-disciplinary surveys.

The transect surveys were undertaken to identify usage and distribution of bird activity throughout the study area, with a focus on target species, which includes those listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive, SCIs of local Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Red and Amber listed species on Bird of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026 (BoCCI – Gilbert *et al.*, 2021).

The transect surveys at the Crossmolina permanent works area followed a defined linear route through the study area. To achieve maximum coverage of suitable habitat, five transect routes were used across the site. These transects covered a large and representative portion of the study area. The transect surveys were walked at a standard walking speed. Notes on aural and visual registrations of bird species were recorded during field surveys. Visual registrations were recorded with the aid of binoculars (e.g., 8 x 42) and, where necessary, with the aid of a telescope (e.g., 20-45 x 60 scope).

The transect surveys were carried out in line with the following guidelines:

- Hardy, J., Crick, H., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B., Thompson, D. (2013). *Raptors: A Field Guide for Surveys and Monitoring*;
- Gilbert, G, Gibbons, D., Evans, J (1998) Bird Monitoring Methods – Generic methods: breeding; and
- Countryside Bird Survey (2012) CBS Manual – Guidelines for Countryside Bird Survey participants.

The dates and times of the surveys are listed in Table 4.4.





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Legend

- Application Boundary
- POI
- Transects
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- River Water Bodies

0 100 200
Metres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	27/02/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 4.4:
Bird Survey Locations

Scale @ A3:	1:5,000	
Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	February 2026

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Map Ref:
12141-004.AA-TSECT.Survey..LOC-POIs-TOB-A

Draft: A

Table 4.4: Bird Surveys

Survey type	Date Surveyed	Survey Times
Multi-disciplinary surveys (winter season)	19/02/2024	N/A
Multi-disciplinary surveys (winter season)	2/10/2024	N/A
Breeding bird transect survey	23/06/2025	7:30am - 12:30pm
Breeding bird transect survey	17/07/2025	6:45am - 11:30am

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4.4.4 Limitations of Field Surveys

Initial constraints stage surveys carried out in 2024 were completed outside of the optimal season for habitats and flora. However, as follow up surveys were completed during the summer of 2025, this is not considered to represent a limitation to this assessment.

During initial surveys carried out in 2024, the River Deel was in high flow, and there was a significant amount of filamentous algae present. Therefore, surveyors could not ascertain the presence of FPM at that time. This is not considered to be a limitation as this species was recorded in 2025, and targeted Stage 1 and 2 FPM surveys were subsequently carried out to survey the population located at the proposed bridge location at the Crossmolina permanent works area.

Breeding bird surveys were not completed in full within the optimal season for recording breeding bird activity. This is not considered to represent a limitation for this assessment as one surveys was completed within the optimal season, and a precautionary approach has been taken, and appropriate mitigation measures applied.

5. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

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The proposed project is not associated with the 'management' of European sites within the Natura 2000 Network having regard to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, and as such it is appropriate that the proposed project is subjected to screening for AA.

The Screening Stage of the AA process identifies any likely significant effects upon European sites from the proposed project alone and/or in-combination with other projects or plans. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process to determine:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site; and
- Whether the project or plan will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

This screening assessment investigates, in view of best scientific knowledge, whether the proposed project, individually and/or in-combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites. This section considers the likelihood of significant effects on European sites from the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project.

6. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

RECEIVED: 08/07/2026

6.1 DESKTOP STUDY RESULTS

6.1.1 Aquatic Environment

6.1.1.1 Surface Water Bodies

The proposed project crosses over five WFD Catchments, namely Blacksod-Broadhaven (HA 33), Moy & Killala Bay (HA 34), Sligo Bay (HA35), Erne (HA 36), and Donegal Bay North (HA 37), but 16 of the 74 POIs of the proposed project (Table 6.1) are not located within proximity of any surface water body (i.e. 16 POIs are separated from the nearest surface water body by more than 400m).[14]

The remaining 58 POIs are located within 16 WFD Subcatchments, within close proximity (<400m) of river or transitional water bodies:

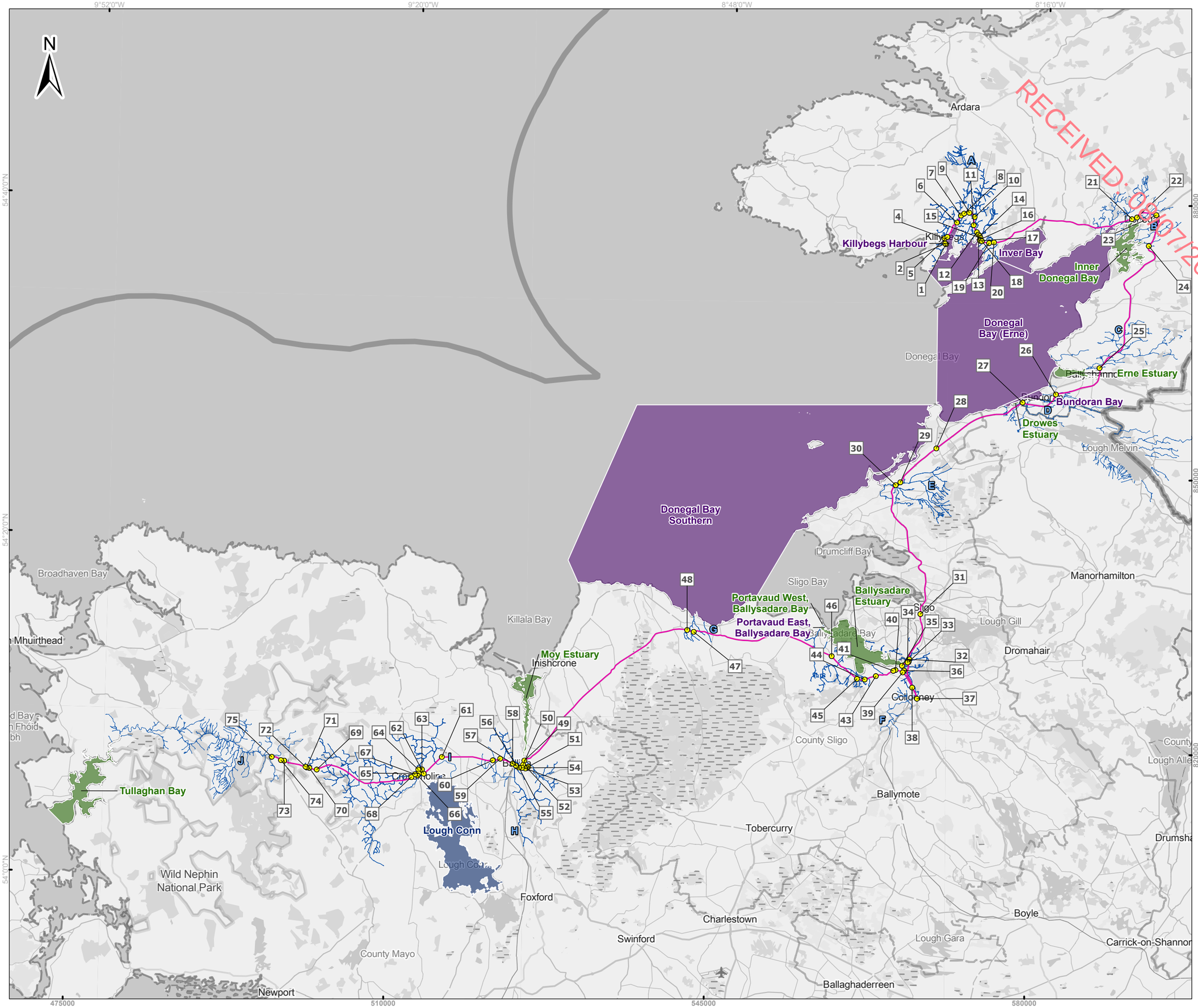
- Owenmore[Sligo]_SC_030 [35-2];
- Erne_SC_050 [36_27];
- Carrowgobbadagh_SC_010 [35_1];
- Drowes_SC_010 [36_20];
- Eske_SC_010 [[37_2];
- Glenree_SC_010 [34_9];
- Deel[Crossmolina]_SC_010 [34_14];
- Owenmore[Sligo]_SC_040 [35_4];
- Moy_SC_090 [34_10];
- Owenmore[Mayo]_SC_020 [33_4];
- Dunmoran_SC_010 [35_11];
- Grange [Sligo]_SC_010 [35_3];
- Deel [Crossmolina]_SC_020 [34_8];
- Stragar_SC_010 [37_3];
- Bonet_SC_030 [35_10]; and
- Moy_SC_100).

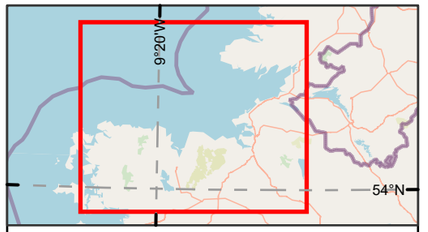
The proposed project runs largely near, and parallel to the coastline (Figure 6.1). This geographic setting means the hydrological pathways from the POIs in close proximity to surface water bodies (i.e. <400m) are short, most often including a small number of river water bodies before reaching the first water body of depositional nature, as defined in Section 4.2.1.

6.1.1.1.1 Hydrological Pathways from Relevant POIs

In total, 58 out of the 74 POIs of the proposed project are located in near proximity (i.e. <400m) of WFD river water bodies (Table 6.1). Considering their geographic location, and the water bodies these POI locations directly drain into, ten independent hydrological pathways are projected (A to J in Figure 6.1 and Table 6.1).

[14] HA refers to hydrometric area, as defined by the EPA for WFD reporting.





Legend

- Transport Delivery Route
- POI

Hydrological Pathways

- River Water Bodies
- Coastal Water Bodies
- Transitional Water Bodies
- Lake Water Bodies

0 7.51 15.02
Kilometres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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A	23/06/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

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Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 6.1:
Hydrological Pathways Associated with the POIs for the Proposed TDR

Scale @ A3: 1:380,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	June 2026

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Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
Email: info@tobin.ie
www.tobin.ie

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Map Ref: 12141-006.AA-Hydro..PA-POIs-TOB-A

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Table 6.1: Hydrological Pathways and Associated Surface Water Bodies Within <400m of Proposed Project POIs

Note: Works for which planning permission are being sought are highlighted in grey.

Unassigned | Bad | Poor | Moderate | Good | High

Hydrological Pathway	Type	POI	Distance (m)	WFD Name	WFD Code	Water Quality Status	Limiting Factor	Relevant downstream European site(s)
A	River Water Body	1	140	Cunlin Lough Stream_010	IE_NW_37C080400	M*	-	N/A
		2	63					
		4	70					
		5	227					
		6	271					
		6	193	Stragar_010	IE_NW_37S020300	M*	▪ Invertebrate Status	N/A
		7	44					
		8	162					
		9	278	Oily_020	IE_NW_37O010200	M*	-	N/A
		9	159	Stragar_010	IE_NW_37S020300	M*	▪ Invertebrate Status	N/A
		10	94	Oily_020	IE_NW_37O010200	M*	-	N/A
		11	215					
		11	334	Bogside_010	IE_NW_37B260880	Md*	-	N/A
		12	191	Oily_020	IE_NW_37O010200	M*	-	N/A
		13	252	Bogside_010	IE_NW_37B260880	Md*	-	N/A
		13	334	Oily_020	IE_NW_37O010200	M*	-	N/A
		14	71	Bogside_010	IE_NW_37B260880	Md*	-	N/A
		15	93					
		16	174					
		17	276					
		18	65					
		19	13					
		20	357					
		-	-	Inver Bay	IE_NW_060_0000	M*	-	N/A
				McSwines Bay	IE_NW_080_0000	M*	-	N/A

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Hydrological Pathway	Type	POI	Distance (m)	WFD Name	WFD Code	Water Quality Status	Limiting Factor	Relevant downstream European site(s)
	Coastal Water Body			Killybegs Harbour	IE_NW_085_0000	M*	▪ Hydromorphological Conditions ▪ Supporting Chemistry Conditions ▪ General Conditions ▪ Oxygenation Conditions ▪ Dissolved Oxygen (% Sat)	N/A
B	River Water Body	**21**	295	Leitrim Hill Stream_010	IE_NW_37L370150	Md*	-	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC Donegal Bay SPA
		23	263	Eske_020	IE_NW_37E050400	M*	-	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC Donegal Bay SPA
		24	25	Clarcarricknagun_010	IE_NW_37C240980	Md*	-	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC Donegal Bay SPA
	Transitional Water Body	-		Inner Donegal Bay	IE_NW_050_0100	M*	-	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC Donegal Bay SPA
	Coastal Water Body	-		Donegal Bay (Erne)	IE_NW_010_0000	G*	-	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC Donegal Bay SPA
C	River Water Body	**25**	8	Abbey_010	IE_NW_36A010300	Md*	-	Donegal Bay SPA
	Transitional Water Body	-		Erne Estuary	IE_NW_030_0100	M*	▪ Fish Status	Donegal Bay SPA
	Coastal Water Body	-		Donegal Bay (Erne)	IE_NW_010_0000	G*	-	Donegal Bay SPA
D		**26**	48	Bradoge_020	IE_NW_35B070200	M*	-	Lough Melvin SAC

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Hydrological Pathway	Type	POI	Distance (m)	WFD Name	WFD Code	Water Quality Status	Limiting Factor	Relevant downstream European site(s)
	River Water Body							Donegal Bay SPA
		27	116	Drowes_010	UKGBNI1NW353504082	NIEA$^{\Delta}$	-	Lough Melvin SAC Donegal Bay SPA
	Transitional Water Body			Drowes Estuary	IE_NW_020_0100	G*	-	Lough Melvin SAC Donegal Bay SPA
	Coastal Water Body			Bundoran Bay	IE_NW_020_0000	G*	-	Lough Melvin SAC Donegal Bay SPA
E	River Water Body	29	220	Grange (Sligo)_010	IE_WE_35G040200	M*	-	N/A
		30	76					
	Coastal Water Body	-		Donegal Bay Southern	IE_WE_430_0000	M*	-	N/A
F	River Water Body	32	5	Knocknahur_010	IE_WE_35K430740	Md*	-	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		33	171					
		34	256					
		35	159	Ballysodare_010	IE_WE_35B050100	M*	▪ Phytobenthos Status	Unshin River SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		35	243	Knocknahur_010	IE_WE_35K430740	Md*	-	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		36	135	Ballysodare_010	IE_WE_35B050100	M*	▪ Phytobenthos Status	Unshin River SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		36	105	Knocknahur_010	IE_WE_35K430740	Md*	-	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		37	380	Owenmore (Sligo)_080	IE_WE_35O060900	M*	▪ Other Aquatic Flora Status ▪ Phytobenthos Status	Unshin River SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA

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Hydrological Pathway	Type	POI	Distance (m)	WFD Name	WFD Code	Water Quality Status	Limiting Factor	Relevant downstream European site(s)
							▪ Invertebrate Status	
		Permanent Works 1: Carricknagat 38	238	Ballysodare_010	IE_WE_35B050100	M*	▪ Phytobenthos Status	Unshin River SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		39	52					
		39	355	Knocknahur_010	IE_WE_35K430740	Md*	-	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		42	294	Barnabrack_010	IE_WE_35B300790	Md*	-	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		44	66					
		45	13					
	Transitional Water Body	-		Ballysadare Estuary	IE_WE_460_0300	M*	▪ Phytoplankton Status ▪ Specific Pollutant Conditions	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
		-		Portavaud West, Ballysadare Bay	IE_WE_460_0100	M*	▪ Other Aquatic Flora Status ▪ Invertebrate Status	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
	Coastal Water Body	-		Portavaud East, Ballysadare Bay	IE_WE_460_0200	M*	▪ Invertebrate Status	Ballysadare Bay SAC Ballysadare Bay SPA
G	River Water Body	**47**	189	Dunneill_020	IE_WE_35D060200	M*	▪ Fish Status	N/A
		48	19					
	Coastal Water Body	-		Donegal Bay Southern	IE_WE_430_0000	M*	-	N/A
H	River Water Body	**49**	35	Glenree_030	IE_WE_34G010200	M*	-	River Moy SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA
		51	270					
		55	221	Moy_120	IE_WE_34M021100	M*	▪ Invertebrate Status	River Moy SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA
		56	54					
		57	180					
		58	261					

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Hydrological Pathway	Type	POI	Distance (m)	WFD Name	WFD Code	Water Quality Status	Limiting Factor	Relevant downstream European site(s)
		60	311	Tullyegan_010	IE_WE_34T830920	Md*	-	River Moy SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA
	Coastal Water Body	-		Moy Estuary	IE_WE_420_0300	M*	▪ Phytoplankton Status ▪ Macroalgae Status	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA
I	River Water Body	**Permanent Works 2: Crossmolina 62-68**	0 Directly above	Deel (Crossmolina)_050	IE_WE_34D010300	M*	-	River Moy SAC Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
			4	Abbeytown_010	IE_WE_34A350930	Md*	-	River Moy SAC Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SP
			1800	Deel (Crossmolina)_060	IE_WE_34D010400	M*	-	River Moy SAC Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
			157	Deel (Crossmolina)_040	IE_WE_34D010120	M*		River Moy SAC Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
		70	268	Shanvolahan_010	IE_WE_34S010400	M*	-	River Moy SAC Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
		71	184					
		72	167					
	Lake Water Body	-		Conn	IE_WE_34_406b	M*	-	River Moy SAC Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
J	River Water Body	**75**	39	Muing_010	IE_WE_33M010100	M*	-	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC
		-		Owenmore (Mayo)_020	IE_WE_33O040200	M*	-	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC
				Owenmore (Mayo)_030	IE_WE_33O040250	M*	-	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC

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Hydrological Pathway	Type	POI	Distance (m)	WFD Name	WFD Code	Water Quality Status	Limiting Factor	Relevant downstream European site(s)
				Owenmore (Mayo)_040	IE_WE_33O040270	M*	-	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC
				Owenmore (Mayo)_050	IE_WE_33O040325	M*	-	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC
				Owenmore (Mayo)_060	IE_WE_33O040500	M*	-	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC
	Transitional Water Body	-		Tullaghan Bay	IE_WE_390_0100	M*	-	N/A

*M – Monitoring, Md – Modelling, G - Grouping; [Δ]Northern Ireland Environment Agency (2021)

These ten hydrological pathways include a total of 30 WFD river water bodies, one WFD lake water body, seven WFD transitional water bodies, and seven WFD coastal water bodies (Table 6.1). Overall, it was found that the hydrological pathways F and H include the highest number of surface water bodies failing to achieve the WFD objectives (i.e. minimum of *Good* water quality status); five out of seven surface water bodies were below *Good* in 2019-2024 in hydrological pathway F; three out of four surface water bodies in hydrological pathway H failed the WFD objectives in the same period. However, all the surface water bodies of the hydrological pathways B (5), D (4), E (2), and J (7) accomplished the WFD objectives, with many water bodies being classified with *High* water quality status in 2019-2024.

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It is relevant to note that one of the hydrological pathways from the POIs of the proposed project ends in a WFD lake water body (i.e. hydrological pathway I, discharging into the Conn WFD lake water body - IE_WE_34_406b). This hydrological pathway drains the cluster of POIs associated with the most intense works proposed (POIs 62-72), and, with the exception of the Abbeytown_010 WFD river water body (classified with *Moderate* water quality status through modelling techniques[15]), the remainder four river water bodies and the lake water body achieved the WFD objectives (Table 6.1).

6.1.2 Terrestrial Habitats

From available NPWS Article 17 data[16], there are no records of rare or protected habitats (including Annex I habitats) encompassing the majority of the study area. In the westernmost section of the proposed project, there are records of Annex I wet heath (4010) along the north and south of the existing road, in the vicinity of POI 75, an area where turbines will oversail vegetation. These areas of wet heath are associated with the Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC.

6.1.3 Flora and Fauna

A review of the NBDC database was carried out within the 1km grid squares or 2km grid squares (where relevant) within which the POIs are located. The results are listed in Appendix C.

No protected flora species have been recorded within the study area within the past 10 years. A number of high impact IAPS, listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Regulation S.I 477/2011) have previously been recorded within these grid squares. These include: Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), *Rhododendron ponticum,* Canadian waterweed *(Elodea canadensis),* three-cornered garlic *(Allium triquetrum*), and Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*). It should be noted, Canadian waterweed has subsequently been removed from the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 355/2015 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

Protected fauna species are likely to be present in the vicinity of the proposed project. The list of records in Appendix C includes records of a range of protected fauna species. However, this table does not include records of bird species, as all bird species are protected under the Wildlife

[15] https://www.catchments.ie/ (Accessed October 2025)
[16] NPWS (2019) *Article 17 data.* Available from: Article 17 GIS and Metadata Downloads | National Parks & Wildlife Service (Accessed October 2025)

Acts (as amended). A precautionary approach has been taken for this assessment, which assumes that where the ranges of protected bird species overlap with the proposed project, these species may be present where suitable habitat exists. Appendix C also does not include species classified as invasive mammals as it is not likely the works for the proposed project would affect their spread.

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6.2 Field Survey Results

The results of the habitat surveys carried out at the POIs of the proposed project as relevant to European sites are provided in this section.

6.2.1 Habitats and Flora

The proposed project comprises 74 POIs where construction works will occur. One Annex I habitat was identified within the POIs of the proposed project during the habitat surveys; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]. In general, the POIs of the proposed project consist largely of common habitats, including areas of wet grassland (GS4), improved agricultural grassland (GA1), scrub (WS1), scattered trees and parkland (WD5), (mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1), exposed siliceous rock (ER1), dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2), conifer plantation (WD4), hedgerows (WL1), treelines (WL2), drainage ditches (FW4), amenity grassland (GA2) and ornamental/non-native shrub (WS3). There are also several habitats present which are of negligible ecological importance, including stone walls and other stonework (BL1), buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) and flower beds and borders (BC4).

Another habitat of ecological interest includes a depositing lowland river (FW2), which is discussed in further detail below, due to its location within, and relevance to the River Moy SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC.

Table 6.2 below outlines the results of the habitat surveys at POIs within the project RLB and Appendix D outlines the results at all POIs, and the relevant European sites that have connectivity to these POIs via physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity, with consideration given to the extent of the proposed works at each POI.

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Wet Heath (HH3)

Wet heath habitat was recorded in locations along the proposed project, in proximity to the Oweninny Wind Farm at POI 75. The dominant species present was ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), with purple moor grass (*Molinia caerula*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) and meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) recorded as abundant. Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.) were recorded as frequent, and willow species (*Salix* spp.), Scot's pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*) were recorded rarely.

This habitat in the vicinity of the Oweninny Wind Farm forms part of the Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC and is mapped as part of the NPWS's Article 17 data for Annex I wet heath (4010). However, habitat surveys carried out in these locations noted that the wet heath habitat is degraded in this location due to historical drainage, and its close proximity to the N59. Therefore, on a precautionary basis it is considered to be degraded Annex I Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] habitat.



Plate 1: Wet Heath Along the Turbine Delivery Route

Depositing Lowland River (FW2)

The Deel River

The Deel (Crossmolina)_050 river water body runs through the Crossmolina permanent works area, and the proposed bridge will span over the watercourse. At this location, the river forms part of the River Moy SAC.

The river is bordered each side by mature treelines which provided light shading along the edge of the river. The riparian vegetation included alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), ivy (*Hedera hibernica*), bramble (*Rubus fructicosus*), sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), willow (*Salix* spp.), hearts tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), and herb Robert

(*Geranium robertianum*). Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) occurs extensively both upstream and downstream of the proposed bridge location along both banks.

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During the survey, three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) and salmonids were seen as present within the river. The river substrate provides good spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)/river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*). No redds were recorded during the survey, and there was a lack of suitable fine silt substrate required by lamprey ammocetes. The large boulder and cobble substrate recorded provide refugee for fish, including salmon and European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) as well as white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

This river offers good resting, foraging and commuting habitat for otter (*Lutra lutra*) along the banks. A potential otter holt was recorded on the right bank of the river (refer to Section 6.2.3.1).

During the 2025 surveys, a population of FPM was recorded at the proposed bridge location. However, this is not a QI of the River Moy SAC.

Although the river itself is not an Annex I habitat, it supports internationally important populations of QI species associated with the River Moy SAC.



Plate 2: The Deel River (left photo taken in February 2024, right photo taken in June 2025)

The Abbeytown River

The Abbeytown_010 river water body is tributary to the River Deel and runs parallel to the proposed project route. This section describes the characteristics of the surveyed reach of this river. This river has been heavily modified, straightened and deepened, with the natural sinuous flow having been altered. The bank height is approximately 1-2.5m each side and it had a bank width of 5m and wetted width of 3m. During the 2025 surveys, the average water depth was

3.2cm with a slow velocity. It contained a 50/50 riffle/glide profile with an absence of deep holding pools. The instream substrate was dominated with gravel cobble mix with 10% boulders, 40% cobble, 30% gravel, 10% sand and 10% silt/mud, with small deposits of sediment and sand present near the riverbank.

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The instream vegetation included common water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*) and fool's water-cress (*Helosciadium nodiflorum*) and the bryophyte, smaller lattice-moss (*Cinclidotus fontinaloides*). The riparian vegetation included sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), ash, alder, bramble, ivy and hearts tongue. This river contained good salmonid and lamprey spawning and nursey habitat, however, due to its modification, it lacked holding pools for adult fish. There is also a small 0.3m ledge located approximately 7m upstream of the river connection with the Deel River. This is a potential barrier to fish migration, particularly brook lamprey. This river offers good foraging and commuting habitat for otter.

Although the river itself is not an Annex I habitat, it is likely to support internationally important populations of QI species associated with the River Moy SAC.



Plate 3: The Abbeytown River

The Glenree River

The Glenree_030 River flows through Ballina Town and is part of the River Moy SAC south of the proposed project and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC to the north. The proposed project crosses this river at the Bunree Bridge, along the N59 Sligo Road in Ballina, at the location of POI 49, where vegetation removal is proposed within the River Moy SAC and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC. The bankside vegetation includes (mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) and amenity grassland (GA2), neither of which conform with any Annex I or QI habitats. Detailed aquatic surveys were not carried out at this location as no instream works are proposed.

Although the river itself is not an Annex I habitat, it is likely to support internationally important populations of QI species associated with the River Moy SAC and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC.

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Plate 4: The Glenree River

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Table 6.2: Habitats Present within the RLB of the Proposed Project

Note: This table includes only the works for which planning permission is being sought. Habitat survey results from locations of proposed works and activities which will take place at the POIs of the Proposed Project are included in Appendix D.

POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
2	Laying of load bearing surface & fence removal, lights to be removed / relocated	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
8	▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Temporary removal of bollard	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
11	▪ Laying of load bearing surface on the eastern verge; ▪ Temporary removal of gate, wall and chevrons ▪ Vegetation clearance.	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
12	▪ Temporary removal of road signal, bollards, lighting columns, wall and fence to be removed. ▪ Hedgerow and tree trimming	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Treelines (WL2)	N/A
13	▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Removal of hedgerows, ▪ Temporary removal fence and wall	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Treelines (WL2)	N/A
17, 18	▪ Temporary removal of fence ▪ Vegetation to be removed	Wet grassland (GS4) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
Permanent Works 1: Carricknagat 38	▪ Vegetation trimming. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Removal of trees and vegetation ▪ Remove of bedrock outcrop area ▪ Removal of fence and wall	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Amenity grassland (GA2) Scrub (WS1) Hedgerows (WL1) Stone walls and other stonework (BL1) (Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Exposed siliceous rock (ER1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Unshin River SAC (75m) Ballysadare Bay SAC (2.2km) Ballysadare Bay SPA (2.4km) Hydrological connectivity via the Ballysodare_010
39	▪ Temporary removal of one traffic signal, three road signs, one bollard, one pole, a bridge railing, pedestrian guardrail and wall.	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Unshin River SAC (adjacent) Ballysadare Bay SAC (550m)

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
			Ballysadare Bay SPA (720m) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Ballysodare_010
40	▪ Temporary removal of wall, fence, utility poles and ▪ Vegetation to be removed	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
46	▪ Trees and vegetation trimming ▪ Laying of load bearing surface	Hedgerows (WL1)	N/A
49	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Temporary removal of one utility pole, two traffic signals, one bench, two junction boxes, a wall, bridge parapet and bridge railing from southern parapet; ▪ Vegetation clearance.	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Amenity grassland (GA2) Depositing lowland river (FW1)	River Moy SAC (direct overlap) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (direct overlap) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030
50	▪ Modifications to street furniture required	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	River Moy SAC (360m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (450m) Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
51	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Land reprofiling; ▪ Berm regrading; ▪ Temporary removal of a gate and fence.	Scrub (WS1)	River Moy SAC (120m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (840m) Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
52, 53	▪ Load bearing surface to be laid, ▪ Temporary removal of wall and gate.	Scrub (WS1) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Agricultural grassland (GA1) Amenity grassland (GA2)	River Moy SAC (390m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (870m) Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
56, 57, 58	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Removal of one road sign and six bollards; ▪ Temporary removal of a wall	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	River Moy SAC (direct overlap) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (335m)

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
		Treelines (WL2)	Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Moy Estuary
Permanent Works 2: Crossmolina 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	▪ Construction of proposed bridge ▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Vegetation removal Construction of TDR and amenity track; ▪ Ground works.	Depositing lowland river (FW2) The Deel River and the Abbeytown River	River Moy SAC (direct overlap) Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA (1.1km) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 and Abbeytown_010
		Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)	
		Wet grassland (GS4)	
		Scattered trees and parkland (WD5)	
		Scrub (WS1)	
		Treelines (WL2)	
		Hedgerows (WL1)	
		Stone walls and other stonework (BL1)	
		Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	
		Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	
		Drainage ditches (FW4)	

6.2.1.1 Protected Flora Species

No QI plant species listed under the Flora Protection Order 2022 (FPO) were recorded within or adjacent to POIs of the proposed project during surveys.

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6.2.1.2 Invasive Alien Plant Species

Two IAPS which are listed on the Third Schedule of the S.I No. 477/2011 – European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 were recorded within and adjacent to POIs of the proposed project during surveys. These included Japanese knotweed and rhododendron.

Japanese knotweed

Large stands of Japanese knotweed were recorded along the Deel riverbank in the vicinity of the proposed bridge structure associated with the Crossmolina permanent works. (Plate 5). The stands stretched from the fence lines to the river's edge and varied in maturity, height and abundance, with the largest being approximately 10m x 3m in diameter and 3m in height. The nearest stand to the project RLB is located approximately 3m away from the proposed clear-span bridge at its closest point, and 8m from the location of piling works.

A young stand of Japanese knotweed, approximately 5m x3m in diameter was recorded directly adjacent to the project RLB at POI 46, along the N59, west of Ballysadare.

Small patches of Japanese knotweed were also recorded in three locations adjacent to the proposed project in areas where turbines will oversail vegetation and no works are proposed (POIs 12, 20 and 49), which ranged in size and extent.

Rhododendron

Patches of rhododendron were recorded in four locations adjacent to the proposed project, between Crossmolina Town, and the existing Oweninny Wind Farm. These are located in areas where turbines will oversail vegetation and no works are proposed (POIs 72, 73, 74 and 75). These stands of rhododendron ranged in size and extent (Table 6.3).



Plate 5: Japanese Knotweed on the Deel River (left) and Rhododendron Along the Proposed Project Route (right)

Other Invasive Alien Plant Species

Other IAPS recorded within the study area which are not subject to legal restrictions, included: winter heliotrope (*Petasites pyrenaicus)*, fuschia (*Fuschias spp.)*, Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa)*, butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*) and montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora)*.

Table 6.3: IAPS Present Within the Study Area

POI	Species	Impact	Within/Adjacent to Project RLB (Yes/No))
12	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact, Third Schedule	No, located approximately 50m from works area
14	Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*)	Low Impact	No, located adjacent to an area of roadworks, outside of the RLB
15	Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*)	Medium Impact	No, located adjacent to an area of roadworks, outside of the RLB
20	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	No, located approximately 6m from an area where turbines will oversail vegetation
Carricknagat permanent works area	Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*)	Medium Impact	**Yes**

POI	Species	Impact	Within/Adjacent to Project RLB (Yes/No))
38			
Carricknagat permanent works area 38	Winter heliotrope (*Petasites pyrenaicus*)	Low Impact	**Yes**
Carricknagat permanent works area 38	Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)	Medium Impact	**Yes**
46	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	**Yes**
49	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	No, located in an area where turbines will oversail vegetation
Crossmolina permanent works area 62-68	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	**Yes,** approximately 3m from the proposed clear-span bridge location at its closest point, and 8m from the location of piling works.
72	Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	No, located in an area where turbines will oversail vegetation
73	Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*)	High Impact, Third Schedule	No, located adjacent to an area where turbines will oversail vegetation
74	Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*)	High Impact, Third Schedule	No, located adjacent to an area where turbines will oversail vegetation
75	Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*)	High Impact, Third Schedule	No, located adjacent to an area where turbines will oversail vegetation

Note: Third Schedule high impact invasive species are highlighted grey.

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8°29'45"W

54°1'144"N

567600





Legend

- Application Boundary

Invasive species

- Butterfly bush
- Himalayan honeysuckle
- Winter heliotrope

0 25 50
Meters

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd
A	14/04/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 6-2 :
Invasive species
Sheet 1 of 3

Scale @ A3: 1:1,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	April 2026

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Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
Email: info@tobin.ie
www.tobin.ie

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Map Ref: 12141-005.AA-INV.Sp-S.BO-TOB-A

Draft: A

8°37'45"W



54°13'28"N

558900

830800



Legend

- Application Boundary

Invasive species

- Japanese Knotweed
- Japanese knotweed

0 25 50
Meters

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd
A	14/04/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 6-3 :
Invasive species
Sheet 2 of 3

Scale @ A3: 1:1,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	April 2026

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Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
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Draft: A

9°19'0"W

9°18'45"W

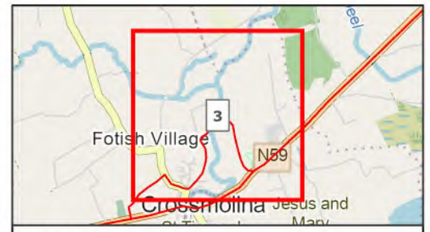
54°6'32"N

513900

514200

816500

N



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Legend

Application Boundary

Invasive species

Japanese knotweed

0 25 50

Meters

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
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Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 6-4 :
Invasive species
Sheet 3 of 3

Scale @ A3: 1:1,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	April 2026

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6.2.2 Aquatic Surveys

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As described in Section 4.4.2 and illustrated in Figure 4.2, the general locations of two groups of POIs were selected to be surveyed in detail to investigate the local aquatic sensitivities of the receiving environment. To that effect, a robust suite of aquatic surveys was conducted within these locations (Table 4.2), within the hydrological pathways F and I (Table 6.1, Figure 6.1).

6.2.2.1 Hydrological Pathway F (Near POI 38)

Within the Hydrological Pathway F, the drainage ditch located west of the R290, northwest of the POI 38 (Figure 4.2), is a relatively deep and wide 'drainage ditch' habitat (FW4), which was dry along the R290 during the survey (i.e. most downstream reach), but carried a significant flow upstream from that reach, flowing east, towards a hazel (*Corylus avellana*) woodland (Plate 6.1 and Plate 6.2). Its banks were largely vegetated with hazel and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and also some ruderals, such as bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), bramble (*Rubus fructicosus* agg.) and ivy (*Hedera hibernica*), shading a significant part of this aquatic habitat (Plate 6.1). It showed evidence of being affected by cattle access (Plate 6.2) and littering (most likely due to the proximity to the road), and its substrate was heavily silted. However, macrophytes were occasionally present (Table 6.4), along with common frog (*Rana temporaria*) spawn (species listed in Annex V of the Habitats Directive), perhaps indicating a localised extent for this pressure.



Plate 6.1: AQ1-1



Plate 6.2: AQ1-2



Plate 6.3: AQ1-3

6.2.2.2 Hydrological Pathway I (Near POIs 62 to 68 – Crossmolina Bypass)

The area around POIs 62 to 68 (north of Crossmolina, within the Hydrological Pathway I; Figure 6.1), is drained by two rivers (the Deel [Crossmolina], EPA Code: 34A35 and Abbeytown 34, EPA Code: 34D01) within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 and Abbeytown_010 WFD river water bodies (Table 6.1), and a system of agricultural drainage ditches (Figure 6.1). Table 6.4 includes the relevant results from the suite of aquatic surveys conducted.

During the 2024 surveys at POIs 62 to 68, the water depth was approximately 2m, with the bank height approximately 3m on each side and approximately 25m wide and had a wetted width of 15m. The river levels appear to fluctuate significantly, as during the June 2025 survey the water level had an average depth of approximately 13cm with a very slow velocity. The watercourse had a river profile of 10% riffle, 5% pool and 85% glide at the surveyed reach.

The river has a natural meandering profile with riffle and glide throughout (see Plate 2). The substrate, which was only seen during the 2025 surveys, comprises 50% boulder and 25% cobble, 15% gravel, 10% sand. There was no instream macrophytes present. Bryophytes present included smaller lattice moss (*Cinclidotus fontinaloides*) and Winifrids moss (*Chiloscyhus polyantus*).

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6.2.2.2.1 Drainage Ditches

The aquatic habitat of four extents of this agricultural drainage ditch system was surveyed (AQ2, AQ3, AQ6, and AQ7; Table 6.4). AQ7 and AQ6 are the most upstream extents of this agricultural system, with AQ7 showing signs of not being managed or maintained, while AQ6 being a drainage ditch crossing a 'wet grassland' (GS4) field. These two 'drainage ditch' habitats (FW4) are wide channels (Plate 7.1 to Plate 7.3), relatively deep, and bounded by a 'treeline' (WL2) (AQ7; Plate 7.1) and 'wet grassland' (GS4) (AQ6), which were dry (Plate 7.1 to Plate 7.3) or holding stagnant water (AQ7), or very slow flow (AQ6) during the survey.



Plate 7.1: AQ7-1



Plate 7.2: AQ7-2



Plate 7.3: AQ7-3

AQ3 and AQ2 are further downstream than the previous surveyed reaches. The channels of these 'drainage ditches' (FW4) habitats were slightly deeper, but roughly of a similar width, were bounded by 'treelines' (WL2), and both of these drainage ditches carried water, albeit with slow or very slow flows. AQ2 (the most downstream drainage ditch, which discharges into the Deel [Crossmolina] River (Figure 4.2), held very clear water and some macrophytes (Table 6.4), and, although it was culverted in one location, the substrate quality was diverse and not showing signs of great sediment accumulations (Plate 7.4 and Plate 7.5). It was heavily shaded with no signs of vegetation management or maintenance. Nevertheless, both drainage ditches showed evidence of cattle/sheep access pressures (Plate 7.6).



Plate 7.4: AQ2-1



Plate 7.5: AQ2-2



Plate 7.6: AQ3-1

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6.2.2.2.2 Rivers

Two rivers within the Hydrological Pathway I were surveyed for habitat, water quality and presence of protected target species. The River Deel [Crossmolina] (EPA Code: 34A35) is a large river, with a natural meandering channel (Plate 8.1, Plate 8.2, and Plate 8.3), good spawning habitat for salmonids, restricted presence of macrophytes, and good riparian cover and marginal habitat for otter (Plate 8.4). The substrate size distribution was characteristic of a fast flowing, well oxygenated river, with limited accumulations of fine sediment (Plate 8.5; Table 6.4). Nevertheless, due to the absence of 'Group A' invertebrates (Toner *et al.*, 2005), its Biotic Index of Q3-4 (Table 6.4) indicates the presence of '*Slight Pollution*', typical of a WFD river water body of a *Moderate* water quality status (Table 4.3).

The two eDNA samples collected from the River Deel [Crossmolina] indicate the presence of the four target species in eDNA1 and eDNA3 locations (Figure 4.2; Table 6.4). In both locations, markers for Atlantic salmon and FPM reach the maximum number of qPCR replicates, followed by brook/river lamprey, with the same number of replicated in both locations (7/12). The difference in the eDNA samples from these two locations lie on the number of replicates for white-clawed crayfish markers: while the upstream location (eDNA1) contained 3/12 qPCR replicated for white-clawed crayfish, the sample collected at eDNA3 resulted in 1/12 replicated for this target species (Table 6.4). A score as low as 1/12 is declared positive, and the species is considered to be present. The full eDNA report is included in Appendix B.



Plate 8.1: AQ4-1



Plate 8.2: AQ4-2



Plate 8.3: AQ4-3

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Plate 8.4: AQ4-4



Plate 8.5: AQ4-5

The river Abbeytown 34 (a tributary of the River Deel [Crossmolina] above) was notably different from the above. It holds a narrower channel, with tall and steep banks (perhaps indicative of historic river regulation), often encroached with vegetation (Plate 8.6, Plate 8.7, Plate 8.8, and Plate 8.13). The riparian gallery lateral extent was highly restricted by agricultural land use (and by the height of the banks), but the river bed granulometry only showed localised signs of fine sediment accumulation (Plate 8.12). There were several barriers for fish movement along the surveyed reach, which would be restrictive for the presence of migratory fish (e.g. salmonids). Its Biotic Index of Q3-4 reflects these habitat/hydromorphological constraints, with a somehow diverse invertebrate sample, but largely dominated by dominant species (Table 6.4).

The results of the eDNA sample collected within the river Abbeytown 34 (eDNA2) showed a strong presence of markers for Atlantic salmon, while lower number of qPCR replicates from brook/river lamprey (7/12). Presence of FPM was also indicated by the eDNA sample at this location, but no evidence for the presence of white-clawed crayfish (Table 6.4).



Plate 8.6: AQ5-1



Plate 8.7: AQ5-2



Plate 8.8: AQ5-3

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Plate 8.9: AQ5-4



Plate 8.10: AQ5-5

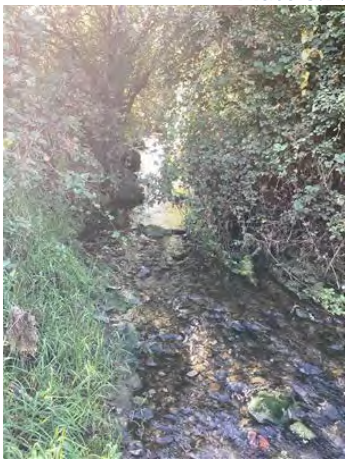


Plate 8.11: AQ5-6



Plate 8.12: AQ5-7



Plate 8.13: AQ5-8

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Table 6.4: Aquatic Survey Results

River (EPA)	Habitat (Fossitt, 2000)	Site Ref.	Aquatic Habitat											Kick Sampling		Protected Species	
			Shading	Bank Height (m)*	Bank Width (m)*	Wet Width (m)*	Avg. Depth (m)	Velocity	Substrate[17]					Relevant Vegetation	Q-value		eDNA (Appendix B)	
									Boulder	Cobble	Gravel	Sand	Mud/Silt		Taxa	Occ.[18]	Target Species	qPCR Replicates
-	FW4	**AQ1**	<75%	0.3	1.5	1.5	0.75	Stagnant	-	-	-	-	-	– *Potamogeton* sp. – *Veronica beccabunga* – *Lemna* sp.	-			
-	FW4	**AQ2**	<75%	1	1.5	0.5	0.15	Slow	-	5%	65%	10%	20%	– *Apium nodiflorum* – *Veronica beccabunga*	-			
-	FW4	**AQ3**	<50%	1	-	-	-	Very Slow	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Deel [Crossmolina] (EPA Code: 34A35)	FW2	**AQ4** **K1** **eDNA1** **eDNA3**	<25%	3	20	17	0.15	Very Slow	50%	25%	15%	10%	-	– *Alnus glutinosa* – *Fraxinus excelsior* – *Salix* sp. – *Fagus sylvatica*	*Polycentropus flavomaculatus* *Gammarus* sp. *Serratella ignita* *Heptageniidae* sp. **Q3-4**	**S** **D** **C** **S**	Atlantic Salmon Brook/River Lamprey Freshwater Pearl Mussel White-clawed Crayfish	12/12 7/12 12/12 3/12
																	Atlantic Salmon Brook/River Lamprey Freshwater Pearl Mussel White-clawed Crayfish	12/12 7/12 12/12 1/12

[17] Boulder: 26-200cm; Cobble: 6-26cm; Gravel: 0.4-6 cm; Sand: 0.06-0.4 cm; Mud/Silt: <0.06cm

[18] Occ. (occurrence): 1-2 individuals = Present (**P**); <1% = Scarce/Few (**Sc**); <5% = Small numbers (**S**); 5-10% = Fair numbers (**F**); 10-20% = Common (**C**); 25-50% = Numerous (**N**); 50-75% = Dominant (**D**); >75% = Excessive (**E**)

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River (EPA)	Habitat (Fossitt, 2000)	Site Ref.	Aquatic Habitat												Kick Sampling		Protected Species	
			Shading	Bank Height (m)*	Bank Width (m)*	Wet Width (m)*	Avg. Depth (m)	Velocity	Substrate[17]					Relevant Vegetation	Q-value		eDNA (Appendix B)	
									Boulder	Cobble	Gravel	Sand	Mud/Silt		Taxa	Occ.[18]	Target Species	qPCR Replicates
Abbeytown 34 (EPA Code: 34D01)	FW2	**AQ5** / **K2** / **eDNA2**	<50%	2.5	5	3	0.6	Slow	5%	50%	30%	10%	5%	– *Acer pseudoplatanus* – *Alnus glutinosa* – *Fraxinus excelsior* – *Ranunculus* sp. – *Apium nodiflorum* – *Iris pseudacorus* – *Dryopteris filix-mas* – *Mentha aquatica*	*Elmidae* sp. *Leuctridae* sp. *Gammarus* sp. *Limnephilidae* sp. *Baetis* sp. *Asellus aquaticus* *Serratella ignita* **Q3-4**	**D** **P** **S** **P** **N** **P** **P**	Atlantic Salmon Brook/River Lamprey Freshwater Pearl Mussel White-clawed Crayfish	12/12 7/12 2/12 0/12
-	FW4	**AQ6**		0.5	1			Very Slow	-	-	-	-		-				
-	FW4	**AQ7**	<75%	0.75	2	0.5		Stagnant	-	-	-	-	100%	-				

* Highest value measured

6.2.3 Fauna

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A summary of the protected Annex I and Annex II species recorded during the surveys across the proposed project is provided hereunder.

6.2.3.1 Otter

During the site visit in October 2024, one otter holt was recorded along the Deel riverbank, 45m north of the proposed bridge crossing (ITM 51406, 81862). The entrance was approximately 35cm x 25cm in size with a well-used path to the entrance. There was no evidence of prints located in the sediment outside the holt, which suggests it was not in use at that time. Evidence of otter was not recorded at any other POI during multi-disciplinary surveys.



Plate 9: Otter Holt Located Within the Riverbank

During the 2025 survey a trail camera was deployed in front of the potential holt for a period of ten days. Following a review of the footage, no activity was recorded at the holt and did not appear to be active. Considering the suitability of the river habitat to support otter, there is potential that the holt may become active in the future.

Table 6.5: Results of Otter Trail Camera Survey

Holt No.	Camera	Dates Deployed	Results
H1	Trail Camera 1 - Browning Strike Force HD	23/06/2025 – 02/07/2025	No activity was recorded at the holt over the 10 days. Holt appears to currently not be in use.

Otter is a QI of the River Moy SAC and the River Deel is likely to provide good foraging, commuting and resting habitat for this species.





Legend

- Application Boundary
- POI
- River Water Bodies
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Otter Observations

- Otter Holt
- Otter Activity

0 100 200
Metres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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A	14/04/2026	First issue	S.P	D.H

Client: BnM

Project:
Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 - Turbine Delivery Route

Title:
Figure 6.5:
Signs of otter recorded during field surveys

Scale @ A3:	1:4,000	
Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	D.Hobbs	April 2026

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Email: info@tobin.ie
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6.2.3.2 Bats

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The results of the bat surveys are outlined below.

6.2.3.2.1 Ground Level Roost Assessment

During the surveys, there were trees and buildings identified as having potential to support roosting bats, i.e. held PRFs. The trees and buildings recorded were classified with regard to their potential to support roosting bats, using an adapted version of Collins (2023) guidance.

Table 6.6: Ground Level Roost Assessment Results

Note: Works for which planning permission are being sought are highlighted in grey.

PRF	POI	Description of Tree/Building and PRF	Retain/Trim/Remove
PRF1	2	**Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF2	10	Negligible suitability.	Trim
PRF3	12	Immature treeline. Negligible suitability.	Remove
PRF4	13	Thick ivy crevices trees. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Remove
PRF5	15	All trees immature with negligible suitability.	Trim
PRF6	15	Line of trees with low bat roost potential, some canopy extending onto road. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Trim
PRF7	19	Sycamore trees 12m tall, adjacent to road. Negligible suitability.	Trim
PRF8	19	Semi mature 14m ash tree with some ivy present. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Trim
PRF9	20	Shed viewed from road. **Moderate suitability i.e. PRF-M.**	Retain
PRF10	20	**Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF11	Carricknagat permanent works (38)	Bridge above road, potential for bats in gap between stone and iron. **Low suitability.**	Retain
PRF12	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	House, Unable to view all of house, dropping on wall, near rafters. **High suitability**.	Retain
PRF13	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Shed with metal roof. Unable to view all of shed, dropping on wall, near rafters. Metal roof. **Moderate suitability.**	Retain

PRF	POI	Description of Tree/Building and PRF	Retain/Trim/Remove
PRF14	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Ash tree, some cracks and knotholes. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF15	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Ash tree, immature. Negligible suitability.	Remove
PRF16	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Young ash, skinny branches, some ivy cover. Negligible suitability.	Retain
PRF17	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Large ash tree. Hollow at base, suitable for small mammals eg stoats. Ivy clad. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I**	Retain
PRF18	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Low potential, bushy growth along trunk and a few crevices. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF19	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Large Ivy clad sycamore. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF20	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Areas of thick ivy. Mature sycamore tree. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF21	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Old barn with moderate roost potential, not searched due to lack of access. **Moderate suitability.**	Retain
PRF22	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Large beech with knotholes and split branches. **Moderate suitability PRF-M.**	Retain
PRF23	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Two large beech with split branches and knotholes. **Moderate suitability PRF-M.**	Retain
PRF24	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Two large ivy clad sycamore. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF25	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Large old sycamore with knotholes and split branches. **Moderate suitability PRF-M**	Retain
PRF26	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Alder. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain

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PRF	POI	Description of Tree/Building and PRF	Retain/Trim/Remove
PRF27	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Sycamore tree. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Remove
PRF28	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Hawthorn tree. Negligible suitability.	Retain
PRF29	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Tree has potential to contain bat roost features. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF30	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Tree with two large knot holes. **Moderate suitability PRF-M.**	Retain
PRF31	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Ivy clad sycamore. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Retain
PRF32	Crossmolina permanent works (62-68)	Ivy clad young ash. **Low suitability i.e. PRF-I.**	Remove

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6.2.3.2.2 Walked Bat activity Transect

A walked transect was carried out along Abbeytown Lane, an area which is proposed for road widening and vegetation removal at the Crossmolina permanent works location (POIs 64-66). Abbeytown Lane is highly suitable for commuting and foraging bats as it is bordered by hedgerows and treelines and is a dark corridor which is not subject to street lighting.

The survey commenced at a group of farm buildings and large beech trees which were considered to have suitability for roosting bats. The first bat recorded was a soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) commuting from the west along a treeline at 22:02, 12 minutes prior to sunset. Soprano pipistrelle typically emerge from their roosts 20 minutes after sunset[19]. Therefore, it is likely that there is a roost nearby to the survey site.

High levels of soprano pipistrelle activity were recorded throughout the survey, with individuals utilising the linear habitats along the lane for commuting and foraging. No roosts were identified during this survey.

6.2.3.2.3 Static bat detector survey

During the static bat detector survey of the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area, at least six species of bats were recorded as being present[20]. The survey findings indicate that the River Deel provides highly suitable foraging habitat for a range of bat species. Bat species recorded during this survey included common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus*

[19] https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/what-are-bats/uk-bats/soprano-pipistrelle

[20] *Myotis* bat species' calls can be difficult to attribute to species level, where the calls of a *Myotis* bat species could not be accurately identified, they are described as *Myotis* species. *Myotis* species present in Ireland include Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii)*, Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*) and whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus).*

pipistrellus), soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) and other *Myotis* species.

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Table 6.7: Bat Passes Recorded by the Static Detector at the River Deel

Species	Common pipistrelle	Soprano pipistrelle	Brown long-eared bat	Daubenton's bat	Leisler's bat	*Myotis* species	NoID/Noise
Number of calls	214	7973	29	336	308	7	498
Percentage prevalence	2%	90%	<1%	4%	3%	<0.001%	N/A

6.2.3.2.4 Summary of Bat Survey Results

Given the results of the bat surveys outlined above, there are two key areas along the proposed project with suitability to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats: Abbeytown Lane and the River Deel ecological corridor.

The surveys along the River Deel recorded at least six species of bat. This ecological corridor represents highly suitable commuting and foraging habitat for a range of bat species due to the presence of insect breeding habitat, the absence of artificial lighting and the presence of semi-natural habitats associated with the River Moy SAC.

At Abbeytown Lane, there are a number of trees with PRFs suitable to support roosting bats, and it represents a suitable dark commuting corridor for foraging and commuting bats. The only species that was recorded during the surveys was soprano pipistrelle. There are a number of other areas of suitable habitat present along the proposed project including woodland, hedgerows and treelines which are likely to support commuting and foraging bats.

6.2.3.2.4.1 Lesser Horseshoe Bat

The lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) is the only Annex II bat species in Ireland and the only species for which SACs are designated. Its population is confined to six counties along the western seaboard, including Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, Galway and Mayo (NPWS & VWT, 2022). There are six SACs in Co. Mayo which have been designated for lesser horseshoe bat, as follows: Ballinafad SAC, Kildun Souterrain SAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC, Lough Corrib SAC, Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC and Towerhill House SAC. All these SACs are located over 35km away from the proposed project, and there are no known roosts of lesser horseshoe bat in north Mayo, in the vicinity of the proposed project. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026 (NPWS & VWT, 2022) notes that habitat features within 5km of maternity roosts are important for foraging bats, and Collins (2023) notes a smaller Core Sustenance Zone (CSZ) of 2km. Therefore, habitats in the vicinity of the proposed project do not support lesser horseshoe bats associated with any SAC or any known roosting site for the species.

Additionally, lesser horseshoe bats have specific roosting requirements and require buildings or caves which have open entrances, and they do not roost in trees (Collins, 2023). There are no buildings or caves suitable to support lesser horseshoe bats within the proposed project. Therefore, it is not considered likely that the habitats within the proposed project support lesser

horseshoe bats from any roosting site. Additionally, this species was not recorded during the bat activity surveys carried out to inform this AA. Therefore, bat species are not considered further in this assessment. A full assessment of the effects of the proposed project on bat species is carried out in the EcIA accompanying this planning application.

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6.2.3.3 Aquatic Species

6.2.3.3.1 Freshwater Pearl Mussel

A population of FPM was recorded at the proposed bridge location at Crossmolina during the instream aquatic surveys. This species is not a QI of the River Moy SAC and therefore, is not considered within this assessment. A full assessment of the effects of the proposed project on FPM is carried out in the EcIA accompanying this planning application.

6.2.3.3.2 EDNA Sampling

Results were obtained from eDNA sampling surveys at three sites within the study area. An overview of the eDNA laboratory analysis results is provided in Table 6.8.

The number of replicates that show a positive result may indicate a lower or higher amount of eDNA presence in the water body. However, even a score as low as 1/12 is a positive result indicating species presence. A negative result, where eDNA was not detected or may be present below the threshold detection level, should not be considered as evidence of species absence. A negative result does not exclude the potential for species presence below the limit of detection. Where eDNA results record the presence of a species, it is considered that these species are present within the ZoI of the proposed project.

Results showed a strong positive result for Atlantic salmon with 12 replicates positive in all three sample locations showing presence in both the Deel and Abbeytown River. There was also a strong positive result for FPM in the Deel at Site 1 and Site 3, with 12 replicates with a weak but positive result for their presence in the Abbeytown River, where previously recorded absent (Moorkens, 2009). There is also a positive result for the presence of brook/river lamprey within both rivers. White-clawed crayfish were only recorded present in the Deel, showing a weak but positive presence.

The River Moy SAC is designated for QI populations of brook lamprey, white-clawed crayfish and Atlantic salmon.

Table 6.8: EDNA Sampling Results

Corresponding Site Number	Coordinates (ITM)	Target Species	Result	Positive Replicates (Out of 12)
Site 1 (Deel Bridge)	514082.02 818531.46	Atlantic salmon	Positive	12
		Brook/river lamprey	Positive	7
		Freshwater pearl mussel	Positive	12
		White-clawed crayfish	Positive	3
	514037.95	Atlantic salmon	Positive	12

Corresponding Site Number	Coordinates (ITM)	Target Species	Result	Positive Replicates (Out of 12)
Site 2 (Abbeytown River)	818542.47	Brook/river lamprey	Positive	7
		Freshwater pearl mussel	Positive	2
		White-clawed crayfish	Negative	0
Site 3 (Deel River D/S of confluence)	514048.52 818659.35	Atlantic salmon	Positive	12
		Brook/river lamprey	Positive	7
		Freshwater pearl mussel	Positive	12
		White-clawed crayfish	Positive	1

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6.2.3.4 Birds

Bird transect surveys were undertaken at the Crossmolina permanent works area during the breeding and non-breeding seasons. All wild birds, and their nests and eggs, are protected under the Wildlife Acts (as amended).

Some bird species are also listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, and/or as SCIs within designated European sites. The following species are considered to be relevant for this AA:

- Special Conservation Interest populations of relevant SPAs; and,
- Species listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive.

The results of the surveys, as relevant to AA, are summarised hereunder, and full results are included in Table 6.9.

6.2.3.4.1 Walkover Surveys

Bird species recorded during the 2024 walkover surveys which may be SCIs of SPAs included, cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Cormorant have a marine foraging range of 33.9km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019). The nearest SPA designated for cormorant is the Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA which is located approximately 48km from the cormorant recorded during the field surveys at the Crossmolina permanent works area. It is therefore unlikely that breeding coastal populations of cormorant associated with any SPA would be present as far inland as Crossmolina. Therefore, it is not considered that the cormorant present in the vicinity of the proposed project is associated with the SPA population of any European site. As such, likely significant effects can be excluded, and cormorant are not considered any further in this assessment.

Mallard was recorded during surveys, however, the nearest SPA which is designated for this species is the Lough Ree SPA, located approximately 100km from the observation during the field surveys at the Crossmolina permanent works area area. This SPA is designated for wintering mallard population which feed and roost in the habitats within and surrounding the lake. Therefore, it is not considered that the mallard present in the vicinity of the proposed

project is associated with the SPA population of any European site. As such, likely significant effects can be excluded, and mallard is not considered any further in this assessment.

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6.2.3.4.2 Breeding Transect Surveys

A summary of the results of the breeding bird transect surveys at Crossmolina are included in this section. The Crossmolina permanent works area (POIs 62-68) offers a variety of habitats suitable for breeding, foraging, and roosting birds. An area of particular importance for breeding birds is along the River Deel, which supports a variety of bird species including kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

A single kingfisher, an Annex I species, was recorded twice, once during the June 2025 visit and once during the July 2025 visit, commuting along the River Deel. No suitable nesting habitat, such as exposed vertical banks, was recorded along the proposed bridge location. However, the river provides good foraging and commuting habitat for the species, with a number of overhanging trees providing perching spots. The nearest SPA designated for kingfisher is the River Boyne and Blackwater SPA, which is located 150km away at its nearest point, and in a different catchment, in Co. Cavan. Kingfisher are known to have an estimated territory of 1.5km to 4km (Murphy, 2011). Therefore, kingfisher present in the vicinity of the proposed project is not considered to be associated with any European site. As such, there is no potential for likely significant effects and is not considered any further in this assessment.

Two lesser-black backed gulls (*Larus fuscus*) were seen in flight above the agricultural lands and treelines in the eastern part of the N59 Crossmolina location. The nearest SPA designated for lesser black-backed gulls is the Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA located approximately 53km away. Due to this species very large foraging range of 236km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) and utilising the precautionary principle, it is possible that lesser black-backed gull recorded along the proposed project has the potential to be part of the SCI population associated with the following SPAs: Blasket Islands SPA, Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA, Lambay Island SPA, Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA, Lough Mask SPA, North-west Irish Sea SPA and Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA.

Table 6.9: Bird Survey Results

Survey	Conservation Status	Species (relevant species highlighted in bold)
2024 walkover survey	BOCCI Amber list	**Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)**, greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) and **mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**
	BOCCI Red list	Meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)
	BOCCI Green list	Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), coal tit (*Periparus ater*), dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), great tit (*Parus major*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
2025 breeding transect survey	BOCCI Red list	Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) and kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), swift (*Apus apus*)
	BOCCI Amber list	**Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*)** and barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), willow warbler

Survey	Conservation Status	Species (relevant species highlighted in bold)
		(*Phylloscopus trochilus*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).
	BOCCI Green list	Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*), treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*), magpie (*Pica pica*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) siskin (*Spinus spinus*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*).

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7. CONNECTIVITY TO EUROPEAN SITES

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7.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Potential construction phase impacts associated with the proposed project are discussed hereunder

7.1.1 Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

The construction of the proposed project will result in the removal and trimming of vegetation in certain locations, as described in Table 6.2. There are no works proposed to Annex I habitats within the footprint of the proposed project, therefore there will be no loss of Annex I habitat as a result.

However, the proposed project will result in the removal and trimming of other (non-Annex I habitat) vegetation within the following SACs: River Moy SAC (POIs 62-68) and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (POI 49). Although there will be no likely significant effects as a result of the loss of QI habitats, it is possible that vegetation removal could affect QI fauna species for which these SACs are designated (i.e. otter). Therefore, indirect likely significant effects could occur on European sites as a result of habitat loss associated with the proposed project.

Additionally, lesser black-backed gull has been recorded in the vicinity of the proposed project, an SCI species for which European sites are designated. There is potential that this species utilises habitats such as grasslands within the proposed project for foraging and resting. Therefore, in the absence of mitigation, there is potential that the proposed project could have likely significant effects as a result of habitat loss on lesser black-backed gull associated with the following European sites within the ZoI:

- Blasket Islands SPA;
- Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA;
- Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA;
- Lambay Island SPA;
- Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA;
- Lough Mask SPA;
- North-west Irish Sea SPA; and
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA.

7.1.2 Runoff of Sediment and/or Construction Pollution

Site clearance, excavation activities and the stockpiling of material at the POIs have the potential to result in sediment laden runoff, if not appropriately managed. There is a number of watercourses that are present within and downstream of the POIs associated with the proposed project, with connectivity to European sites (see Table 6.2 and Appendix D).

In addition, machinery will be required to carry out construction works and activities along the proposed project which will require fuel and other contaminants, which carry the risk of accidental spillages that could reach receiving surface water bodies. This assessment considers that contaminants will be stored onsite, and that accidental spillages of those contaminants during the storage, operation and/or movement of machinery may occur. The accidental spillage

of contaminants associated with the proposed project is likely to significantly affect the water quality of the surface water bodies in its hydrological pathway. Hydrocarbons, for example, are highly toxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic in nature, and biota may experience lethal and sublethal effects from their exposure to such contaminants. Furthermore, these contaminants are easily adsorbed/absorbed by organisms, particularly in the aquatic environment, where even the non-bioavailable hydrocarbons (e.g. hydrophobic) become bioavailable to benthic organisms as they get adsorbed onto particles and sediment (Kuppusamy *et al.*, 2020).

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Therefore, in the absence of mitigation, there is potential for runoff of sediment and/or construction pollution to result in likely significant effects on the following European sites, which are hydrologically connected to the proposed project:

- River Moy SAC;
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA;
- Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Unshin River SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- Donegal Bay SPA;
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC; and
- Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC.

7.1.3 Dust

Construction works may result in the temporary generation of dust in the ZoI of the proposed project. The following European sites are located within 50m of works (i.e. POIs) associated with the proposed project, and in the absence of mitigation, are therefore at risk of likely significant effects arising from dust-related impacts:

- River Moy SAC;
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Unshin River SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA; and
- Lough Melvin SAC.

7.1.4 Noise and Disturbance

Normal working hours during the construction period are expected to be Monday to Friday 07:00hrs and 19:00hrs and Saturdays between 08:00hrs and 16:00hrs. Construction works and activities proposed at the POIs of the proposed project will result in an increase in noise levels due to the presence of construction vehicles and machinery.

At most POIs, construction activities are anticipated to generate relatively low levels of noise and disturbance. Activities at most POIs are restricted to small areas on the edges of the existing

National and Regional road network. These activities which include tree trimming and minor roadworks are considered to be similar to normal road maintenance works and therefore, fauna in the vicinity are likely to be habituated. Therefore, noise and disturbance effects on fauna are localised and will not likely to extend further than a few metres from the proposed activities at most POIs. Likely significant disturbance effects would only be anticipated where a European site is located directly adjacent to a POI associated with the proposed project, with the exception of the areas of permanent works, outlined below.

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Construction works likely to result in higher noise levels are proposed at Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POIs 62-68). At Carricknagat, works will include rock breaking by an excavator/rock breaker. No blasting will be carried out. At Crossmolina, shallow excavations will be carried out, and a pre-cast concrete bridge will be installed. No night-time works will be carried out and construction phase lighting will not be used. The construction works will comply with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 "*Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites – Noise*"[21].

The following European sites are located within 1km of the construction works at Carricknagat (POI 38) and Crossmolina (POIs 62-68), or adjacent to other POIs:

- Lough Melvin SAC;
- River Moy SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC;
- Unshin River SAC; and
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC.

7.1.5 Invasive Alien Plant Species

As described in Section 6.2.1.2, Japanese knotweed was recorded in locations within/adjacent to the proposed project. Considering the introduction of machinery and vehicles associated with the construction phase of the proposed project, it is possible that these species could spread as a result of these works, particularly to the River Moy SAC. It is also possible that IAPS fragments could spread via the tyres of these vehicles to other nearby European sites.

[21] British Standards Institute (BSI) (2008). *BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites*

7.2 Operational Phase

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7.2.1 Hydrological Impacts

During the operational phase, there is potential for an increased rate of surface water runoff from the areas of new permanent infrastructure at Crossmolina permanent works area (POI 62-68). This has the potential to locally increase water flow rates and silt production. Additionally, there is potential for hydrocarbon leaks from turbine delivery vehicles at the proposed bridge structure to degrade/effect downstream QI habitats and fauna species associated with the River Moy SAC.

7.2.2 Lighting

Operational phase lighting is not proposed throughout the majority of the proposed project, with the exception of motion activated lighting which will be installed along the proposed community walkway at Crossmolina (POIs 62-68). However, there will be no lighting installed on or in the vicinity of the proposed bridge structure and therefore there will be no likely significant disturbance effects arising from operational lighting on QI fauna species associated with the River Moy SAC or any other European site.

7.2.3 Noise and Disturbance

The operational phase will involve the delivery of turbines proposed project to the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. It is estimated there will be 200 movements in total. The majority of the proposed project is comprised of existing roadways, and therefore, the increase in vehicular traffic associated with the proposed project is not likely to result in any significant increase in noise and disturbance. The exception to this is in the location of the proposed bridge structure over the River Deel in the River Moy SAC. The current land use in this area is agricultural and therefore, the introduction of a bridge for use by vehicular traffic and a walking track for the local community will increase noise, vibration and disturbance in this location. Therefore, there is potential for likely significant effects on QI fauna species associated with the River Moy SAC.

7.2.4 Invasive Alien Plant Species

As described in Section 6.2.1.2, Japanese knotweed was recorded in locations throughout the proposed project. Considering the introduction of vehicles associated with the operational phase of the proposed project, it is possible that these species could spread as a result, particularly within the River Moy SAC. It is also possible that IAPS fragments could spread via the tyres of these vehicles to other nearby European sites.

8. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

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As mentioned, the source-pathway-receptor conceptual model was used to identify a list of 'relevant' European sites (i.e. those which could be potentially affected). European sites considered to be within the ZoI of the proposed project were reviewed and are illustrated in Figure 4.1 and listed in Table 8.1.

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Table 8.1: Assessment of European sites within the Potential ZoI of the Proposed project

European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
River Moy SAC (002298) (NPWS, 2016a)	• Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510] • 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]	**Physical:** The proposed project overlaps with the boundary of this SAC, as such physical connectivity exists between the proposed project and this SAC. Although there are no QI habitats present within or in the vicinity of the proposed project, there is potential for direct impacts on non-QI habitats and QI fauna species associated with the SAC as a result of habitat loss and dust-related impacts. There is also potential for IAPS (e.g. Japanese knotweed) present in the vicinity of the proposed project to be spread as a result of construction works. **Hydrological:** The proposed project includes the construction of a bridge over the River Moy SAC. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in the River Deel and downstream hydrologically connected watercourses as a result of the proposed project. The SAC is designated for QIs which are sensitive to changes in water quality. **Ecological:** The proposed project overlaps with the River Moy SAC. Therefore, there is potential for direct impacts on QI fauna species such as white-clawed crayfish, otter, lamprey species and Atlantic salmon associated with this SAC as a result of habitat loss, hydrological impacts, and disturbance. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SAC.**	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical, hydrological and ecological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]		
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (00458) NPWS, 2012a	• Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] • *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	**Physical:** The works associated with the proposed project overlap with the boundary of this SAC at POI 49; as such physical connectivity exists between the proposed project and this SAC. It is proposed to carry out some trimming of broadleaved woodland (WD1) vegetation in this location to allow the turbine blades to cross the Bunree Bridge, along the N59 Sligo Road in Ballina. There are no QI habitats present within or in the vicinity of the proposed project, and no potential for direct impacts on QI fauna species associated with the SAC as a result of habitat loss or dust-related impacts. There is potential for IAPS present in the vicinity of the proposed project to spread to this SAC as a result of construction works and activities. **Hydrological:** The proposed project involves some works to be carried out within this SAC; therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in the Glenree_030 River and downstream hydrologically connected watercourses as a result of the proposed project. The SAC is designated for QIs which are sensitive to changes in water quality. **Ecological:** The proposed project involves works which will be carried out within this SAC. Therefore, there is potential for direct impacts on QI aquatic fauna species such as sea lamprey associated with	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical, hydrological and ecological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095] • *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]	this SAC as a result of hydrological impacts and disturbance. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SAC.**	
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036) NPWS, 2013a	• Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137] • Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] • Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] • Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] • Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] • Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] • Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160] • Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA and is located further than 50m away. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SPA. **Ecological:** The conservation objectives supporting document for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (NPWS, 2013b) has identified the Quignaleka subsite (0D448) as the nearest area to the proposed project which is important for foraging and roosting bird species. This is located approximately 480m away from the proposed project, at its closest point. The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out >1km from this SPA. Additionally, the habitats present within the	**Yes -** Viable pathways (hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SPA. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SPA which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		proposed project are considered to be sub-optimal for these wetland species, compared to other habitats in the vicinity. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts arising from habitat loss, mortality or disturbance. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SPA.**	
Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA (004228) (NPWS, 2025a)	• Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061] • Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065] • Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] • Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA and is located further than 50m away. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SPA. **Ecological:** The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out >1km from this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for the works and activities associated with the proposed project to result in any habitat loss or disturbance impacts on the SCI bird species which are present within the SPA itself.	**Yes -** Viable pathways (hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project site and this SPA. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SPA which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		There is no conservation objectives supporting document available for this SPA although, common gull and Greenland white-fronted goose are likely to utilise habitats outside of the SPA for roosting and foraging. However, the habitats present within the proposed project are considered to be sub-optimal for these wetland and waterbird species, compared to other habitats in the vicinity. Given the distance between the proposed project and this SPA, and the extent of alternative suitable foraging habitat in the vicinity, there is therefore no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts arising from habitat loss, mortality or disturbance. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SPA.**	
Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC (001922) (NPWS, 2017)	• Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] • Alkaline fens [7230] • *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	**Physical:** Loads associated with the proposed project will oversail the boundary of this SAC at POIs 72, 73 and 75. There is an area of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] habitat located at POI 75. However, as there will be no works or activities associated with the proposed project in this location, there is no potential for habitat loss. proposed project Although there are no works proposed within QI habitats, proposed project there is potential for direct impacts on non-QI habitats and QI fauna species associated with the SAC as a result of habitat loss and dust-related impacts. There is potential for IAPS present proposed project at the POIs to spread within	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical, hydrological and ecological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• *Saxifraga hirculus* (Marsh Saxifrage) [1528]	this SAC as a result of construction works and activities. **Hydrological:** The proposed project involves some works to be carried out within this SAC; therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in the Muing_010 and Shanvolahan_010 Rivers as a result of the proposed project. The SAC is designated for QIs which are sensitive to changes in water quality. **Ecological:** Loads associated with the proposed project will oversail the boundary of the SAC at POIs 73-75. Minor roadworks and vegetation removal will occur within 10m of the SAC at POI 75. proposed project Therefore, there is potential for disturbance impacts on QI fauna species associated with this SAC. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project site and this SAC.**	
Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622) (NPWS, 2013c)	• Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	**Physical:** The proposed project is located within 50m of the boundary of this SAC. Therefore, although this SAC occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat loss impacts, there is some potential for dust-related impacts on this SAC arising from these works. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SAC via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SAC. This could affect QI habitats and species associated with this SAC due to a reduction in habitat quality and	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical and hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project site and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] • *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] • *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]	direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SAC. **Ecological:** The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out at POIs 34, 35, 36 and 39 and involve minor traffic management related works on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SAC.**	
Unshin River SAC (001898) (NPWS, 2021a)	• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210] • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] • Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0]	**Physical:** The proposed project is located adjacent to the boundary of this SAC at POI 39, as such physical connectivity exists between the proposed project and this SAC. The works proposed at this POI are minor traffic management works to be carried out on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat and therefore, there will be no habitat loss as a result of the proposed project. There is some potential for dust-related impacts on this SAC arising from these works. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SAC due to its close proximity to the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SAC. This could affect QI habitats and species due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants.	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical and hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project site and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106] • *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]	Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could spread within this SAC. **Ecological:** The proposed works at POI 39 are minor traffic management works and will not result in any disturbance to the QI Atlantic salmon or otter populations associated with this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SAC.**	
Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129) (NPWS, 2013d)	• Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] • Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] • Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] • Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	**Physical:** The proposed project is located within 50m of the boundary of this SPA. Therefore, although this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat loss impacts, there is some potential for dust-related impacts on this SPA arising from these works. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SPA. **Ecological:** The conservation objectives supporting document for Ballysadare Bay SPA (NPWS, 2013e)	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical and hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SPA. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SPA which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		has identified the Ballysadare Quarry subsite (0C486), which is directly adjacent to the proposed project, as a roosting site for a number of bird species including one SCI species; dunlin. Motorised vehicles were not noted to cause disturbance events in this location. The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out at POIs 34, 35, 36 and 39 and will involve minor traffic management related works on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts arising from habitat loss, mortality or disturbance. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project site and this SPA.**	
Lough Melvin SAC (000428) (NPWS, 2021b)	• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] • *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106] • *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]	**Physical:** The proposed project is located within 50m of the boundary of this SAC. Therefore, although this SAC occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat loss impacts, there is some potential for dust-related impacts on this SAC arising from these works. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SAC via the Drowes_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SAC. This could affect QI habitats and species associated with this SAC due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of	**Yes** - Viable pathways (physical and hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project site and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SAC. **Ecological:** The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out at POI 27 and involve minor traffic management related works on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SAC.**	
Donegal Bay SPA (004151) (NPWS, 2012b)	• Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] • Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065] • Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA and is located further than 50m away. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Drowes_010, Bradogue_020, Abbey_010, Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SPA.	**Yes -** Viable pathways (hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SPA. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SPA which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		Ecological: The conservation objectives supporting document for Donegal Bay SPA (NPWS, 2012c) has identified the Eddrim Estuary subsite (0A429), which overlaps with the proposed project, as a roosting site for a number of bird species including one SCI species; light-bellied brent goose. Motorised vehicles were not noted to cause disturbance events in this location. The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out at POI 21 (280m from the SPA), POI 22 (490m from the SPA), POI 23 (1.6km from the SPA), POI 24 (670m from the SPA), POI 25 (1.2km from the SPA), POI 26 (1.2km from the SPA) and POI 27 (430m from the SPA) and will involve minor traffic management related works on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat and trimming of trees. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts arising from habitat loss, mortality or disturbance. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project site and this SPA.**	
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133) (NPWS, 2026)	• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Dunes with *Salix repens ssp. argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SAC and is located further than 50m away. Therefore, this SAC occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SAC via the Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses.	**Yes -** Viable pathways (hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project site and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• Humid dune slacks [2190] • *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SAC. This could affect QI habitats and species associated with this SAC due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants. Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SAC. **Ecological:** The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out at POIs 21, 22, 23 and 24 and involve minor traffic management related works on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat and trimming of trees. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project and this SAC.**	
Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (000163) (NPWS, 2019)	• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220] • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] • *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SAC and is located further than 50m away. Therefore, this SAC occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SAC via the Eske_020 WFD river water body. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SAC. This could affect QI habitats and species associated with this SAC due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants.	**Yes -** Viable pathways (hydrological) for effects were identified between the proposed project and this SAC. There is potential for likely significant effects on this SAC which will be assessed further (Section 11).

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106] • *Vandenboschia speciosa* (Killarney Fern) [6985]	Additionally, there is potential for IAPS to become mobilised as a result of the proposed project which could travel downstream to this SAC. **Ecological:** The nearest works associated with the proposed project will be carried out at POI 23 and involve minor traffic management related works on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of ecological impacts. **Source-pathway-receptor links exist between the proposed project site and this SAC.**	
Blasket Islands SPA (004008) (NPWS, 2025b)	• Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] • Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013] • Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) [A014] • Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 230km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance (approximately 230km) between the SPA and the proposed project, there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small	No possibility for likely significant effects.

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] • Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] • Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204] • Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]	numbers of this species recorded during field surveys of the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	
Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) (NPWS, 2025c)	• Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] • Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122] • Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 60km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance (approximately 60km) between the SPA and the proposed project, there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys of the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that	No possibility for likely significant effects.

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	
Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA (004084) (NPWS, 2025d)	• Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) [A014] • Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] • Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] • Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 38km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance (approximately 38km) between the SPA and the proposed project, there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys of the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	No possibility for likely significant effects.
Lambay Island SPA (004069) (NPWS, 2024a)	• Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] • Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 179km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct	No possibility for likely significant effects.

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] • Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] • Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199] • Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] • Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]	habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance (approximately 179km) between the SPA and the proposed project, there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys for the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	
Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (004057) (NPWS, 2025e)	• Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 12km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts.	No possibility for likely significant effects.

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		Ecological: Considering the distance between the SPA and the proposed project (approximately 12km), there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys for the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	
Lough Mask SPA (004062) (NPWS, 2025f)	• Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061] • Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] • Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] • Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 45km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance between the SPA and the proposed project (approximately 45km), there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large	No possibility for likely significant effects.

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
		foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys for the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	
North-west Irish Sea SPA (004236) (NPWS, 2023)	• Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001] • Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003] • Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] • Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013] • Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] • Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] • Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065] • Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] • Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 150km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance between the SPA and the proposed project (approximately 150km), there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys for the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	No possibility for likely significant effects.

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
	• Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] • Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184] • Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) [A187] • Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] • Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192] • Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] • Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] • Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199] • Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] • Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204] • Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) [A862] • Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) [A885]		

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European Site	Qualifying Interests /Special Conservation Interests	Source-Pathway-Receptor Link	Possibility for Likely Significant Effects
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063) (NPWS, 2024b)	• Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	**Physical:** The proposed project does not overlap with the boundary of this SPA. The SPA is located approximately 170km from the proposed project. Therefore, this SPA occurs outside the ZoI of direct habitat impacts, the spread of IAPS and effects arising from dust. **Hydrological:** No surface water pathway exists between the proposed project and this SPA, therefore there is no potential for likely significant effects arising from hydrological impacts. **Ecological:** Considering the distance between the SPA and the proposed project (approximately 170km), there is no potential for the disturbance of SCIs within the SPA. There is potential that lesser black-backed gull associated with this SPA may be connected to the proposed project due to their large foraging range. However, given that there were small numbers of this species recorded during field surveys for the proposed project, the distance from this SPA and the availability of extensive areas of alternative suitable foraging habitat, it is not considered that there is no potential for likely significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed project.	No possibility for likely significant effects.

8.1 In-Combination Effects

8.2 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

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As noted in Table 8.1, source-pathway-receptor links for effects were identified between the proposed project and the following European sites: River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/River Moy Estuary SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA, Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC, Ballysadare Bay SAC, Unshin River SAC, Ballysadare Bay SPA, Lough Melvin SAC, Donegal Bay SPA, Donegal Bay SAC, Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC. Therefore, in the absence of mitigation, it is considered that there is potential for likely significant effects on the QIs and SCIs of these European sites as a result of the proposed project to act in-combination with other plans and projects.

8.3 In-Combination Effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that: *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives."*

It is therefore required that the potential impacts of the proposed project are considered in-combination with any other relevant plans and/or projects. Relevant projects which have been completed, approved or which are proposed, as well as proposals within county development plans, located within the ZoI of the proposed project, have been considered in the in-combination assessment, and are discussed hereunder.

A desktop planning application search using publicly available data from the EIA portal[22] and the planning portals for counties Donegal[23], Sligo[24] and Mayo[25] was undertaken and projects within the surrounding area of the proposed project were identified. A summary of the relevant projects is provided below.

8.3.1 Projects

Small Scale Developments

A review of the planning portals indicates that proposed projects in close proximity to the proposed project include small scale residential and rural developments (e.g. residential one-off housing, sheds, garages) within close proximity. These are not expected to have any in-combination effects with the proposed project due to the small-scale nature of the residential development and lack of connectivity to European sites.

[22] Available from: https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1 (Accessed November 2025)
[23] Available from: Search a Planning Application | Donegal County Council (Accessed November 2025)
[24] Available from: Search Planning Applications (Accessed November 2025)
[25] Available from: Planning Applications - Mayo County Council (Accessed November 2025)

AQUACULTURE SITES

RECEIVED: 09/07/2026

There are a number of licensed aquaculture sites present downstream of the proposed project (e.g. in Donegal Bay, Ballysadare Bay and Killala Bay). There is potential for these projects to result in likely significant hydrological effects on European sites such as Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, Donegal Bay SPA, Ballysadare Bay SAC, Ballysadare Bay SPA, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to water quality degradation. Given the potential for likely significant effects on the aforementioned European sites arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant hydrological effects to act in-combination with aquaculture sites.

EXISTING BARNESMORE WINDFARM An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) reference: PA05E.306303

Permission has been granted for the decommissioning and removal of 25 existing wind turbines and the construction of up to 13 wind turbines in Co. Donegal. The planning application was accompanied by an AA Screening Report and NIS. These reports described the site and confirmed that this proposed project would not be located within any European sites, however, they noted potential effects arising from a downstream hydrological connection to Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC. The NIS concludes: "*This report concludes that if the mitigation measures specified for this specific development are implemented, as detailed in Section 8, the proposal will not, in the light of best scientific knowledge, adversely affect the integrity of any European Site either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects"* (Woodrow Sustainable Solutions, 2019).

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant hydrological effects to act in-combination with the Barnesmore Windfarm.

QUARRY IN BALLYSADARE Sligo County Council reference: 1850

Permission has been granted for the continued use and operation of the existing quarry and quarry extension area (19 hectares) permitted under Plan Reg. Ref. No. PL02/299 (ABP Ref. No. PL21 .201367). An AA Screening Report was prepared for this planning application. The report concludes that Ballysadare Bay SPA, Ballysadare Bay SAC and Unshin River SAC are within the ZoI of the proposed project. This report concludes: "*There is no likelihood of significant effects on these Natura 2000 sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects"* (SLR, 2018).

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the Ballysadare Bay SPA, Ballysadare Bay SAC and Unshin River SAC arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Ballysadare Quarry.

FIRLOUGH WIND FARM AND GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT ACP reference: 317560

Permission has been granted for the Firlough Wind Farm and Green Hydrogen Plant including 13 no. wind turbines in Bunnyconnellan, Co. Mayo and hydrogen plant in Castleconnor, Co. Sligo. An NIS was prepared for this planning application which details potential for effects on the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to hydological connectivity. The NIS concludes: "*in the light of the assessment which it shall conduct on the implications for the European sites concerned, the competent authority is*

enabled to ascertain that the proposed project will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the European sites concerned" (BioSphere Environmental Services, 2023).

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Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Firlough Wind Farm and Green Hydrogen Plant.

BALLINA FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME – RIVER MOY ACP reference: 322329

Permission has been granted for the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme works on the River Moy and its tributaries in Ballina, Co. Mayo. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for this planning application. The AA Screening report identified likely significant effects on four European sites: River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA. The NIS concludes: "*This NIS comprehensively demonstrates, based on best scientific knowledge available, that subject to implementation of bespoke mitigation measures and monitoring as detailed above, it can be objectively concluded that the Proposed Scheme on its own and in combination with other plans and projects will not adversely affect the integrity of these European Sites having regard to site-specific conservation objectives"* (RPS, 2025).

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme.

PROPOSED RAISING/FILLING OF LANDS Mayo County Council reference: 2460315

Planning permission has been granted for the proposed raising/filling of lands with inert material at Ballyhola, Ballina, Co. Mayo. An AA Screening Report was prepared for this planning application. The report notes that the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA are within the ZoI of this development.

The AA Screening concludes: "*Appropriate Assessment is not required as there will be no significant or insignificant, direct or indirect impacts on the Natura sites qualifying interest habitats (QIH), qualifying interest species (QIS), special conservation interests (SCI's) or conservation objectives either during or post filling with inert material when consider alone or in combination with other projects. There are no direct connections to the Killala Bay / Moy Estuary SAC or SPA. The development site is not directly or indirectly connected to the River Moy SAC. There is no reasonable or realistic scientific evidence or data indicating that the proposed project will significantly impact on any Natura sites SCI's, QIH's, QIS or conservation objectives either alone or in combination with any other plan or project"* (Neary, 2024).

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with this raising/filling of lands project.

River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform/OPW reference: DPE063-014-2018

RECEIVED 08/07/2026

The River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme has been submitted to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform for Confirmation and is at Scheme Confirmation Stage. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for this project. The AA Screening report identified for the proposed project to result in significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA, in the absence of mitigation. The proposed works will occur partially within the River Moy SAC and there is potential for direct effects arising from habitat loss and disturbance, and indirect hydrological and hydromorphological changes. There is also potential for direct effects on the Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA as a result of physical disturbance and habitat deterioration, and indirect effects arising from water pollution. In summary, the Crossmolina Drainage Scheme involves the construction of a diversion channel which will intake water from the River Deel during flood periods, and divert this water towards Lough Conn. It is also proposed to construct a bridge over the river. These works are proposed to occur upstream of the bridge structure, which is part of the proposed project, at a hydrological distance of 2.3km.

The NIS concluded that: "*Where the potential for any adverse effect on any European Site has been identified, the pathway by which any such effect may occur has been robustly blocked through the use of avoidance, appropriate design and mitigation measures as set out within this report and its appendices. The measures ensure that the construction and operation of the proposed project does not adversely affect the integrity of European sites. Therefore, it can be objectively concluded that the proposed project individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, in light of their site conservation objectives and in view of best scientific knowledge.*" (Ryan Hanley, 2020)

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the River Deel (Crossmolina) drainage scheme.

Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm ACP reference: 323778

Planning permission has been applied for to ACP and is due to be decided by 28/09/2026. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for this planning application. In the absence of mitigation, the AA Screening Report identified likely significant effects on Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to hydrological and hydrogeological connectivity. The NIS concludes: "*on the basis of the assessment set out in this NIS, it is respectfully submitted that the competent authority is able to determine that no reasonable scientific doubt remains that the proposed projectwill not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, in view of the conservation objectives of that site*" (BioSphere Environmental Services, 2025).

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Tirawley Wind Farm.

OWENINNY WIND FARM PHASE 3 ACP reference: 316178

RECEIVED 08/07/2026

Planning permission has been granted for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 project, consisting of 18 wind turbines. This proposed project is required to facilitate the construction of the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for the planning application for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. The AA Screening Report identified for the proposed project to result in significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA, and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to hydrological connectivity.

The NIS for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 concludes: "*Following an analysis and evaluation of the relevant information and in light of best scientific knowledge, in particular, the nature of the Proposed project, characteristics of the qualifying and special conservation interests, the potential link between the Proposed project, the identified European sites within the ZoI, and the mitigations measures to be implemented, it can be concluded that no significant adverse effects are anticipated alone or in-combination with any other plans or projects."*(TOBIN, 2023)

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3.

OWENINNY WIND FARM PHASE 1 AND 2 ACP reference: PA0029

The existing Oweninny Wind Farm was developed by Oweninny Power Limited a joint venture between ESB Wind Development Limited and Bord na Móna Energy Limited. The project was delivered in two phases. Phase 1 of the Oweninny Wind Farm, which consists of 29 turbines, has been in operation since mid-2019. Phase 2 consists of 31 turbines and has been in operation since 2023. The existing Oweninny Wind Farm (Phase 1 and 2) is located to the north of the westernmost section of the proposed project.

An NIS for the Oweninny Wind Farm Project was undertaken in 2013 by Biosphere Environmental Services (2013), on behalf of ESB. The AA Screening Report identified the potential for likely significant effects on Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC, Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC, Lough Dahybaun SAC, River Moy SAC and Carrowmore Lake SAC, due to the risk of peat slippage due to the construction works and a degradation of water quality from a runoff of suspended solids and construction related pollutants. The NIS concluded that: *"Whilst the Proposed Development could potentially have impacts on five European sites, it is considered that the sensitive design of the project along with rigorous mitigation measures proposed will ensure that the project, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will have no significant adverse impacts on the conservation of these European sites*." Mitigation measures to prevent potential impacts were subsequently implemented.

Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Oweninny Wind Farm.

DOOLEEG WIND TURBINE Mayo County Council Planning reference: 20467

Conditional planning permission was granted in 2021 for a single wind turbine generator with an overall max height of 180m and 20kV grid connection to Bellacorick 110kV substation. The grid connection route is located along the proposed project in the townland of Dooleeg.

Of the protected sites identified in the NIS for this project, only the River Moy SAC was found to be at risk from potential negative impacts, in the absence of mitigation measures, associated with the discharge of surface drainage waters during the construction phase. Mitigation measures are to be implemented with this project to prevent any discharge of silt, pollutants, cement or sewage into the river Deel catchment (River Moy SAC) during the construction phase. The NIS for this project concluded that: *"Based upon the information provided in this NIS, it is the considered view of the authors of this NIS that it can be concluded by Mayo County Council that the project will not, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, result in the significant adverse effects to the integrity and conservation status of European Sites in view of their conservation objectives and on the basis of the best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion"* (Doherty Environmental Consultants, 2020)

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Given the potential for likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC arising from the proposed project, in the absence of mitigation there is potential for likely significant negative effects to act in-combination with the Dooleeg Wind Turbine.

8.3.2 Plans

8.3.2.1 National and Regional Policy

This section considers plans that promote wind energy development and associated infrastructure, including those set out in the National Planning Framework, Climate Action Plan 2025 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The National Planning Framework is a strategic framework document which will be supported by regional and local level plans. This plan notes that at the project level, all applications for development consents for projects emanating from any policies that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment will need to be accompanied by one or more of the following, as relevant:

- An Ecological Impact Assessment Report;
- Environmental Report;
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report if deemed necessary under the relevant legislation(statutory document);
- Natura Impact Statement if deemed necessary under the relevant legislation (statutory document).

National Policy Objective 75

Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the National Planning Framework are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2025

The Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead Ireland to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

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Overarching SEA and AA Mitigation

The Climate Action Plan is a whole-of-Government plan with all relevant Departments and Agencies feeding into its development. Therefore, the relevant Departments and Agencies have legal obligations in relation to protection of the environment.

These Departments and Agencies' plans, programmes and projects must be consistently screened for SEA, EIA and AA processes as appropriate to ensure that protection of the environment and sustainable development are driving principles of Climate Action Plan implementation.

Where the above processes have been or are being undertaken, the measures identified to mitigate, remedy and offset negative effects must be given effect along with any associated planning conditions, at the appropriate scale and level of detail. Notwithstanding there is existing guidance related to linear infrastructure, the principle of robust constraints, site and route selection, and environmental assessment, reporting and monitoring, shall be applied to all infrastructure projects as best practice, to avoid significant negative environmental effects and to ensure the legal protection of European sites and the avoidance of adverse effects on site integrity.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Northern and Western Region 2020

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) came into effect on the 24th of January 2020 and provides a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region that supports the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government. This plan includes objectives relating to biodiversity protection.

Regional Policy Objective 5.5

Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all our natural resources, including inland waterways, peatlands, and forests in a manner which ensures a healthy society a clean environment and there is no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development supported in this strategy. Conserve and protect designated areas and natural heritage area. Conserve and protect European sites and their integrity.

Regional Policy Objective 5.7

Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the RSES are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate.

Adherence to the National and Regional policies and objectives will ensure that all plans and projects proposed will not result in likely significant effects on biodiversity and European sites, and includes the requirement that any future proposed plans or projects be subject to Ecological Impact Assessment, Screening for AA and/or AA to examine and assess their effects on biodiversity and European sites, cumulatively and alone and/or in-combination with other plans and projects. However, in the absence of mitigation measures, on a precautionary basis, it is considered there is a potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with these plans to result in likely significant negative effects on European sites.

8.3.2.2 Local Policy

RECEIVED: 08/07/2026

The proposed project is located across Donegal, Sligo and Mayo. The development plans for these counties include objectives and policies which are associated with the protection of the natural environment, European sites and watercourses. The relevant biodiversity objectives and plans are outlined herein.

MAYO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2028

Strategic County Development Plan Objective (SO) 9:

Ecological Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

"To ensure the assessment of all planning applications in the Plan area have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report contained in Volume 5 of the Mayo CDP 2022-2028.

To require project planning to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project development and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA) and assessments of disturbance to species protected under the Wildlife Act and/or the Flora Protection Act and of Habitat IV species protected under the Habitats Directive.

Ensure that proposals for developments located within identified or potential flood risk areas, or which may exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere, are assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding document), the relevant policies, objectives and guidelines within this plan and shall also take account of the National CFRAM Programme Flood Hazard Mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans when they become available.

NEP 1 *To support the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage and biodiversity of County Mayo, including the protection of the integrity of European sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves and Wild Fowl Sanctuaries (and other designated sites including any future designations).*

NEO 11 *To ensure that the impact of development within or adjacent to national designated sites, Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves likely to result in significant adverse effects on the designated site is assessed by requiring the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment report (EcIA), Environmental Report (ER), an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), if deemed necessary, and/ or a Natura Impact Assessment (NIS), if deemed necessary, prepared by a suitably qualified professional, which should accompany planning applications."*

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024 - 2030

"P-BD-2 *Protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011) as amended, Flora (Protection) Order 2015, the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), and*

the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, including all statutory instruments made under each act.

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***P-DSNC-1** Protect and maintain the conservation status of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, as identified by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan. In addition, the Council will identify, maintain and develop non-designated areas of high nature conservation value which serve as linkages or 'stepping stones' between protected sites in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.*

***P-DSNC-2** Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of 'favourable conservation status' of habitats and species in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).*

***P-DSNC-3** Carry out an appropriate level of assessment for all development plans, landuse plans and projects that the Council authorizes or proposes to undertake or adopt, to determine the potential for these plans or projects to impact on designated sites, proposed designated sites or associated ecological corridors and linkages in accordance with the Habitats Directive. All appropriate assessments shall be in compliance with the provisions of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).*

***P-DSNC-4** Ensure that all development proposals are subject to the process of Screening for Appropriate Assessment and subsequent stages of Appropriate Assessment, as relevant, carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, as appropriate.*

P-NCODS-2 Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive."

Donegal County Development Plan

***"WE-P-8** To ensure that the assessment of Wind Energy Development Proposals have regard to the following Specific Biodiversity Related Requirement:*

a. Loss of functionally linked habitat: Developers of wind energy proposals on greenfield sites shall undertake a preconstruction appraisal of habitats. Should habitats suitable for supporting Special Conservation Interest bird species be present, developers will be required to undertake pre-construction bird surveys to confirm whether the site supports a significant proportion of bird populations (typically taken to be 1% of the population of a SPA, at time of designation). Depending on whether qualifying birds represent breeding or overwintering species, surveys will need to be undertaken in the breeding season or overwintering period (October to March). If a site represents functionally linked habitat, avoidance / mitigation measures will be required and the proposal will need to be supported by a bespoke Appropriate Assessment.

b. Mortality due to collision with operational wind turbines: Wind energy development proposals shall demonstrate that they can be delivered without resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. Vantage point surveys will be required to establish:

(i) the overall use of the development site by Special Conservation Interest birds and

(ii) more detailed usage by Special Conservation Interest birds of the turbine swept area taking account of specifications such as turbine height, blade length, nacelle (blade hub) rotation speed and the number of turbines. Mitigation measures may need to be delivered to ensure that any residual risks are appropriately avoided or reduced.

c. Disturbance displacement: To avoid potential permanent disturbance displacement impacts on Special Conservation Interest bird species, Donegal County Council will generally not support wind energy proposals within 1km of Special Protection Areas unless clear evidence from the applicant or scheme promoter can demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity will arise.

d. Water Quality: Any wind energy developments within 1 km of sensitive SPAs / SACs shall ensure that potential adverse impacts on the European sites due to water quality impacts are assessed and, where required, mitigated. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, water quality and ecological baseline studies, run-off / leachate modelling, delivery of Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) and Water Management Plans (WMPs) and compliance with industry good practice

BIO-O-1 *To preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the County in accordance with the relevant EU policies and national legislation.*

BIO-P-1 *To require all developments to comply with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive and EU Bird Directive, including ensuring that development proposals:*

a. Do not adversely affect the integrity of any European/Natura 2000 site (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) including effects on ex-situ but functionally linked habitats, and species (e.g. Pearl Mussel) save where a plan must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

b. Provide for the protection of animal and plant species listed in Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive and the Flora Protection Order.

c. Protect and enhance features of the landscape (such as rivers, riverbanks, field boundaries, ponds and small woods) which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network. ***WW-P-2*** *Ensure that new developments:*

a. do not have an adverse impact on surface and ground water quality, drinking water supplies, Bathing Waters and aquatic ecology (including Water dependent qualifying interests within Natura 2000 sites); and

b. do not hinder the achievement of, and are not contrary to:

i. The objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive.

ii. EU Habitats and Bird Directives.

iii. The associated Programme of Measures in the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 including any associated Water Protection or Restoration Programmes.

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iv. Drinking Water Safety Plan. v. The Guidelines on the Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works In and Adjacent To Waters (IFI, 2016)

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BIO-P-4 *Ensure that any development proposals do not lead to the introduction or spread of invasive species. Where invasive species are present, development proposals will be required to be submit an appropriate control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).”*

Adherence to the Councils' plans and objectives will ensure that all plans and projects proposed will not result in likely significant effects on European sites, and includes the requirement that any future proposed plans or projects be subject to Screening for AA and/or AA to examine and assess their effects on European sites, alone and/or in-combination with other plans and projects. However, in the absence of mitigation measures, on a precautionary basis, it is considered there is a potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with these plans to result in likely significant negative effects on European sites.

9. STAGE 1 SCREENING ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

RECEIVED: 08/07/2026

TOBIN has prepared this report to inform a Screening for AA to appraise whether the proposed project located across counties Donegal, Sligo and Mayo, individually and/or in-combination with other plans or projects, and in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to give rise to significant effects on European sites.

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the proposed project and its potential connectivity with European sites, in addition to applying the precautionary principle, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that it is not possible to rule out the possibility of likely significant effects on the following European sites alone and/or in-combination with other plans or projects:

- River Moy SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA;
- Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA;
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Unshin River SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- Donegal Bay SPA;
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC; and
- Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC.

This conclusion has been reached on the basis of the potential impact sources and pathways associated with the proposed project (as outlined in Section 7) which may put QI species or habitats and SCI species at risk.

For these reasons, it is the considered opinion of TOBIN that the proposed project could result in likely significant effects on the aforementioned European sites in view of the sites conservation objectives. As such, a Stage 2 AA is therefore required to determine if adverse effects on the sites' integrity can be excluded in view of the relevant conservation objectives. Therefore, an NIS for the proposed project and has been undertaken in Section 10 to 14 of this report.

10. NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

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This NIS has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the above stated legislation (Section 3), providing information to enable the competent authority to perform its statutory function to undertake AA in respect of the proposed project. This NIS includes an examination and analysis of the best available scientific knowledge and field data to identify and assess the implications of the proposed project on any European sites in view of their conservation objectives. It also considers whether there are ex-situ implications for any European sites, for example from impacts which occur via downstream pathways at a remote but connected locations, or from impacts on populations of species located outside of European sites, or from impacts on ex-situ supporting habitats. It considers whether the proposed project, by itself and/or in-combination with other plans or projects, could adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. In reaching a conclusion in this regard, consideration has been given to any mitigation measures necessary to avoid or reduce any potential adverse effects.

10.1 DESCRIPTION OF EUROPEAN SITES AND ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

10.1.1 River Moy SAC

The proposed project overlaps with the boundary of this SAC, in the location of the Crossmolina permanent works area, where a bridge structure is proposed for construction over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. This SAC comprises almost the entire freshwater element of the River Moy and its tributaries including both Loughs Conn and Cullin, and is located in Counties Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon (NPWS, 2020).

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510];
- 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]; and
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355].

The above QIs and their conservation objectives are further assessed in Table 10.1 below.

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Table 10.1: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for River Moy SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510]	A review of the site's conservation objectives document indicates that the extent of this habitat has not been mapped in detail for the River Moy SAC. However, it has been noted that the site is one of the most important in the country for the habitat 'lowland hay meadow'. Just over 9ha of the habitat were recorded by the Grassland Monitoring Survey (2015-2017) within the River Moy SAC, with significant areas found adjacent also. Based on the results of the Grassland Monitoring Survey (2015-2017)[26], this habitat is largely confined to the southeast of the SAC (to the south of Foxford Co. Mayo).	Not defined	No - this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest known areas of this habitat are located in Foxford, approximately 14.5km south of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Active raised bogs [7110]	There are five raised bogs listed for the river Moy SAC including those at Kilgarriff, Gowlaun, Derrynabrock, Tawnaghbeg and Cloongoonagh. The total area of Active Raised Bog (ARB) habitat for these five bogs was mapped at 45.3ha. ARB occurs on most of the bogs in the River Moy SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest mapped area of this habitat is at Cloongoonagh Bog, approximately 20.5km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Areas of Degraded Raised Bog (DRB) on the High Bog (HB) has been modelled as 152.4ha. However, it is estimated that only 82.1ha is potentially restorable to ARB by drain blocking. DRB occurs on all five bogs in the river Moy SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest mapped area of this habitat is at Cloongoonagh Bog, approximately 20.5km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.

[26] https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0cdebbb63005462192ef12d8a167431b (Accessed January 2026)

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Depressions on the bogs, pool edges and erosion channels, where the vegetation is dominated by white beaked-sedge comprise the habitat 'Rhynchosporion vegetation'. Associated species in this habitat at the site include bog asphodel, sundews, deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and carnation sedge. Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion is an integral part of good quality Active raised bogs (7110) and thus a separate conservation objective has not been set for the habitat in River Moy SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest mapped area of this habitat is at Cloongoonagh Bog, approximately 20.5km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Alkaline fens [7230]	The full extent of this habitat within the SAC is unknown. An extensive area is known to occur as part of a wetland complex on the Glore River, northwest of Ballyhaunis but there are likely to be other areas present in the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – although the full extent of this habitat is not mapped within the SAC, field surveys carried out for this assessment confirmed that this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]	Old sessile oak woods are likely to occur as mosaics with other woodland types and the total extent within the SAC is unknown. The main location of this woodland type in the SAC is Pontoon Woods, of which 106.3ha was mapped as this Annex I habitat type (or mosaics containing it). Further areas are likely to be present within the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – although the full extent of this habitat is not known within the SAC, field surveys carried out for this assessment confirmed that this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest mapped area of this habitat approximately 13km south of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0]	Total extent of this habitat within the SAC is unknown and it may occur in mosaics with other woodland types. Two sites within the SAC were surveyed as part of the National Survey of Native Woodlands (NSNW) (Perrin	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – although the full extent of this habitat is not known within the SAC, field surveys carried out for this assessment confirmed that this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest mapped area of this habitat approximately 3km south of the proposed project.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
	et al., 2008)[27], these woods occur at Prospect on the western shore of Lough Conn. There are also likely to be additional areas of this Annex I woodland type within the SAC.		This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	The site's conservation objectives document indicates the general distribution of white-clawed crayfish in the SAC is that it is widespread in the upper tributaries of the River Moy and the rivers which feed Loughs Conn and Cullin. It is absent from the main River Moy. The named tributaries that it is recorded from are the following: upstream of Lough Conn: River Deel and its tributaries of the Toreen River, Rathnamagh River and Rappa Stream; Fiddaunglass; Addergoole River. Upstream of Lough Cullin: Tobergal River; Clydagh; tributaries of the Toormore and Manulla Rivers. Moy tributaries: Gweestion River; tributaries of the Pollagh, Glore, Yellow and Geestaun Rivers; Killeen River; Spaddagh River; Sonnagh River; Owenaher River; Owengarve River.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is physical and hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable white-clawed crayfish habitat. EDNA surveys carried out for this assessment confirmed the presence of this species in the location of the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. *Habitat loss* There will be no instream works associated with the construction of the proposed project, therefore there is no potential for direct habitat loss effects on white-clawed crayfish. The roots associated with the riparian gallery may provide refuge habitat for white-clawed crayfish. Therefore, the removal of approximately 15m of bankside treeline habitat along the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may reduce the availability of this habitat for white-clawed crayfish. However, habitat loss at the site of the proposed bridge structure will represent a small proportion of the bankside and riparian vegetation in the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body, and the wider catchment in the River Moy SAC, Therefore, terrestrial habitat loss associated with the construction of the proposed project is not predicted to result in any likely significant negative effects on the conservation status of white-clawed crayfish. *Disturbance* There will be no instream works or lighting associated with the construction or operational phases of the bridge structure associated

[27] Perrin, P., Martin, J., Barron, S., O'Neill, F., McNutt, K. & Delaney, A. (2008) National Survey of Native Woodlands, 2003-2008. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			with the proposed project. White-clawed crayfish are unlikely to detect the presence of airborne sound as they are not equipped with air-filled cavities and compressible tissue, which are required to detect pressure in water, but they are responsive to particle motion arising from vibrations (El-Dairi *et al.* 2024). However, noise and vibration are not listed as principal threats to white-clawed crayfish in Ireland (Reynolds, 1998). Therefore, disturbance associated with the construction phase of the proposed project is not predicted to result in likely significant negative effects on white-clawed crayfish. *Water quality* White-clawed crayfish are vulnerable to pollution and sedimentation (Reynolds *et al.*, 2010), therefore, there is potential for impacts arising from degradation of water quality on downstream populations of this species, and thus likely significant effects.
Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	This SAC only covers the freshwater portion of the River Moy. The Sea Lamprey is regularly encountered in the lower stretches of the river around Ballina.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable sea lamprey habitat. Although EDNA surveys carried out for this assessment did not confirm the presence of this species in the vicinity of the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area, the SSCO document notes the presence of this species in the Ballina area. *Habitat loss* There will be no instream works associated with the construction of the proposed project, therefore there is no potential for direct loss of breeding or commuting habitat for sea lamprey. The roots associated with the riparian gallery may provide refuge habitat for fish species. Therefore, the removal of approximately 15m of hedgerow habitat along the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may reduce the availability of this habitat for fish. However, habitat loss at the site of the proposed bridge structure will represent a small proportion of the bankside and riparian vegetation in the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body, and the wider catchment in the River Moy SAC, Therefore,

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			terrestrial habitat loss associated with the construction of the proposed project is not predicted to result in likely significant negative effects on the conservation status of sea lamprey. *Disturbance* There will be no instream works or lighting associated with the construction or operational phases of the bridge structure associated with the proposed project. However, anthropogenic airborne noise and vibration associated with the installation of the proposed bridge structure over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may cause disturbance and avoidance effects on fish. Piling of foundations adjacent to and the installation of a precast bridge is proposed over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body. The piling of foundations adjacent to the watercourse will generate vibration in the substrate, which has the potential to be transmitted to the riverbed and watercourse itself. The calculation of this is extremely complex. However, the potential impact is related to the distance from the watercourse, and it is considered that the setback distance (9-10m) is far enough away to not contribute any detectable vibration in the substrate, much less any level that could lead to injury or disturbance to fish, or damage to nests or redds. In relation to airborne noise, associated disturbance impacts are considered to be unlikely given that surface water poorly transmits sound from air to water. Airborne noise has a limited direct effect on fish because the water surface poorly transmits sound from air to water. Water is a denser, less compressible medium, which affects how sound propagates and is measured. The large difference in acoustic impedance between air and water causes. *Water quality* There is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which could negatively affect this species within the SAC.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			Maitland (2003) notes that the critical freshwater habitat requirements of lamprey relate to the availability of clean spawning gravels and nursery silts. There is therefore potential for impact on this species, and thus likely significant effects.
Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	The exact distribution of brook lamprey has not been mapped within this SAC. But the species is likely to utilise all freshwater areas of the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is physical and hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable brook lamprey habitat. EDNA surveys carried out for this assessment confirmed the presence of this species in the location of the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River and the Abbeytown_010 Stream. *Habitat loss* There will be no instream works associated with the construction of the proposed project, therefore there is no potential for direct loss of breeding or commuting habitat for brook lamprey. The roots associated with the riparian gallery may provide refuge habitat for fish species. Therefore, the removal of approximately 15m of hedgerow habitat along the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may reduce the availability of this habitat for fish. However, habitat loss at the site of the proposed bridge structure will represent a small proportion of the bankside and riparian vegetation in the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body, and the wider catchment in the River Moy SAC, Therefore, terrestrial habitat loss associated with the construction of the proposed project is not predicted to result in likely significant negative effects on the conservation status of brook lamprey. *Disturbance* There will be no instream works or lighting associated with the construction or operational phases of the bridge structure associated with the proposed project. However, anthropogenic airborne noise and vibration associated with the construction of the proposed bridge

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			structure over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may cause disturbance and avoidance effects on fish. Piling of foundations and the installation of a precast bridge is proposed over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body. The piling of foundations adjacent to the watercourse will generate vibration in the substrate, which has the potential to be transmitted to the riverbed and watercourse itself. The calculation of this is extremely complex. However, the potential impact is related to the distance from the watercourse, and it is considered that the setback distance (9-10m) is far enough away to not contribute any detectable vibration in the substrate, much less any level that could lead to injury or disturbance to fish, or damage to nests or redds. In relation to airborne noise, associated disturbance impacts are considered to be unlikely given that surface water poorly transmits sound from air to water. Airborne noise has a limited direct effect on fish because the water surface poorly transmits sound from air to water. Water is a denser, less compressible medium, which affects how sound propagates and is measured. The large difference in acoustic impedance between air and water causes. *Water quality* There is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which could negatively affect this species within the SAC. Maitland (2003) notes that the critical freshwater habitat requirements of lamprey relate to the availability of clean spawning gravels and nursery silts. There is therefore potential for impact on this species, and thus likely significant effects.
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	The exact distribution of salmon has not been mapped within this SAC. But the species is likely to utilise all freshwater areas of the SAC.	To maintain the favourable	**Yes** – there is physical and hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable salmon habitat. EDNA surveys carried out for this assessment confirmed the presence of this species in the location of the

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
		conservation condition	proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River and the Abbeytown_010 Stream. *Habitat loss* There will be no instream works associated with the construction of the proposed project, therefore there is no potential for direct loss of breeding or commuting habitat for Atlantic salmon. The roots associated with the riparian gallery may provide refuge habitat for fish species. Therefore, the removal of approximately 15m of hedgerow habitat along the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may reduce the availability of this habitat for fish. However, habitat loss at the site of the proposed bridge structure will represent a small proportion of the bankside and riparian vegetation in the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body, and the wider catchment in the River Moy SAC, Therefore, terrestrial habitat loss associated with the construction of the proposed project is not predicted to result in likely significant negative effects on the conservation status of Atlantic salmon. *Disturbance* There will be no in-stream works or lighting associated with the construction or operational phases of the bridge structure associated with the proposed project. However, anthropogenic airborne noise and vibration associated with the construction of the proposed bridge structure over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body may cause disturbance and avoidance effects on fish. Piling of foundations and the installation of a precast bridge is proposed over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 water body. The piling of foundations adjacent to the watercourse will generate vibration in the substrate, which has the potential to be transmitted to the riverbed and watercourse itself. The calculation of this is extremely complex. However, the potential impact is related to the distance from the

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			watercourse, and it is considered that the setback distance (9-10m) is far enough away to not contribute any detectable vibration in the substrate, much less any level that could lead to injury or disturbance to fish, or damage to nests or redds. In relation to airborne noise, associated disturbance impacts are considered to be unlikely given that surface water poorly transmits sound from air to water. Airborne noise has a limited direct effect on fish because the water surface poorly transmits sound from air to water. Water is a denser, less compressible medium, which affects how sound propagates and is measured. The large difference in acoustic impedance between air and water causes. *Water quality* The degradation of water quality and the increase in sedimentation could negatively affect Atlantic salmon by degrading suitable spawning habitats, consequently reducing the carrying capacity of salmon within the watercourse. In addition, the prolonged sedimentation of a watercourse has the potential to inhibit fish passage restricting salmon from reaching important spawning sites. A degradation of water quality, a decrease in suitable spawning habitats and impediments to migration would all negatively impact the designated population of Atlantic salmon within the SAC. There is therefore potential for likely significant effects on this species.
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	The current range of otter in the SAC is estimated at 93.6%. This covers 10m terrestrial buffer, identified as critical for otters, along rivers and around water bodies and a foraging area within 80m of the shoreline, based on evidence that otters tend to forage within this limit.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – it is likely that otter are present throughout the River Moy SAC, including in the vicinity of the proposed project. Field surveys recorded a disused otter holt approximately 45m from the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. *Habitat loss*

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for likely significant effects on this species as a result of holt/habitat loss during the construction phase. *Disturbance* The construction works associated with the proposed bridge structure have the potential to result in disturbance to otter. Construction works will be undertaken during normal daylight working hours, and no construction phase lighting is proposed. Therefore, given that otter are generally nocturnal in habit and given that otter can (in many circumstances) tolerate high levels of human presence and disturbance (Bailey & Rochford, 2006), displacement of otter from their habitat is unlikely to result in likely significant effects. There is no lighting proposed in the vicinity of the proposed bridge structure during the construction or operational phase of the proposed project however, additional traffic noise and lighting during operation could result in temporary disturbance effects on the local otter population until they become habituated to the new traffic levels. This will not result in likely significant effects on the conservation status of the QI population of otter. *Water quality* A degradation in water quality can impact fish and aquatic species, which are a feeding resource of otter. Impacts to the feeding resources of otter can negatively impact the local population of otter within the SAC. There is therefore potential for indirect impacts to this species, and thus likely significant effects. *Mortality* Potential direct impacts could include risk of mortality or injury associated with construction activities. However, given that otter are highly mobile species and construction works will occur during the

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			daytime, construction works are unlikely to result in a level of mortality that would affect the species' conservation status and therefore are not predicted to result in a likely significant negative effect. The operational stage of the proposed project will introduce large volumes of new traffic to the Crossmolina permanent works area over a period of approximately two months (POI 62-68), which was previously an agricultural environment. This new traffic could result in collisions of vehicles with otter, as turbine deliveries will occur overnight, when otter are most active. In the absence of mitigation, this has the potential to result in mortality effects on otter.

10.1.2 Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC

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This SAC is located north of Ballina town, where the River Moy flows to the sea via a long, narrow estuarine channel. After approximately 8km, the estuary widens to form a north-facing triangular bay, with the towns of Inishcrone (Co. Sligo) and Killala (Co. Mayo) situated on the eastern and western shores, respectively. The estuary itself forms the county boundary along its northern part. A long sandy island (Bartragh Island) separates the south-western side of the bay from the open water. Much of the inner part of the bay is intertidal (NPWS, 2015).

The proposed project overlaps slightly with the boundary of this SAC at PoI 49 at the southernmost point along the N59 Sligo Road in Ballina.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Estuaries [1130];
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];
- Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210];
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230];
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310];
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330];
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110];
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120];
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130];
- Humid dune slacks [2190];
- *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014];
- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]; and
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365].

The above QIs and their conservation objectives are further assessed in Table 10.2 below.

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Table 10.2: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Estuaries [1130]	The habitat area is estimated as 736ha in this SAC. This habitat is intertidal and is present throughout the majority of the SAC, as far south as Ballina town.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 160m north of the proposed project, at POI 49. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The habitat area is estimated as 1,332ha in this SAC. This habitat is intertidal and is present throughout the SAC, as far south as Ballina town.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 700m north of the proposed project, at POI 49. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	This habitat is not accurately mapped in the site's conservation objectives document due to its dynamic nature. This habitat has only been recorded on Bartragh Island.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. Although the extent of this habitat has not been mapped accurately within the SAC, it has only been recorded on Bartragh Island, approximately 9.5km north of the proposed project, at POI 49. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	A review of the site's conservation objectives document indicates that the extent of this habitat has not been mapped in detail for the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No - this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The extent of this habitat has not been mapped within the SAC, however, it is not likely to be present within 7km of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	This habitat is present in three locations within this SAC, at the Ross, Bartragh Island and Inishcrone sub-sites.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 11km north of the proposed project, at POI 49. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]	This habitat is present in four locations within this SAC, at the Bartragh Island, Ross, Rusheens and Castleconor.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 7km north of the proposed project, at POI 49. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	This habitat is present in three locations within this SAC, at the Ross, Bartragh Island and Inishcrone sub-sites.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is on Bartragh Island, approximately 9.5km north of the proposed project, at POI 49. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	This habitat is present in three locations within this SAC, at the Ross, Bartragh Island and Inishcrone sub-sites.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is on Bartragh Island, approximately 9.5km north of the proposed project, at POI 49. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	This habitat is present in three locations within this SAC, at the Ross, Bartragh Island and Inishcrone sub-sites.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is on Bartragh Island, approximately 9.5km north of the proposed project, at POI 49.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Humid dune slacks [2190]	This habitat is present in two locations within this SAC, at the Bartragh Island and Ross sub-sites.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is on Bartragh Island, approximately 9.5km north of the proposed project, at POI 49. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	This species requires marsh habitat, and there is one known site for this species in the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – there is no suitable marsh habitat for this species in the vicinity of the proposed project, the only known location for this species in this SAC is approximately 4.5km north of POI 49. There are no works associated with the proposed project that could result in effects on this terrestrial species. This species is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	This SAC only covers the estuarine portion of the River Moy. There is important juvenile habitat immediately downstream of Ballina.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable sea lamprey habitat. The conservation objectives document notes the presence of this species in the Ballina area. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may negatively impact this species within the SAC. Maitland (2003) notes that the critical freshwater habitat requirements of lamprey relate to the availability of clean spawning gravels and nursery silts. There is therefore potential for impact on this species, and thus likely significant effects.
Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	This marine species is present within this SAC. There are breeding, moulting and resting haul-out sites within this SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable habitat for harbour seals. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may results in likely significant effects on this species within the SAC.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			The works associated with the TDR will occur at the southernmost point of the SAC, at the Bunree Bridge and involve tree trimming. It is not considered that there is any potential for likely significant disturbance effects on harbour seals as a result of the proposed project.

10.1.3 Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA

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This large SPA site comprises the estuary of the River Moy and the inner part of Killala Bay, including Lackan Bay and Rathfran Bay, in counties Mayo and Sligo. It is a funnel-shaped estuary, approximately 7 km wide at its outer limit. It is very well sheltered by a sandy island, Bartragh, and by a sandy peninsula that extends from Enniscrone on the eastern side. Extensive intertidal sand and mud flats are exposed at low tide. For the most part, these flats are unvegetated, but mats of eelgrass (*Zostera* spp.), beaked tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*) and green algae (*Ulva* spp.) occur, which provide important feeding material for waterfowl species. The site is very important for wintering waterfowl and provides excellent feeding grounds for the birds, as well as high-tide roosts. Eight species have populations of national importance.

The SPA is designated for nine SCI species and habitat which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below:

- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137];
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140];
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141];
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144];
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149];
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157];
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160];
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

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Table 10.3: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of ringed plover. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of golden plover. The species is relatively restricted to known roosting sites within SPA, largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of grey plover. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of sanderling. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of dunlin. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.

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Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of bar-tailed godwit. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of curlew. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of redshank. The species is relatively widespread through the entire SPA but feeds largely on the intertidal habitat.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 3,204ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. The wetland habitats can be categorised into three broad types: subtidal; intertidal; and supratidal.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Glenree_030 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect wetland habitat associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.

10.1.4 Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA

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Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are situated in north Co. Mayo and are connected by a narrow inlet near Pontoon. The main inflowing rivers to Lough Conn are the Deel, the Addergoole and the Castlehill while the main outflowing river from Lough Cullin is the River Moy. The lakes have a number of small islands. Fringing swamp vegetation occurs in some sheltered areas. Both Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are part of an important salmonid fishery. Lough Conn and Lough Cullin is of importance for wintering waterfowl, with nationally important populations recorded.

The SPA is designated for five SCI species and habitat which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below:

- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061];
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065];
- Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182];
- Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

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Table 10.4: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of Tufted Duck. The exact locations of these populations has not been mapped, but likely to occur throughout the lake habitats.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes -** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants and result in likely significant effects.
Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are one of only four breeding sites in the country for Common Scoter, which in Ireland is at the south-west end of its European range. A survey in 1995 recorded 31 pairs, however, a survey in 1999 gave a total of 30 birds for both lakes, comprising 5 pairs, 18 unpaired males and 2 unpaired females. The exact locations of these nest sites have not been mapped.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	**Yes -** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants and result in likely significant effects.
Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	Lough Conn is a traditional breeding site for gulls and terns. In 1977, black-headed Gull (approximately 1,000 individuals) and common gull (70 individuals) were recorded. A recent survey in 2000 recorded 40 pairs of common gull and ten pairs of lesser black-backed gull. The common gull colony is of national importance.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes -** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants and result in likely significant effects.
Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]	Lough Conn is utilised by a population of Greenland white-fronted goose (123 - five year mean peak for the flock during the period 1994/95 to 1998/99). The geese feed mainly on Annagh Island and at a shoreline site near Cloonaghmore Point.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	**Yes -** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants and result in likely significant effects.

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Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The extent of wetland habitat has not been mapped as part of the conservation objectives for this SPA. But the lakes have a number of small islands. Fringing swamp vegetation occurs in some sheltered areas.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes -** The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA due to a reduction in habitat quality and direct contact with pollutants and result in likely significant effects.

10.1.5 Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC

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Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC is a large peatland site in Co. Mayo, situated on a low-lying undulating plain and consisting of two large areas separated by an area of forestry. The larger of the two areas extends from south of Bellacorick eastwards, southeastwards and then north to Doobehy. The smaller area is situated 6km south-east of Glenamoy and extends south to 3km north of Bellacorick and east towards Doobehy. The proposed project runs through this SAC, along the existing N59 road.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160];
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010];
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130];
- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150];
- Alkaline fens [7230];
- *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]; and
- *Saxifraga hirculus* (Marsh Saxifrage) [1528].

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Table 10.5: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	This habitat is widespread and is likely to occur in all pools and lakes within the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No– this habitat is mapped within 50m of POI 73 of the proposed project. However, loads will oversail this area and no physical works or activities are proposed at POI 73. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	This habitat has not been mapped in detail within this SAC; however, it is estimated to be approximately 187ha, covering 2% of the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – a degraded form of this habitat is present adjacent to the proposed project at POI 75. However, loads will oversail this area and no physical works or activities are proposed on this habitat type. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	This habitat has not been mapped in detail within this SAC; however, it is estimated to be approximately 6,286ha, covering 66% of the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat was not recorded in the vicinity of the proposed project during field surveys. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	This habitat occurs within blanket bog habitat and its extent throughout the SAC is unknown.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat was not recorded in the vicinity of the proposed project during field surveys. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Alkaline fens [7230]	This habitat has not been mapped in detail within this SAC; however it is documented to occur throughout the SAC, and particularly along the eastern margin.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat was not recorded in the vicinity of the proposed project during field surveys. Although this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality, the surface water network generally drains from the SAC towards the N59 road, therefore, it is considered that alkaline fen habitat associated with the SAC is upstream of the proposed project.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	This species requires particular fen and flush habitats and has been recorded within three discreet locations throughout the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – there is no suitable fen or flush habitat for this species in the vicinity of the proposed project. The only known location for this species in this SAC is approximately 4km west of the closest proposed works. There are no works associated with the proposed project that could result in effects on this terrestrial species. This species is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Saxifraga hirculus (Marsh Saxifrage) [1528]	Populations of this species are known in five flushes within the SAC. The locations of this species are not mapped within the conservation objectives document.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – there is no suitable flush habitat present in the vicinity of the proposed project. This species is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant efects.

10.1.6 Ballysadare Bay SAC

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Ballysadare Bay SAC extends for about 10km westwards from the town of Ballysadare, Co. Sligo, and is the most southerly of three inlets of the larger Sligo Bay. The estuarine channel of the Ballysadare River winds its way through the bay, finally reaching the open sea near the spit at Strandhill dunes.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Estuaries [1130];
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110];
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120];
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130];
- Humid dune slacks [2190];
- *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]; and
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365].

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Table 10.6: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Ballysadare Bay SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Estuaries [1130]	The habitat area estimated as 1,703ha using OSi data and the defined Transitional Water Body area under the Water Framework Directive in this SAC. This habitat is intertidal and is present throughout the majority of the SAC, as far south as Ballysadare town.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 45m north of the proposed project. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The habitat area is estimated as 1,345ha in this SAC. This habitat is intertidal and is present throughout the SAC, as far south as Ballysadare town.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 45m north of the proposed project. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	This habitat is present in one location within this SAC - Strandhill.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 8.2km north-west of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	This habitat is mapped in one location within this SAC - Strandhill, giving a total estimated area of 5.47ha. However, this habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 8.2km north-west of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	This habitat is mapped in one location within this SAC - Strandhill, giving a total estimated area of 56.07ha.	To restore the favourable	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 8.2km north-west of the proposed project.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
		conservation condition	This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Humid dune slacks [2190]	This habitat is mapped in one location within this SAC - Strandhill, giving a total estimated area of 1.83ha.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 8.5km north-west of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	This species requires marsh habitat, and there is one known site for this species in the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – there is no suitable marsh habitat for this species in the vicinity of the proposed project. The only known location for this species in this SAC is approximately 8.2km north-west. There are no works associated with the proposed project that could result in effects on this terrestrial species. This species is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	This marine species is present within this SAC. There are breeding, moulting and resting haul-out sites within this SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable habitat for harbour seals. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this species within the SAC.

10.1.7 Unshin River SAC

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The proposed project is located adjacent to the boundary of this SAC at POI 39. As such physical connectivity exists between the proposed project and this SAC. The works proposed at POI 39 are minor traffic management works to be carried out on buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat and therefore, there will be no habitat loss as a result of the proposed project. The Unshin River runs from Lough Arrow north to Ballysadare Bay, Co. Sligo. The river is largely undrained and unaltered along much of its course. The marginal vegetation associated with the river is also included in the site, along with other semi-natural habitats adjacent to the river. Other watercourses included within the site are the Owenboy/Owenbeg and a number of smaller tributaries.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260];
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210];
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410];
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0];
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]; and
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355].

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Table 10.7: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Unshin River SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]	This habitat is present throughout the entire extent of the Unshin River SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is adjacent to the proposed project at POI 39, where minor roadworks are proposed, and in the vicinity of POI 36 (120m away), POI 37 (300m away), and POI 38 (70m away). Permanent works are proposed at POI 38 (Carricknagat). This habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	This habitat is present in some areas within this SAC, at Cloonmacduff. An area of 1.9ha of the habitat was mapped, however, it is noted that further unsurveyed areas of this habitat may be present within the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest known areas of this habitat are approximately 3.2km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]	This habitat is present in some areas within this SAC, at Cloonmacduff. An area of 4.88ha of the habitat was mapped, however, it is noted that further unsurveyed areas of this habitat may be present within the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest known areas of this habitat are approximately 3.2km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0]	This habitat is present in numerous small stands throughout the SAC. The minimum area of alluvial forests within the SAC is estimated to be 8.87ha, however, it is noted that further unsurveyed areas of this habitat may be present within the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest known area of this habitat is approximately 3.8km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	The exact distribution of salmon has not been mapped within this SAC. But the species is likely to utilise all freshwater areas of the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is physical and hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable salmon habitat. The degradation of water quality and the increase in sedimentation (for example, arising from rock-breaking works proposed at POI 38, 70m from the SAC) can negatively impact salmon by degrading suitable spawning habitats, consequently reducing the carrying capacity of salmon within the watercourse. In addition, the prolonged sedimentation of a watercourse has the potential to inhibit fish passage restricting salmon from reaching important spawning sites. A degradation of water quality, a decrease in suitable spawning habitats and impediments to migration would all negatively impact the designated population of Atlantic salmon within the SAC. There is therefore potential for likely significant effects on this species.
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	The current range of otter in the SAC is estimated at 93.6%. This covers 10m terrestrial buffer, identified as critical for otters, along rivers and around water bodies.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – it is likely that otter are present throughout the Unshin River SAC, including in the vicinity of the proposed project. A degradation in water quality can impact fish and aquatic species, which are a feeding resource of otter. Impacts to the feeding resources of otter can negatively impact the local population of otter within the SAC. There is therefore potential for indirect impacts to this species, and thus likely significant effects. Although construction activities/works associated with the proposed project will occur in proximity to the Unshin River SAC at POIs 36-38, these are roadworks and will not directly impact otter holts or their foraging habitat. There are not likely to be mortality effects on otter during the operational phase of the proposed project as turbine deliveries will occur along the existing National N4 and N59 roads, and otter associated with the Unshin River SAC would be habituated to traffic in this area. Therefore,

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			there is no potential for likely significant disturbance or mortality effects on otter.

10.1.8 Ballysadare Bay SPA

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Ballysadare Bay SPA extends for approximately 10km westwards from the town of Ballysadare, Co. Sligo. It is the most southerly of three inlets that form the eastern part of the larger Sligo Bay 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. The bay contains extensive intertidal sand and mudflats. The flats support good populations of macro-invertebrates which are important food items for wintering waterfowl.

The SPA is designated for six SCI species and habitat which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below:

- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046];
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141];
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149];
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157];
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

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Table 10.8: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Ballysadare Bay SPA and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	The site supports internationally important wintering populations of light-bellied brent goose.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of grey plover.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of dunlin.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of bar-tailed godwit.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of redshank.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI species associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.

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Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 2,130ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Ballysodare_010 River. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could affect SCI habitat associated with this SPA and result in likely significant effects.

10.1.9 Lough Melvin SAC

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Lough Melvin SAC is situated in the extreme north-west of Co. Leitrim, about 4km south of Bundoran. The proposed project is located within 50m of the boundary of this SAC, in the vicinity of the Drowes_010 River, an outflowing river associated with Lough Melvin, near where it meets Donegal Bay.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130];
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410];
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]; and
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355].

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Table 10.9: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Lough Melvin SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]	This habitat occurs in clear-water lakes of intermediate alkalinity and is found in Lough Melvin.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is located approximately 5.2km south-east of the proposed project and is upstream of any proposed works. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]	This habitat is present in two areas within this SAC, at Gubalaun and Ross Point. An area of 1.35ha of the habitat was mapped, however, it is noted that further unsurveyed areas of this habitat may be present within the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest known areas of this habitat are approximately 2.3km south-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	The exact distribution of salmon has not been mapped within this SAC. But the species is likely to utilise all freshwater areas of the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is physical and hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable salmon habitat. The degradation of water quality and the increase in sedimentation can negatively impact salmon by degrading suitable spawning habitats, consequently reducing the carrying capacity of salmon within the watercourse. In addition, the prolonged sedimentation of a watercourse has the potential to inhibit fish passage restricting salmon from reaching important spawning sites. A degradation of water quality, a decrease in suitable spawning habitats and impediments to migration would all negatively impact the designated population of Atlantic salmon within the SAC. There is therefore potential for likely significant effects on this species.
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	The current range of otter in the SAC is estimated at 93.6%. This covers 10m terrestrial buffer, identified as critical for otters, along rivers and around water bodies and a foraging area within	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – it is likely that otter are present throughout the Lough Melvin SAC, including in the vicinity of the proposed project. A degradation in water quality can impact fish and aquatic species, which are a feeding resource of otter. Impacts to the feeding resources of otter

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
	80m of the shoreline, based on evidence that otters tend to forage within this limit.		can negatively impact the local population of otter within the SAC. There is therefore potential for indirect impacts to this species, and thus likely significant effects. Although construction activities associated with the proposed project will occur within 15m of the Lough Melvin SAC at POI 27, these are roadworks and will not directly impact otter holts or their foraging habitat. There are not likely to be disturbance or mortality effects on otter during the operational phase of the proposed project as turbine deliveries will occur along the existing National N15 road, and otter associated with the Lough Melvin SAC would be habituated to traffic in this area. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant disturbance or mortality effects on otter.

10.1.10 Donegal Bay SPA

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Donegal Bay SPA is a very large, marine-dominated, site. It extends from Doorin Point, to the west of Donegal Town, to Tullaghan Point in Co. Leitrim, a distance of approximately 15km along its north-east/south-west axis. It varies in width from about 3km to over 8km. The site includes the estuary of the River Eske, which flows through Donegal Town, and the estuary of the River Erne, which flows through Ballyshannon. Much of the shoreline is rocky or stony, with well-developed littoral reefs in places. There are also extensive stretches of sandy beaches, especially from the Murvagh peninsula southwards to Rossnowlagh and at the outer part of the estuary of the River Erne. Shingle or cobble beaches are also represented. There are extensive areas of intertidal flats associated with the estuary of the River Eske, reflecting the very sheltered conditions in this part of the bay. Salt marshes are found in the sheltered conditions of the innermost part of the bay. A number of small, grassy, islands occur in the innermost part of the bay. The waters of the shallow bay overlie mostly sandy substrates, though reefs occur in places.

The SPA is designated for five SCI species and habitat which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below:

- Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003];
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046];
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065];
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

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Table 10.10: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay SPA and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003]	The site supports internationally important wintering populations of great northern diver and is consistently one of the top sites in the country for this species.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Drowes_010, Bradogue_020, Abbey_010, Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could result in likely significant effects on this SCI species associated with this SPA.
Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	The site supports internationally important wintering populations of light-bellied brent goose.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Drowes_010, Bradogue_020, Abbey_010, Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could result in likely significant effects on this SCI species associated with this SPA.
Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of common scoter.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Drowes_010, Bradogue_020, Abbey_010, Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could result in likely significant effects on this SCI species associated with this SPA.
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]	The site supports nationally important wintering populations of sanderling.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Drowes_010, Bradogue_020, Abbey_010, Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could result in likely significant effects on this SCI species associated with this SPA.
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 10,461ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – The proposed project is hydrologically connected to this SPA via the Drowes_010, Bradogue_020, Abbey_010, Clarcarricknagun_010, Eske_020 and Leitrim Hill Stream_010 watercourses. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality in this SPA. This could result in likely significant effects on this SCI habitat associated with this SPA.

10.1.11 Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC

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This SAC occupies the inner part of Donegal Bay, immediately to the south-west of Donegal Town. It contains the estuary of the River Eske and a number of other significant rivers. Most of the site consists of intertidal habitats, notably mud- and sandflats, sea inlets and bays, tidal rivers, estuarine channels and sandy beaches. These areas are generally unvegetated but are obviously nutrient-rich, as extensive beds of shellfish occur in parts of the bay.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130];
- Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170];
- Humid dune slacks [2190]; and
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365].

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Table 10.11: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The habitat area is estimated as 1,069ha in this SAC. This habitat is intertidal and is present throughout the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 300m from the proposed project. However, this habitat is sensitive to changes in water quality. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this habitat.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	This habitat is mapped in two locations within this SAC - Mullanasole and Mountcharles, giving a total estimated area of 27.01ha.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 3.8km west. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170]	This habitat is mapped in one location within this SAC - Mullanasole.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 4.5km west. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Humid dune slacks [2190]	This habitat is mapped in one location within this SAC - Mullanasole, giving a total estimated area of 0.12ha.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is not located within or adjacent to the proposed project. The nearest area of this habitat is approximately 4.5km west. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	This marine species is present within this SAC. There are breeding, moulting and resting haul-out sites within this SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable habitat for harbour seals. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this species within the SAC. The works associated with the TDR will not result in any potential for likely significant disturbance effects on harbour seals as a result of the proposed project.

10.1.12 Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC

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Lough Eske is a large lowland oligotrophic lake. It lies approximately 5km northeast of Donegal town. The SAC also includes the River Eske and short stretches of the Lowerymore, Clogher and Drummenny Rivers, as well as a number of smaller tributaries.

This SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are listed and discussed in relation to the proposed project below (* indicates priority habitat):

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110];
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220];
- Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0];
- *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029];
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]; and
- *Vandenboschia speciosa* (Killarney Fern) [6985].

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Table 10.12: Qualifying Interests, Extent of Habitat and Conservation Objectives for Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC and Potential for Likely Significant Effects

Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]	This habitat occurs in Lough Eske.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	No – this habitat is located approximately 5km northeast of the proposed project and is upstream of any proposed works. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220]	The habitat Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* has not been surveyed in detail in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC and thus the exact total area of the qualifying priority habitat in the SAC is currently unknown.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – the nearest known area of this habitat is approximately 6.2km upstream of the proposed project. The works proposed in the vicinity of this SAC are minor tree trimming and roadworks at POIs 21 - 23. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles is present at Ardnamona Wood in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC. however, it is noted that further unsurveyed areas of this habitat may be present within the SAC.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – this is a terrestrial habitat and is located approximately 5.4km north-east of the proposed project. This habitat is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.
Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Mussels are distributed throughout the River Eske from Lough Eske to the estuary.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to the River Eske (Eske_020) which is noted to have this species present. Therefore, there is potential for the proposed project to give rise to water quality impacts which may result in likely significant effects on this species within the SAC.
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	The exact distribution of salmon has not been mapped within this SAC. But the species is likely to utilise all freshwater areas of the SAC.	To restore the favourable conservation condition	**Yes** – there is physical and hydrological connectivity of the proposed project to suitable salmon habitat. The degradation of water quality and the increase in sedimentation can negatively impact salmon by degrading suitable

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Qualifying Interests (*indicates a priority habitat)	Extent of Habitat & Closest Proximity	Conservation Objective	Pathway & Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			spawning habitats, consequently reducing the carrying capacity of salmon within the watercourse. In addition, the prolonged sedimentation of a watercourse has the potential to inhibit fish passage restricting salmon from reaching important spawning sites. A degradation of water quality, a decrease in suitable spawning habitats and impediments to migration would all negatively impact the designated population of Atlantic salmon within the SAC. There is therefore potential for likely significant effects on this species.
Vandenboschia speciosa (Killarney Fern) [6985]	The population of Killarney fern is currently known from locations in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC within hectad G98.	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No – this species grows in deeply shaded, humid habitats. There is no suitable habitat for this terrestrial species in the vicinity of the proposed project. This species is therefore outside the ZoI and there is no potential for likely significant effects.

11. ASSESSMENT OF ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SITE INTEGRITY

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It has been determined, in the absence of appropriate mitigation, the proposed project has the potential for impacts on the following QIs/SCIs of 12 European sites. These European sites and the relevant QIs/SCIs are outlined below:

River Moy SAC

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

Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC

- Estuaries [1130];
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310];
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330];
- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]; and
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365].

Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA

- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137];
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140];
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141];
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144];
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149];
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157];
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160];
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA

- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061];
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065];
- Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182];
- Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

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Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC

- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160].

Ballysadare Bay SAC

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

Unshin River SAC

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260];
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]; and
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355].

Ballysadare Bay SPA

- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046];
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141];
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149];
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157];
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

Lough Melvin SAC

- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]; and
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355].

Donegal Bay SPA

- Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003];
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046];
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065];
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]; and
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; and
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365].

Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC

- *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]; and
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106].

11.1 Conservation Objectives of the Relevant European Sites

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European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain or restore habitats and species in the Natura 2000 Network to favourable conservation condition. Ireland has determined conservation objectives for European sites, which define favourable conservation condition for habitats and species protected under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

Site-specific conservation objectives have been set by the NPWS for each of the listed QIs/SCIs.

"A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site. The maintenance of habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level".

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.

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.

An assessment of whether the potential impacts, identified in Section 10, could adversely affect the integrity of the relevant European sites was undertaken in relation to the attributes, measures and targets that would be expected to define the favourable conservation condition of the QIs of the SAC. This assessment is presented in Table 11.1 to Table 11.12 below.

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11.1.1 River Moy SAC

Table 11.1: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the River Moy SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1092] White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*			
Distribution	Occurrence	No reduction from baseline.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the number of berried females, and distribution hatchlings and juvenile and adult abundance, within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable water quality and clean gravel habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for White clawed crayfish. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Population structure: recruitment	Occurrence of juveniles and females with eggs	Juveniles and/or females with eggs in all occupied tributaries.	
Negative indicator species	Occurrence	No alien crayfish species.	There will be no instream construction works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, with the potential to introduce alien crayfish species and/or disease. However, there is potential for the spread of Japanese knotweed along the banks of the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River. Therefore, there is potential for an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Disease	Occurrence	No instances of disease.	
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q3-4 at all sites sampled by EPA.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC. The degradation of water quality due to the proposed project could prevent the watercourse from achieving Q3-4 water quality status. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Habitat quality: heterogeneity	Occurrence of positive habitat features	No decline in heterogeneity or habitat quality.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to result in the decline of positive habitat features within this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

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[1095] Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*			
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	Greater than 75% of main stem length of rivers accessible from estuary.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups present.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the population structure of juveniles, juvenile density in fine sediment, extent of spawning habitat and availability of juvenile habitat within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for sea lamprey. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m²	Mean catchment juvenile density at least 1/m².	
Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m² and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds.	
Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 3rd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive.	
[1096] Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*			
Distribution	Percentage of river accessible	Access to all watercourses down to first order streams.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups of brook/river lamprey present.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the population structure of juveniles, juvenile density in fine sediment, extent of spawning habitat and availability of juvenile habitat within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for brook lamprey. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m²	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m².	
Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m² and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds.	

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Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 2nd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive.	
[1106] Salmon *Salmo salar*			
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Adult spawning fish	Number	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded.	The River Moy is currently above its CL with a forecasted surplus above the required CL for 2025 advice (TEGOS, 2025). However, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and habitat, which could result in impacts on the CL of the River Moy SAC. A decrease in adult spawning fish would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5 minutes sampling.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the number of adult spawning fish, salmon fry and out-migrating smolt abundance, number and distribution of redds within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for Atlantic salmon. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline.	
Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes.	
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC. The degradation of water quality due to the proposed project could prevent the watercourse from achieving Q4 water quality status.

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			A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
[1355] Otter *Lutra lutra*			
Distribution	Percentage positive survey sites	No significant decline.	The proposed project may result in the disturbance of otter due to the presence of onsite vehicles and construction works associated with the proposed project. However, considering there are no instream construction works proposed, the works will take place during daylight hours (and as such no temporary lighting will be required during the works), the proposed works are not expected to cause significant disturbance to otter. During the operational phase, there will be a new bridge structure over the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 which will introduce traffic disturbance in an area which was previously agricultural in nature. Although there is no lighting proposed at the bridge location during the operational phase, additional traffic noise and lighting could result in temporary disturbance effects on the local otter population until they become habituated to the new traffic levels. However, otter are known to be relatively tolerant of disturbance (Bailey and Rochford, 2006) and are generally more active at night, this temporary disturbance would not be considered to have an adverse effect on the distribution of otter within the SAC. The operational phase of the proposed project will introduce large volumes of new traffic to the Crossmolina permanent works area over a period of approximately two months (POI 62-68), which was previously an agricultural environment. This new traffic could result in collisions of vehicles with otter, as turbine deliveries will occur overnight, when otter are most active. In the absence of mitigation, this has the potential to result in mortality effects on otter. This would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Extent of terrestrial habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 1068.8ha.	The proposed project will result in the loss of 15m of treeline (WL2) vegetation within the River Moy SAC. Due to the small amount of habitat loss, this would not be considered to have an adverse effect on the extent of terrestrial habitat within the SAC.

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Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Kilometres	No significant decline. Length mapped and calculated as 479.4km.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to reduce the extent of river habitat available to otter. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Extent of freshwater (lake) habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 1248.2ha.	The proposed project will not result in any decline in the freshwater lake habitat, as no works will occur outside the proposed project. There is, therefore, no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Couching sites and holts	Number	No significant decline.	No holts or couching sites were recorded within the proposed project. The proposed project will not result in the loss or decline in known couching sites or holts, as none were recorded within the proposed project, and there are no instream works proposed. However, there is potential for otter to establish new couching sites or holts in the vicinity of the proposed bridge structure on the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River prior to construction works commencing. If this were to occur, in the absence of mitigation, this would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Fish biomass available	Kilograms	No significant decline.	The potential degradation of water quality within the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 River which forms part of the SAC could affect the availability of fish biomass to otter. The runoff or discharge of sediment laden water to this water body could result in a decline in available feeding resources for otter. A significant decline in fish biomass available for otter would **constitute an adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Barriers to connectivity	Number	No significant increase.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such, this will not result in habitat fragmentation that would inhibit otters' access up and downstream of the proposed bridge structure as there are no instream works proposed, and the bridge will be installed above the riverbanks, retaining commuting habitat. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.

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11.1.2 Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC

Table 11.2: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1130] Estuaries			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community structure: Zostera density	Shoots per m²	Conserve the high quality of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Muddy sand to fine sand dominated by *Hydrobia ulvae, Pygospio elegans* and *Tubificoides benedii* community complex; Estuarine muddy sand dominated by *Hediste diversicolor* and *Heterochaeta costata* community complex; and Fine sand dominated by *Nephtys cirrosa* community complex.	
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community structure: Zostera density	Shoots per m²	Conserve the high quality of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Muddy sand to fine sand dominated by *Hydrobia ulvae, Pygospio elegans* and *Tubificoides benedii* community	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
		complex; Estuarine muddy sand dominated by *Hediste diversicolor* and *Heterochaeta costata* community complex and Fine sand dominated by *Nephtys cirrosa* community complex.	
[1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts[28]			
Habitat length	Kilometres	Area stable, subject to natural processes, including erosion.	The proposed project will not result in any impacts to length or distribution of vegetated sea cliff habitat within the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes.	
Physical structure: functionality and hydrological regime	Occurrence of artificial barriers	No alteration to natural functioning of geomorphological and hydrological processes, including groundwater quality, due to artificial structures.	The proposed project will not result in any impacts to the physical structure of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of sea cliff habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.	There are no works associated with the proposed project that could result in changes to vegetation structure or composition. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to these attributes.
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward.	
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Irish Sea Cliff Survey (Barron *et al.*, 2011).	
Vegetation composition:	Percentage	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover.	

[28] To note that there are no specific conservation objectives outlined for this habitat in the conservation objectives document for the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC. Therefore, the set of conservation objectives has been compiled based on the document available for the Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC [000111] (NPWS, 2016b). This sets out the attributes, measures and targets that would be expected to define the favourable conservation condition of this habitat in the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC.

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
negative indicator species			
Vegetation composition: bracken and woody species	Percentage	Cover of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) on grassland and/or heath less than 10%. Cover of woody species on grassland and/or heath less than 20%.	
[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand			
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-sites mapped: Bartragh Island- 0.26ha, Ross- 0.29ha.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.	
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.	The proposed project will not result in any impacts to the physical structure of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to these attributes.
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession.	
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime.	
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimeters	Maintain structural variation within sward.	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of the area outside of the creeks vegetated.	
Vegetation composition: typical species & sub-communities Percentage cover	Percentage cover	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species listed in the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project.	
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - *Spartina anglica*	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1%.	There are no works associated with the proposed project that could result in the expansion of common cordgrass within this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)			
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-sites mapped: Bartragh Island - 29.22ha, Ross - 14.95ha, Rusheens - 1.24ha, Castleconor - 1.61ha.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.	
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions.	The proposed project will not result in any impacts to the physical structure of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to these attributes.
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure/ allow to develop, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession.	
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime.	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimeters	Maintain structural variation within sward.	
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of the area outside of the creeks vegetated.	
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub- communities with typical species listed in Saltmarsh Monitoring Project.	
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- *Spartina anglica*	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1%.	There are no works associated with the proposed project that could result in the expansion of common cordgrass within this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
[1095] Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*			
Distribution: extent of anadromy	% of estuary accessible	No barriers for migratory life stages of lamprey moving from freshwater to marine habitats and vice versa.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups present.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Glenree_030 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the population structure of juveniles and juvenile density in fine sediment, within the Glenree_030 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for sea lamprey.
Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m²	Juvenile density at least 1/m².	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
			Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
[1365] Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*			
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility within the SAC, or to affect breeding, moulting or resting haul-out sites. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to these attributes.
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	Conserve the breeding sites in a natural condition.	
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	Conserve the moult haul-out sites in a natural condition.	
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	Conserve the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition.	
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site.	The works associated with the TDR will occur at the southernmost point of the SAC, at the Bunree Bridge and involve tree trimming. It is not considered that there is any potential for disturbance effects on harbour seals as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.

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11.1.3 Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA

Table 11.3: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
A137 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by ringed plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover,	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
		other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A144 Sanderling *Calidris alba*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing .	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
		godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Number, range, timing and intensity of use of area	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A999 Wetlands			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 3,204ha,	**Yes** - A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease of the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitats in the SPA.

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
		other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	This change in wetland habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**

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11.1.4 Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA

Table 11.4: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
A061 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*			
Winter population trend	Percentage change in number of individuals	Long term winter population trend is stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Winter spatial distribution	Hectares, time and intensity of use	Sufficient number of locations, area, and availability (in terms of timing and intensity of use) of suitable habitat to support the population target.	
Disturbance at wintering site	Intensity, frequency, timing and duration	Disturbance occurs at levels that do not significantly impact the achievement of targets for population trend and distribution.	The proposed project will not result in any disturbance or barrier effects on SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to these attributes.
Barriers to connectivity and site use	Number, location, shape and hectares	Barriers do not significantly impact the wintering population's access to the SPA or other ecologically important sites outside the SPA.	
Forage spatial distribution, extent and abundance	Location, hectares, and forage biomass	Sufficient number of locations, area of suitable habitat and available forage biomass to support the population target.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils.

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
			A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Roost spatial distribution and extent	Location and hectares of roosting habitat	Sufficient number of locations, area and availability of suitable roosting habitat to support the population target.	The proposed project will not reduce the availability of roosting habitat to SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
A065 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*			
Breeding population trend	Percentage change in number of potential breeding pairs	Long term trend is stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Productivity rate	Number of young fledged per potential breeding pair	Sufficient productivity to maintain the population trend as stable or increasing.	
Distribution of nesting habitat	Spatial distribution	No significant loss of distribution in the long term, other than that occurring due to natural patterns of variation.	The proposed project will not result in any disturbance, barrier effects or reduction in the availability of nesting habitat on SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to these attributes.
Extent and condition of nesting habitat	Hectares of high quality nesting habitat	Sufficient area of high quality habitat to support the population target.	
Disturbance at breeding site	Intensity, frequency, timing and duration	Disturbance occurs at levels that do not significantly impact the achievement of targets for population trend and distribution.	
Barriers to connectivity and site use	Number, location, shape and hectares	Barriers do not significantly impact the breeding population's access	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
		to the SPA or other ecologically important sites outside the SPA.	
Forage spatial distribution, extent and abundance	Location, hectares, and forage biomass	Sufficient number of locations, area of suitable habitat, and available forage biomass to support the population target.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A182 Common Gull *Larus canus*			
Breeding population size	Number of Apparently Occupied Nests (AON)	Long term SPA population trend is stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Productivity rate	Number of fledged young per breeding pair	Sufficient to maintain a stable or increasing population.	
Distribution: extent of available nesting options within the SPA	Numbers and spatial distribution	Sufficient availability of suitable nesting sites throughout the SPA to maintain a stable or increasing population.	The proposed project will not result in any reduction in the availability of nesting habitat on SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Forage spatial distribution, extent,	Location, hectares, and forage biomass	Sufficient number of locations, area of suitable habitat and	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
abundance and availability		available forage biomass to support the population target.	habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Disturbance at the breeding site	Intensity, frequency, timing and duration	Disturbance occurs at levels that do not significantly impact on birds at the breeding site.	The proposed project will not result in any disturbance or barrier effects on SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Disturbance at areas ecologically connected to the colony	Intensity, frequency, timing and duration	Disturbance occurs at levels that do not significantly impact on breeding population.	
Barriers to connectivity	Number, location, shape, and area (ha)	Barriers do not significantly impact the population's access to the SPA or other ecologically important sites outside the SPA.	
A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*			
Winter population trend	Percentage change in number of individuals	Long term winter population trend is stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Winter spatial distribution	Hectares, time and intensity of use	Sufficient number of locations, area, and availability (in terms of timing and intensity of use) of suitable habitat to support the population target.	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Disturbance at wintering site	Intensity, frequency, timing and duration	Disturbance occurs at levels that do not significantly impact the achievement of targets for population trend and distribution.	The proposed project will not result in any disturbance, barrier effects or reduction in the availability of foraging or roosting habitat on SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to these attributes.
Barriers to connectivity and site use	Number, location, shape and hectares	Barriers do not significantly impact the wintering population's access to the SPA or other ecologically important sites outside the SPA.	
Forage spatial distribution, extent and abundance	Location, hectares, and forage biomass	Sufficient number of locations, area of suitable habitat and available forage biomass to support the population target.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species, where they are hydrologically connected, such as callows or salt marsh. In general, the foraging distance for this species is estimated to be 5-8km from their night roosts (SNH, 2016). A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Roost spatial distribution and extent	Location and hectares of roosting habitat	Sufficient number of locations, area and availability of suitable roosting habitat to support the population target.	The proposed project will not result in any disturbance, barrier effects or reduction in the availability of nesting habitat on SCI species associated with this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Supporting habitat: area and quality	Hectares and quality	Sufficient area of utilisable habitat available in ecologically important sites outside the SPA.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
			range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A999 Wetlands			
Wetland habitat area	Hectares	No significant loss to wetland habitat within the SPA, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	**Yes** - A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease of the quality, function and permanent area occupied by the wetland habitats in the SPA. This change in wetland habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Wetland habitat quality and functioning	Quality and function of the wetland habitat	No significant impact on the quality or functioning of the wetland habitat within the SPA, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	

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11.1.5 Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC

Table 11.5: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds			
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	This habitat is potentially within the ZoI for dust related impacts. The nearest proposed works will occur at POIs 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 and 75 and involve vegetation and tree trimming, and roadworks. These works are considered minor and will not produce a significant amount of dust. However, the construction phase of the proposed project has the potential to result in silt or pollutant laden runoff. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes.	
Typical species	Occurrence	Typical species present, in good condition, and demonstrating typical abundances and distribution.	
Vegetation composition: characteristic zonation	Occurrence	All characteristic zones should be present, correctly distributed and in good condition.	
Vegetation distribution: maximum depth	Metres	Maintain maximum depth of vegetation, subject to natural processes.	
Hydrological regime: water level fluctuations	Metres	Maintain appropriate natural hydrological regime necessary to support the habitat.	The proposed project will not result in any impacts to the hydrological regime of any habitat in this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Lake substratum quality	Various	Maintain appropriate substratum type, extent and chemistry to support the vegetation.	This habitat is potentially within the ZoI for dust related impacts. The nearest proposed works will occur at POIs 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 and 75 and involve vegetation and tree trimming, and roadworks. These works are considered minor and will not produce a significant amount of dust. However, the construction phase of the proposed project has the potential to result in silt or pollutant laden runoff.
Water quality: transparency	Metres	Maintain appropriate Secchi transparency. There should be no decline in Secchi depth/transparency.	
Water quality: nutrients	Njg/l P; mg/l N	Maintain the concentration of nutrients in the water column at sufficiently low levels to support the habitat and its typical species.	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Water quality: phytoplankton biomass	Njg/l Chlorophyll a	Maintain appropriate water quality to support the habitat, including high chlorophyll a status.	A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Water quality: phytoplankton composition	EPA phytoplankton composition metric	Maintain appropriate water quality to support the habitat, including high phytoplankton composition status.	
Water quality: attached algal biomass	Algal cover and EPA phytobenthos metric	Maintain trace/absent attached algal biomass (<5% cover) and high phytobenthos status.	
Water quality: macrophyte status	EPA macrophyte metric (The Free Index)	Maintain high macrophyte status.	
Acidification status	pH units; mg/l	Maintain appropriate water and sediment pH, alkalinity and cation concentrations to support the habitat, subject to natural processes.	
Water colour	mg/l PtCo	Maintain appropriate water colour to support the habitat.	
Dissolved organic carbon (DOC)	mg/l	Maintain appropriate organic carbon levels to support the habitat.	
Turbidity	Nephelometric turbidity units/ mg/l SS/ other appropriate units	Maintain appropriate turbidity to support the habitat.	
Fringing habitat: area and condition	Hectares	Maintain the area and condition of fringing habitats necessary to support the natural structure and functioning of habitat 3160.	

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11.1.6 Ballysadare Bay SAC

Table 11.6: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Ballysadare Bay SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1130] Estuaries			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community structure: Zostera density	Shoots per m²	Conserve the high quality of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes	
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal sand with *Angulus tenuis* community complex; Muddy sand to sand with *Hediste diversicolor, Corophium volutator* and *Peringia ulvae* community complex; Fine sand with polychaetes community complex; Sand with bivalves, nematodes and crustaceans community complex; Intertidal reef community complex; Subtidal reef community complex.	
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community structure: Zostera density	Shoots per m²	Conserve the high quality of the Zostera-dominated community, subject to natural processes.	
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal sand with *Angulus tenuis* community complex; Muddy sand to sand with *Hediste diversicolor*, *Corophium volutator* and *Peringia ulvae* community complex.	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1365] Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*			
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility within the SAC, or to affect breeding, moulting or resting haul-out sites. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to these attributes.
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	Conserve the breeding sites in a natural condition.	
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	Conserve the moult haul-out sites in a natural condition.	
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	Conserve the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition.	
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site.	The works associated with the TDR will occur at the southernmost point of the SAC, at the Bunree Bridge and involve tree trimming. It is not considered that there is any potential for disturbance effects on harbour seals as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.

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11.1.7 Unshin River SAC

Table 11.7: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Unshin River SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation			
Habitat area	Kilometres	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, and the nearest proposed works will occur at POIs 36-39 and involve roadworks and tree trimming. As such there is no potential for the proposed project to result in the loss of this habitat, impacts on the hydrological regime or substratum composition within this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to these attributes.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes.	
Hydrological regime: river flow	Metres per second	Maintain appropriate hydrological regimes.	
Hydrological regime: groundwater discharge	Metres per second	Maintain appropriate hydrological regime.	
Substratum composition: particle size range	Millimetres	Maintain appropriate substratum particle size range, quantity and quality, subject to natural processes.	
Water quality	Various	Maintain/restore appropriate water quality to support the natural structure and functioning of the habitat.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Ballysodare_010 which forms part of the SAC. This could in turn affect the species composition of this habitat in the SAC. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Typical species	Occurrence	Typical species of the relevant habitat sub-type should be present and in good condition.	
Floodplain connectivity: area	Hectares	Maintain/restore the area of active floodplain at and upstream of the habitat.	There will be no works undertaken as part of the proposed project which would have the potential to impact the floodplain connectivity. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Riparian habitat: area and condition	Hectares	Maintain the area and condition of fringing habitats necessary to support the habitat and its sub-types.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Ballysodare_010 which forms part of the SAC. This could in turn affect the riparian habitat area and condition. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1106] Salmon *Salmo salar*			
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Adult spawning fish	Number	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded.	The Ballysadare River is currently above its CL with a forecasted surplus above the required CL for 2025 advice (TEGOS, 2025). However, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and habitat, which could result in impacts on the CL of the Unshin River SAC. A decrease in adult spawning fish would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5 minutes sampling.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Ballysodare_010 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the number of adult spawning fish, salmon fry and out-migrating smolt abundance, number and distribution of redds within the Deel Ballysodare_010 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for Atlantic salmon. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline.	
Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes.	
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA.	
[1355] Otter *Lutra lutra*			
Distribution	Percentage positive survey sites	No significant decline.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to reduce the extent of otter distribution. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Extent of terrestrial habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 124.68ha.	The nearest works associated with the proposed project are at PoIs 36-39 and involve roadworks and tree trimming. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitats, couching sites or holts as a result of the proposed project and there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to these attributes.
Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Kilometres	No significant decline. Length mapped and calculated as 66.55km.	
Couching sites and holts	Number	No significant decline.	
Fish biomass available	Kilograms	No significant decline.	The potential degradation of water quality within the Ballysodare_010 River which forms part of the SAC could affect the availability of fish biomass to otter. The runoff or discharge of sediment laden water to this water body could result in a decline in available feeding resources for otter. A significant decline in fish biomass available for otter would **constitute an adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Barriers to connectivity	Number	No significant increase.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.

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11.1.8 Ballysadare Bay SPA

Table 11.8: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Ballysadare Bay SPA as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
A046 Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	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.	
A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	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.	
A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Distribution	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.	decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	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.	
A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils.
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
			A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A999 Wetlands			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,130ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	**Yes** - A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease of the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitats in the SPA. This change in wetland habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**

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11.1.9 Lough Melvin SAC

Table 11.9: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Lough Melvin SAC as a Result of the Proposed Project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1106] Salmon *Salmo salar*			
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Adult spawning fish	Number	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded.	The Drowes River is currently above its CL with a forecasted surplus above the required CL for 2025 advice (TEGOS, 2025). However, the proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and habitat, which could result in impacts on the CL of the Lough Melvin SAC. A decrease in adult spawning fish would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5 minutes sampling.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Drowes_010 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the number of adult spawning fish, salmon fry and out-migrating smolt abundance, number and distribution of redds within the Drowes_010 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for Atlantic salmon. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline.	
Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes.	
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Drowes_010 River which forms part of the SAC. The degradation of water quality due to the proposed project could prevent the watercourse from achieving Q4 water quality status.

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
			A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
[1355] Otter *Lutra lutra*			
Distribution	Percentage positive survey sites	No significant decline.	There will be no works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to reduce the extent of otter distribution. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Extent of terrestrial habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 75.64ha.	The nearest works associated with the proposed project are at POI 27 and involve minor roadworks. Therefore, there will be no loss of habitats, couching sites or holts as a result of the proposed project and there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the site in relation to these attributes.
Extent of marine habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 5.87ha.	
Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Kilometres	No significant decline. Length mapped and calculated as 20.89km.	
Extent of freshwater (lake) habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 317.55ha.	
Couching sites and holts	Number	No significant decline.	
Fish biomass available	Kilograms	No significant decline.	The potential degradation of water quality within the Drowes_010 River which forms part of the SAC could affect the availability of fish biomass to otter. The runoff or discharge of sediment laden water to this water body could result in a decline in available feeding resources for otter. A significant decline in fish biomass available for otter would **constitute an adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Barriers to connectivity	Number	No significant increase.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.

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11.1.10 Donegal Bay SPA

Table 11.10: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Donegal Bay SPA as a Result of the Proposed Project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
A003 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by great northern diver, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A065 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by common scoter, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
A144 Sanderling *Calidris alba*			
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing.	**Yes -** A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease in suitable foraging habitats for the SCI species. A decrease in foraging habitats would result in a decrease in the carrying capacity of the SPA for the designated SCI species. This could potentially affect the long-term population of the SCI species within the site and change the distribution range of the SCI species. There is also potential for direct impacts on the SCIs in the event that they come into direct contact with, or ingest, harmful chemicals or oils. A change in population trend and distribution would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	
A999 Wetlands			
Wetland habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 10,461ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	**Yes** - A degradation in water quality due to the construction works and activities associated with the proposed project could result in a decrease of the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitats in the SPA. This change in wetland habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**

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11.1.11 Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC

Table 11.11: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide			
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and the release of suspended solids into watercourses located downstream. Impacts to the vegetation could result in a change of the area and distribution of the habitat which would constitute **an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Estuarine fine sands dominated by polychaetes and oligochaetes community complex; and Intertidal muddy sand to sand dominated by polychaetes, bivalves and crustaceans community complex.	
[1365] Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*			
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use.	There will be no works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed project, as such there is no potential for the proposed project to inhibit accessibility within the SAC, or to affect breeding, moulting or resting haul-out sites, or to cause disturbance to harbour seals. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to these attributes.
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	Conserve the breeding sites in a natural condition.	
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	Conserve the moult haul-out sites in a natural condition.	
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	Conserve the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition.	
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site.	

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11.1.12 Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC

Table 11.12: Evaluation of Potential Adverse Effects on the Conservation Objectives of the Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC as a Result of the Proposed project

Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*			
Distribution	Kilometres	Maintain/restore distribution at 6.08km.	The proposed TDR has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Eske_020 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the distribution, population, suitable habitat and substratum of FPM. The degradation of water quality arising from the proposed project would have the potential to prevent the Eske_020 River from achieving a Q4-5 water quality status. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Population size	Number of adult mussels	Restore population to at least 200,000 adult mussels.	
Population structure: recruitment	Percentage per size class	Restore to at least 20% of population no more than 65mm in length; and at least 5% of population no more than 30mm in length.	
Population structure: adult mortality	Percentage	No more than 5% decline from previous number of live adults counted; dead shells less than 1% of the adult population and scattered in distribution.	
Suitable habitat: extent	Kilometres	Restore suitable habitat in more than 6.08km in the Eske system (see Map 5 of conservation objectives) and any additional stretches necessary for salmonid spawning.	
Suitable habitat: condition	Kilometres	Restore condition of suitable habitat.	
Water quality: macroinvertebrate and phytobenthos (diatoms)	Ecological quality ratio (EQR)	Restore water quality - macroinvertebrates: EQR greater than 0.90 (Q4-5 or Q5); phytobenthos: EQR greater than 0.93.	
Substratum quality: filamentous algae	Percentage	Restore substratum quality- filamentous algae: absent or trace (less	

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
(macroalgae); macrophytes (rooted higher plants)		than 5%); macrophytes: absent or trace (less than 5%).	
Substratum quality: sediment	Occurrence	Restore substratum quality- stable cobble and gravel substrate with very little fine material; no artificially elevated levels of fine sediment.	
Substratum quality: oxygen availability	Redox potential	Restore to no more than 20% decline from water column to 5cm depth in substrate.	
Hydrological regime: flow variability	Metres per second	Restore appropriate hydrological regime.	The proposed project will not result in any impacts to the hydrological regime of any habitat in this SAC as there are no in-stream works proposed. Therefore, there is no potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of this site in relation to this attribute.
Host fish	Number	Maintain sufficient juvenile salmonids to host glochidial larvae.	The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Eske_020 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon host fish, by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for salmonid species. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
Fringing habitat: area and condition	Hectares	Maintain the area and condition of fringing habitats necessary to support the population.	The proposed TDR has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Eske_020 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon fringing habitats. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.
[1106] Salmon *Salmo salar*			

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Attributes	Measures	Target	Potential for Adverse Effects
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary.	There will be no instream works undertaken within this SAC as part of the proposed TDR, as such there is no potential for the proposed TDR to inhibit accessibility through river channels within the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the site in relation to this attribute.
Adult spawning fish	Number	Conservation limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded.	The River Eske is currently below its CL limits with only 77% of its CL achieved in 2024 (TEGOS, 2025). The proposed project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality and habitat, which could result in further impacts on the CL of the River Eske. A decrease in adult spawning fish would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5 minutes sampling.	The proposed TDR has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Eske_020 River which forms part of the SAC. Unfavourable water quality conditions could impact upon the number of adult spawning fish, salmon fry and out-migrating smolt abundance, number and distribution of redds within the Eske_020 River and associated water bodies by impeding upon the availability of suitable fine sediment habitat and necessary/favourable water chemistry conditions for Atlantic salmon. Such impacts to the water column and suitable habitat would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site.**
Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline.	
Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes.	
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA.	The proposed TDR has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality to the Eske_020 River which forms part of the SAC. The degradation of water quality due to the proposed TDR could prevent the watercourse from achieving Q4 water quality status. A degradation in water quality would constitute an **adverse effect on the integrity of the site**.

12. MITIGATION MEASURES

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Mitigation measures are proposed herein, with reference to guidance documents that are considered best practice, to avoid and/or reduce the potential impacts of the proposed project on European sites during the construction phase.

In the event of planning permission being granted for the proposed project, and prior to commencement of works, the appointed contractor(s) will refer to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and the mitigation measures outlined in this Section. All mitigation measures will be implemented by the appointed contractor, under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to ensure they are fully implemented and will prevent or reduce the potential impacts identified in this NIS.

A suitably qualified ECoW/team of ECoWs will be appointed by BnM or its agents to oversee and implement all ecological mitigation measures contained in this NIS. The ECoW role will be undertaken and/or supervised by an ecologist with the relevant expertise and level of experience. The role of the ECoW will include:

- Pre-construction monitoring surveys to confirm the presence of protected species and INNS and pathogens;
- Arranging relevant licensing (if required);
- Supervising construction works and ensuring compliance with legislation;
- Toolbox talk to brief all staff working onsite about the presence of IAPS and protected species, along with mitigation requirements, where relevant;
- Monitoring habitats and species during the course of construction works and effectiveness of mitigation;
- Providing advice regarding the avoidance and minimisation of potential disturbance to wildlife;
- Providing recommendations on appropriate responses/actions to site-specific issues (e.g. identification of previously unrecorded breeding sites during construction works); and
- Liaising with NPWS, IFI and other prescribed authorities, when required.

12.1 SURFACE WATER QUALITY PROTECTION MEASURES

The mitigation measures to protect surface water quality have been designed based on best practice construction methods as set out in CIRIA c811 "*Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide*", and Atkinson et al (2024) and will be implemented in order to prevent water (both surface water & groundwater) pollution. This will include proper site management during construction, to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to prevent runoff/pollutants from entering any water feature in the receiving environment. Construction of reinforced concrete abutments, supported by piled foundations set back from the riverbank, will avoid the necessity of any instream works.

A CEMP has been developed for the proposed project, which the contractor will be obliged to follow to remove any risk of a pollution incident. All mitigation measures will be implemented by

the appointed contractor, under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to ensure they are fully implemented and will prevent or reduce the potential impacts identified.

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The following measures will be implemented in terms of fuel management:

- Fuel storage and any oil storage will be carried out in accordance with the Enterprise Ireland Best Practice Guide BPGCS005 Oil Storage Guidelines;
- Each fixed fuel and oil storage bunds will be sized to hold 110 % of the oil volume of the largest tank therein. The fixed fuel and oil storage bunds will be blind sumped. The rainwater pumped from each bund will be discharged to the surface water drainage system via an oil interceptor;
- In the event of a spill, the liquid contained in the bund will be removed by a liquid waste tanker, as will be the contents of the surface water drainage system and oil interceptor; and, Where refuelling is required on site away from fixed storage locations this will only be carried out utilising steel intrinsically bunded mobile fuel bowsers. At site refuelling locations, refuelling will take place at the construction compound.

12.1.1 Carricknagat Permanent Works

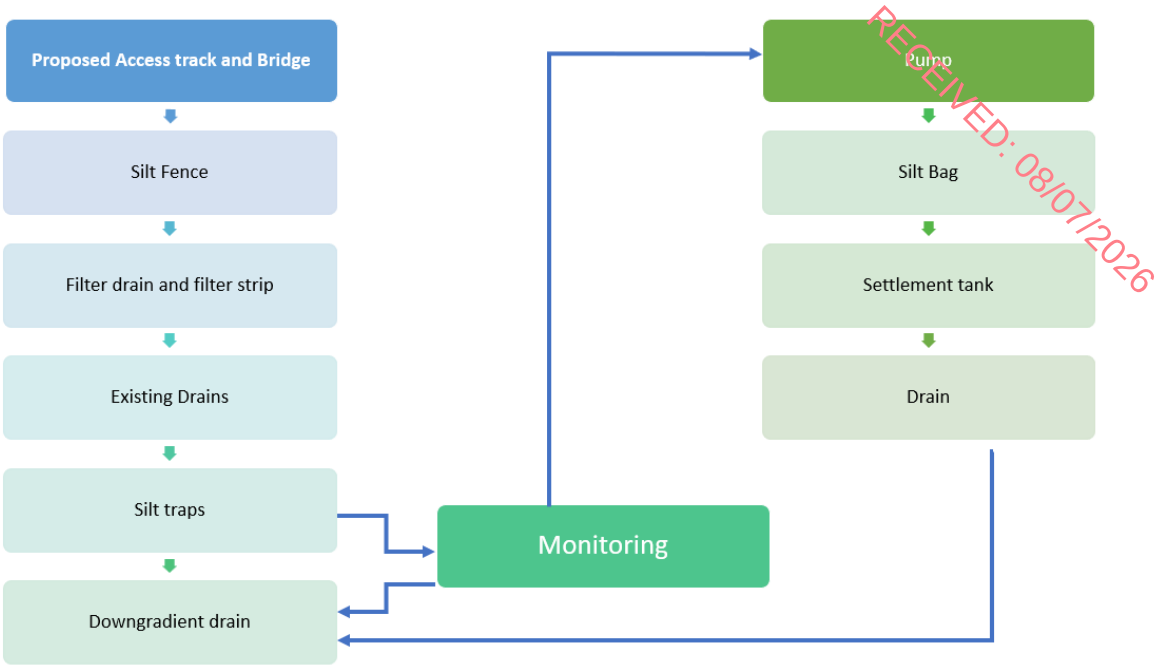
Surface water from the construction area will drain to the lowest point and be treated prior to discharge. Surface water runoff will initially pass through a sediment bag prior to treatment in a settlement tank. The final discharge will be to the existing surface water network along the R290. Monitoring of surface water runoff will be undertaken at the discharge.

12.1.2 Crossmolina Permanent Works

The proposed construction works at Crossmolina will follow Atkinson et al (2024)[29] due to the presence of freshwater pearl mussel in this location[30]. The ECoW will have the authority to halt works if non-compliance or unforeseen environmental risks are identified. The management of silt is summarised below in Figure 12.1 and described below.

[29] Atkinson, S., Magee, M., Moorkens, E.A. & Heavey, M. (2024). Guidance on Assessment and Construction Management in *Margaritifera* Catchments in Ireland. https://e-mussels.eu/europe/conservation-guidelines

[30] It must be noted that freshwater pearl mussel is not a qualifying interest of the River Moy SAC and therefore, potential impacts on freshwater pearl mussel have been assessed as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) accompanying this planning application.



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Figure 12.1: Summary of silt management process- Construction phase

The following measure will be implemented to the east and west of the proposed bridge crossing of the River Deel (Crossmolina):

- The bridge will be a clear-span structure; precast units will be delivered to site and lifted into position using cranes stationed on the bank, ensuring full span installation without in-stream supports;
- Felling of trees and grubbing out of roots will be kept to the absolute minimum necessary for the works;
- Silt fences will be installed along the track edge prior to infiltration to the filter drains and filter strips. The final discharge is to the existing drainage ditches onsite;
- Silt traps will be strategically placed down-gradient within drains. The main purpose of the silt traps and drain blocking is to slow water flow, increase residence time, and allow settling of silt in a controlled manner;
- All works will follow the guidance set out in the Guidance document entitled: CIRIA Guidance Note Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites;
- Storage locations for equipment, hydrocarbons (including fuels for machinery) will be at the construction compound at the site entrance;
- Surplus excavated materials will be removed from site. The site compound at Crossmolina will be located at least 130 m from aquatic features and 77m from the River Moy SAC. The site compound at Carricknagat will be located approximately 200m from the nearest watercourse;
- A 24-hour, seven-day week Emergency Response protocol will be drawn up and implemented. This will be implementable in the unlikely event of an accidental spillage of chemicals, hydrocarbons or release of sediment;

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- Refuelling of machinery will be carried out on level, hard surfaced designated area at the compound;
- All machinery will be regularly maintained and checked for leaks. Services will be undertaken on level, hard surfaced designated areas within the compound;
- An adequate supply of spill kits and hydrocarbon adsorbent packs will be available at labelled stations throughout the permanent works area with all vehicles on-site carrying spill kits. All relevant personnel will be fully trained in the use of the equipment. Any used spill kits will be disposed of appropriately off-site;
- On completion of the works, all apparatus, plant, tools, offices, sheds, surplus materials, waste and temporary erections or works of any kind will be removed;
- Concrete pours will be supervised by the ECoW with stop works authority to ensure no leakage of concrete. Installation of parapet railing requires ECoW supervision.
- Contractors will be required to provide a designated bin for washing down the chutes of concrete lorries at the construction compound.
- Wash down and washout of concrete transporting vehicles will take place at the concrete source site to prevent cementitious material and water entering the surface water network.
- A lined and watertight skip, positioned above the level of the flood zone, is to be used as the only area on site where concrete activities are permitted to wash out, including barrows, shovels and rakes.
- Waste material will be removed from site to an appropriate waste permit facility.
- Disposal of excess concrete on any part of the construction site will be prohibited.
- Concrete pours will be done in good weather conditions;
- ACO channel maintenance will be carried out on an annual basis.

12.1.3 Drainage measures

The proposed TDR and amenity track at Crossmolina will be designed and constructed in accordance with guidance in order to manage any impact to the water environment. This includes referring to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance document DN-DNG-03065 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment (including Amendment No. 1 dated June 2015) to determine drainage measures. This guidance document is applicable to National Roads but can be applied wherever surface or groundwater resources are affected by road runoff. The SuDS treatment train concept refers to the sequential application of multiple SuDS techniques to manage rainwater effectively. This involves several stages of treatment, with each element providing a specific role in managing the quantity and quality of runoff. By combining different techniques, the resilience and effectiveness of the overall system are enhanced.

Source Controls:

By dealing with runoff at source, the volume of water and the potential amount of contamination is less, which requires smaller SuDS components further downstream. Source control measures aim to manage runoff as close as possible to where it originates, consistent with SuDS principles of prevention and control at source. Measures include:

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- Use of sandbags, filter fabrics, or other equivalent systems, to prevent scouring and sediment mobilisation. These are required where existing drainage ditches occur along the community field access track in Crossmolina;
- Minimising working areas and ceasing works in high-risk zones during adverse weather. These measures will reduce exposed soil and align with SuDS best practice for preventing sediment generation;
- Weather conditions will be considered when planning construction activities to minimise risk of run off from site and these works will not occur in the winter months;
- A 30 m exclusion zone between excavated material and any surface water/European site boundary will be implemented during construction to prevent sediment washing into the receiving water environment;
- If water is in contract with wet concrete, water will be treated (pH and sediment) prior to discharge;
- If very wet ground must be accessed during the construction process bog mats/aluminium panel tracks will be used to enable access to these areas by machinery. The placement of any such mats or tracks will be overseen by the ECoW to avoid any potential impacts on surface water flows, and reinstatement will take place; and,
- The contractor and ECoW will carry out visual examinations of local water features in the immediate receiving environment of the proposed works during the construction phase to ensure that sediment is not above baseline conditions. In the event of water quality concerns, the Environmental Manager and ECoW will be notified immediately.

Conveyance /In-Line Controls:

Conveyance controls help manage runoff within the drainage system by reducing flow velocity, promoting sediment settlement, and increasing filtration, consistent with SuDS conveyance and flow-control components. Mitigation measures for the proposed project will include:

- Filter drains and filter strips to convey and slow flows through vegetated channels, running parallel with the road. Filter drains will be utilised in Crossmolina to control and convey water to the local drainage channels;
- Erosion and velocity control features such as check dams, sandbags, weirs, baffles, sedimats will be used; and,
- Collection sumps, temporary sumps or attenuation lagoons, sediment traps, or other appropriate measures to encourage sediment deposition and flow attenuation will be used as required. These features reflect SuDS elements such as detention basins and sediment forebays.

Treatment Systems:

Treatment systems provide water-quality improvement by removing suspended solids and other pollutants before discharge, aligning with the SuDS treatment train approach, which emphasises sequential treatment stages. The contractor will ensure that all personnel working on site are trained in pollution incident control response. A regular review of weather forecasts of heavy rainfall (i.e. yellow weather warning for rainfall) will be required, with the Contractor required to prepare a contingency plan for before and after such events.

Mitigation measures for the proposed project will include:

- Temporary sumps, attenuation ponds, storage lagoons, sediment traps, and settlement ponds, will be used as required, designed to allow particulate matter to settle out of suspension.
- Proprietary treatment systems, such as Siltbuster units, or other equivalent settlement or filtration technologies that provide enhanced sediment removal or water-quality polishing will be used. Only mechanical settlement technologies will be used. No chemical coagulation will be permitted.

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Silt Fences:

Silt fences will be emplaced within drains down-gradient of all construction areas at Crossmolina. Silt fences will be placed around stockpiles. Inspection and maintenance will be undertaken during construction phase to ensure their functioning to stated purpose. Double silt fences will be placed within drains down-gradient of all construction areas at Crossmolina and along the River Deel. Multiple layers of silt control measures such as mats, fences, and wattles are to be installed and tailored to site conditions, to prevent sediment entering the watercourse and to provide redundancy.

Silt Bags:

Silt bags will be used where water is pumped from excavations. As water is pumped through the bag, the majority of the sediment will be retained by the geotextile fabric allowing filtered water to pass through. Silt bags will be used with natural vegetation filters or sedimats. Sediment entrapment mats, consisting of coir or jute matting, will be placed at the silt bag location to provide further treatment of the water outfall from the silt bag. Sedimats will be secured to the ground surface using stakes/pegs. The sediment will extend to the full width of the outfall to ensure all water passes through this additional treatment measure.

Silt Buster:

A final line of defence will be provided by a "Siltbuster". If the discharge water from construction areas fails to be of a high quality during daily inspections, then a filtration treatment system (such as a 'Siltbuster' or similar equivalent treatment train sequence of water treatment processes) will be used to filter and treat all surface discharge water collected in the dirty water drainage system. This will apply for all of the construction phase.

Concrete:

Limited concrete works and cement products will be used on the site. For the proposed bridge at Crossmolina, the deck and edge beams will be cast-insitu concrete, with a combination of lost formwork for the edge beams and lost formwork between the precast beams. Sections will be lifted and positioned using cranes stationed on the bank, ensuring full span installation without instream supports. The proposed bridge at Crossmolina will be constructed of a precast reinforced concrete. Concrete is required for bridge foundations and the structural deck which will be reinforced concrete with a sprayed on waterproofing membrane. Installation of heavy gauge product such as Visqueen between the pre-cast member and in-situ concrete will be undertaken to prevent leakage of concrete.

The following measures are proposed in terms of concrete/cement management:

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- Contractors will be required to provide a designated bin for washing down the chutes of concrete lorries at the construction compound. All wash material will be disposed of in accordance with the waste management act 1996 as amended;
- Wash down and washout of concrete transporting vehicles will take place at the concrete source site to prevent cementitious material and water entering the surface water network;
- A lined and watertight skip, positioned above the level of the flood zone, is to be used as the only area on site where concrete activities are permitted to wash out, including barrows, shovels and rakes;
- Waste material will be removed from site to an appropriate waste permit facility; and
- Disposal of excess concrete on any part of the construction site will be prohibited.

Fuel Management

The following measures are proposed in terms of fuel management:

- Fuel storage and any oil storage will be carried out in accordance with the Enterprise Ireland Best Practice Guide BPGCS005 Oil Storage Guidelines.
- Double skinned plastic tanks will not be acceptable at the site for any purpose unless they are placed within fixed concrete or steel external bunds.
- Refuelling will take place at the construction compound. An oil interceptor will be installed in the construction compound.
- In the event of a spill, the liquid contained in the bund will be removed by a liquid waste tanker, as will be the contents of the surface water drainage system and oil interceptor.

The contractor's temporary compound will be located near the N59 and incorporate a bund for the storage any oil filled equipment, such as hand portable generators, pumps, etc. Storage of small volume oils or chemicals, in barrels, IBCs, etc, will be stored in a covered bunded area in the site compound. Where barrels or other containers are required at work locations these will be stored in enclosed bunded cabinets, and drip trays will be used where distribution of the material is required.

The main storage areas for oil filled equipment, vehicles, plant, etc, will be impermeably surface and the discharge of surface water from these areas will be via oil interceptors. An oil spill response plan will be developed for the construction works and appropriate containment equipment will be available at work locations in the event of a spillage. Oil spill response will form part of site personnel induction and training at the site.

All wastes generated on site will be segregated and will be collected by licensed waste haulier for appropriate sorting, recycling and disposal.

Precast concrete required for the proposed bridge structure at Crossmolina will be used where appropriate to minimise the use of wet concrete on site. The use of piles for the installation of the bridge abutments reduces the potential for soil disturbance. If very wet ground must be accessed during the construction process bog mats/aluminium panel tracks will be used to enable access to these areas by machinery. However, works will be scheduled to minimise access requirements during winter months. The washout of concrete trucks will not occur on site, and only the chute will be washed into a washout container within the construction compound.

A dedicated Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared for the control of Japanese Knotweed at the Crossmolina permanent works – See Appendix E for details.

This will include measures to ensure that there will be no contamination of the river with herbicide.

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- Any works affecting water features or riparian habitats will be submitted to IFI and NPWS in the form of a detailed method statement;
- Method statements will be in accordance with Atkinson et al. (2024);
- All concrete will be mixed off-site and imported into the Crossmolina permanent works site. All concrete bowsers will be washed out outside the permanent works area back in the concrete plant, with only the chutes to be washed out at a dedicated concrete washout on-site, at least 50 m from a drainage ditch or water feature. The proposed washout will be located at the construction compounds. Concrete washings will not be disposed of on-site to any surface or ground water feature. All washings will be removed off-site and treated at a licensed facility;
- The use of wet concrete will be avoided where possible and where unavoidable, such as for the piled bridge foundations, it will be strictly controlled. On-site cement mixing will be prohibited. Any washwater from concreting will be monitored for pH and pH neutralisation to be undertaken. CO2 neutralisation method will be utilised at this site. Proprietary systems such as Siltbuster[31] or Aska Skyes to be used; and,
- All equipment and machinery will be steam cleaned prior to entry as bio security measure. This is to avoid transfer of invasive species on equipment and machinery which may have been used elsewhere to the receiving catchment. The IFI bio security protocol will be implemented http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Biosecurity/biosecurity.html.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

The SuDs measures implemented during the construction phase will be maintained during the operational phase (filter drains and filter strips). Based on the limited area of hardstanding, the potential for increased flow and therefore sediment generation is low. The hardstanding area comprises 0.002% of the flow in the River Deel (Crossmolina). The French drainage system will provide sufficient storage capacity of the access track in Crossmolina.

Traffic volumes for the proposed TDR are low (<300 vehicle journeys) however all runoff will be treated via the SuDS measures proposed prior to entering the local drainage network. The proposed TDR and amenity track at Crossmolina will be designed and constructed in accordance with guidance in order to manage any impact to the water environment. This includes referring to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance document DN-DNG-03065 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment (including Amendment No. 1 dated June 2015) to determine drainage measures. Based on a rainfall runoff calculation, per 1km of access track, a runoff storage volume of 33 m^3 is required. The filter drain will provide a storage volume 187 m^3 is provided per 1km of road.

[31] https://www.siltbuster.co.uk/solutions/ph-correction/

12.1.4 Monitoring

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Mitigation measures to protect surface water quality will be monitored daily by a suitably qualified ECoW during the construction of the proposed bridge in Crossmolina to ensure compliance and maintenance of the water quality control measures control measures (e.g. silt fences and silt bags) are carried out as required.

Monthly baseline turbidity sampling will be carried out for three months prior to construction at six monitoring points along the River Deel. Continuous turbidity monitoring is to be undertaken by the suitably qualified ECoW along the River Deel, with meters installed upstream and downstream of the proposed works including the construction of the proposed bridge and drain discharge to the east of Crossmolina bridge crossing– further details are included in Appendix A (CEMP) and APEM Group Woodrow (2025) Technical Report, which are both submitted as part of this planning application. If downstream turbidity trigger levels are exceeded, works will be halted safely and immediately, and the ECoW will investigate the source. Installation of parapet railing requires ECoW supervision.

Monitoring of pH near any concreting works will be undertaken, with pH adjust to pH 6-9. Modern pH neutralisers have inbuilt pH monitoring.

The FPM population in this section of the River Deel, upstream and downstream of the bridge, be re-surveyed one year and four years after construction to evaluate any impact of the works and the presence of the bridge on the FPM population. Monitoring will be carried out in accordance with current best practice, and if new methods are available will be iterated to match these.

12.2 Invasive Species Control and Biosecurity

Two areas of Japanese knotweed, listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities Regulations (S.I. 477/2011) were recorded within/adjacent to works areas associated with the proposed project and therefore, could spread as a result of the proposed project (POI 46 and the Crossmolina permanent works area). A number of other IAPS which are not subject to legal restrictions were recorded at the Carricknagat permanent works area. An Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) has been prepared to outline the steps required to control, eradicate and/or remove these species. In doing so, their spread will be prevented. The mitigation measures required for IAPS management are outlined below, and the full ISMP has been included in Appendix E.

12.2.1 Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

An ECoW with adequate and evidenced experience in dealing with IAPS will be appointed for the site. The ECoW will assess the current areas of infestation, in the growing season (May to September) preceding site mobilisation, as Third Schedule IAPS may have spread in the interim between previous surveys carried out by TOBIN and when the proposed works commence. The ECoW will fence off the treatment working areas and will also monitor all works being carried out within IAPS infestation locations. Should any additional infestations of Third Schedule IAPS be found, the ECoW will notify the invasive species contractor (as further discussed below and the ISMP will be updated with chosen treatments for the additional infestations. The ECoW will also host a toolbox talk in order to make all site workers aware of the IAPS on site and the risks

of their spread. The ECoW will have the authority to halt works if non-compliance or unforeseen environmental risks are identified.

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12.2.2 Appointment of a Contractor

A suitably qualified invasive species contractor will be appointed. The contractor will review this document and implement appropriate treatment methods, as outlined in Table 12.1 for each infestation. As noted above, the contractor will be responsible for updating the ISMP with treatment methods for any additional IAPS infestations identified prior to construction activities commencing. These treatment methods will be established in conjunction with the ECoW and will be based on the proposed construction activities, relevant guidance and legislation and the treatment methods outlined in the ISMP and this NIS.

12.2.3 Establishing Good Site Hygiene and a Bio-Secure Zone

- Fencing will be established around each working area hosting Third Schedule IAPS prior to IAPS management and construction activities commencing. In the case of Japanese knotweed, the bio-secure zone will be 7m from the visible plant parts. This will ensure all areas scheduled to be treated are included in the area fenced off. This will inform personnel that access into and out of the area is restricted. Signage will be erected along the fencing to avoid unnecessary contact with the plant or surrounding contaminated soils. Prior to both ISMP works and construction works commencing onsite, the appointed contractor will be required to update and implement the ISMP prior to treatment commencing.
- Any vegetation or soil within the exclusion zone will be considered contaminated (See Table 12.1 and Figure 6.2 to Figure 6.4 for locations). Any disturbance of soil within this zone may stimulate the growth of any rhizomes remaining within the soil. A fragment of its rhizome the size of a fingernail can regenerate into an entirely new plant (RAPID, 2024). Therefore, construction works and activities will be avoided within these exclusion zones.
- The following guidelines will be followed by all personnel on site.
    - A designated wash-down area will be established within the site compound at Crossmolina, approximately 150m from the bank of the River Deel (Deel (Crossmolina)_050). A wash-down area will also be established at POI 46. In the wash-down areas, washings, and material from a power-washed vehicle will be effectively contained, collected and removed to a licenced waste facility along with other contaminated material. The area will include a washable membrane or hard surface.
    - Stockpile areas will be chosen by the ECoW to minimise movement of contaminated soil
    - Any stockpiles will be marked and isolated by the ECoW.
    - Using tracked machines within the contaminated area is likely to contribute to the spread of IAPS and will be avoided.
    - The ECoW will monitor and oversee implementation of the plan.

12.2.4 Works at the River Deel

The works associated with the construction of the proposed bridge structure are adjacent to the River Deel (Deel (Crosmolina)_050), an ecologically sensitive area which is located within the River Moy SAC (site code: 002298). This SAC is designated for a number of sensitive aquatic

species and habitats, and additionally, freshwater pearl mussel is present within this waterbody. The closest known infestation of Japanese knotweed is present on the riverbank, underneath the proposed bridge location, approximately 8m from the location of installation works (and approximately 3m from the clear-span section of this proposed bridge). The following targeted mitigation measures will be followed while works occur at the bridge installation at the River Deel.

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- A setback distance of 7m from each Japanese knotweed plant will be adhered to during construction works
- A pre-construction survey will be carried out by the EcOW in the growing season (May to September) preceding site mobilisation along the banks of the River Deel to determine if the Japanese knotweed has spread to the works area for the bridge installation. Should it be found to have done so, and it is not possible to keep a 7m buffer from the Japanese knotweed plants, treatment and eradication will be completed before works can occur.
- All Japanese knotweed present on the banks of the River Deel, within the redline boundary will be treated with Treatment Option JK2: Stem Injection as per recommendations by the NPWS.
- While the stem treatment of the Japanese knotweed is being carried out, the ECoW will supervise the works closely. No contractor or any other site workers will step into the River Deel as this may result in injury or mortality of any freshwater pearl mussel present within the river.
- Construction works in this area will occur in conjunction with the Japanese knotweed treatment. The bridge will be lifted and installed from outside of the exclusion zone, in order to avoid any further spread of the Japanese knotweed present.
- All machinery, tools etc will be inspected closely before leaving this works area
- The ECoW will maintain a checklist of all machinery and tools entering or leaving the works area.

12.2.5 Prevent Further Spread and Introduction of Invasive Species

The priority of these works is to contain the Third Schedule IAPS infestations and prevent further spread to areas which are not currently contaminated. The infested areas will be isolated by closing the works area to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic during excavation and construction, until such time as the site has been reinstated. Biosecurity measures will be put in place to avoid the accidental transport of material. To prevent the further spread of Third Schedule IAPS within the site the following measures are required:

- On completion of works and decontamination of the site, biosecurity measures will be removed under the supervision of the ECoW.
- No material will be removed from a treatment area without prior consultation and approval from the ECoW and licence from the NPWS.
- All materials entering site will be checked to ensure their sources are free of IAPS, particularly soil and plant material. All machinery will be cleaned and checked for IAPS prior to arrival to site.

12.2.6 Transporting Contaminated Material

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The following recommendations are required when material is transported outside of the site.

- Stockpile areas will be chosen to minimise the movement of contaminated soil. Any stockpiles will be clearly marked and isolated.
- A licence from the NPWS will be obtained for the transportation of contaminated material.
- Additional to this, if the material has been treated through chemical means it may need to be classified as hazardous waste.
- Vehicles used to transport materials will be lined and covered and will be decontaminated before they leave the work zone.
- The truck will not be filled to the top (minimum 20cm buffer required) and will be sealed securely with a suitable membrane for transportation to ensure no material escapes.
- Biosecurity measures as outlined above will be implemented for de-contamination.

12.2.7 Treatment Options

The ISMP outlines a range of appropriate treatment options for the relevant species recorded within the project RLB. The ISMP identifies the specific treatment options which are considered suitable for each infestation location. These are outlined below in Table 12.1.

12.2.7.1 Chemical Treatment of Japanese Knotweed

A possible treatment of Japanese knotweed is the use of herbicide. It is recommended to use an herbicide that is generally considered safe for use near water, one such chemical is Glyphosate.

Glyphosate application is most effective from July to September and will not be applied during the winter dormancy period, as living foliage is required to take up the herbicide. It will not be applied during rain, and a period of 6 hours of dry weather after application is required. Similarly, foliar application will not take place in windy weather as this prevents the application from being sufficiently targeted.

Herbicide treatment may be required over many years in order to completely eradicate Japanese knotweed from the site (See Section 12.2.8). Chemical treatment is a long-term measure, and only suitable when the site is not predicted to be disturbed for more than 3 years. Even after all growth has stopped, rhizomes may remain viable and future disturbance could potentially reactivate growth.

Failing to allow plants to reach a certain stage prior to herbicide treatment can increase the amount of time required for treatment, along with associated costs. It should be noted that water stress[32] can reduce the herbicide uptake of the plants. (Property Care Association, 2024)

12.2.7.1.1 Treatment Option JK1: Foliar Treatment

One application method for the use of Glyphosate is spraying or foliar treatment. This involves spraying the herbicide on the upper and lower surface of the leaves. A treatment dye will be used to identify clearly all areas of each plant that have been treated. Foliar treatment is an efficient

[32] Water stress in plants refers to when the demand for water exceeds its availability, leading to adverse effects on plant growth, development and productivity

way to treat large monocultures of invasive plants, or to spot-treat individual plants that are difficult to remove mechanically such as Japanese knotweed. In the case of Japanese knotweed, to ensure optimal uptake of herbicide into the rhizome system, a second similar treatment will be required within ten days, before the internal vascular system is no longer capable of translocating the herbicide to the root system.

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While the upper surface of the leaves will be easier to treat, it is required to treat the leaf under surface as Japanese knotweed possesses many stomata openings on the leaf under surface. Dead stems will be cut and removed off site to a licenced waste facility, as outlined in - Treatment Option JK4: Off-Site Disposal, in accordance with the relevant legislation. This method is not considered suitable in ecologically sensitive environments.

12.2.7.1.2 Treatment Option JK2: Stem Injection

The second application method of Glyphosate is stem-injection. This involves using a specified herbicide injection tool to inject the herbicide into the stems at high concentrations. Herbicide will be injected at a dilution of 5:1, 20-30cm from the base between the 1st and 2nd nodes. One study by Delbart *et al.* 2012, found this to be a more efficient method of Japanese knotweed control compared to foliar treatments or mechanical methods.

Regrowth will occur in subsequent years, albeit much less vigorously, which will require follow up treatment at the appropriate time of year. Kelly *et al.* (2015) state that 'it can take 3 years and more of herbicide treatment with monitoring and follow up control for up to 5 years' for the treatment of Japanese knotweed. Additionally, spot treatment will be required each year until no regrowth is observed.

12.2.7.2 Treatment Option JK3: Combined Treatment

Combined treatment involves digging and herbicide treatment in combination. This method will be employed in situations where treatment of the Japanese knotweed is required to be completed in a shorter timeframe and can be undertaken effectively at any time of year. In summary, this management method requires cutting and killing of the surface plant. The cut material will be left on top of plastic sheeting until dried out and subsequently monitored for any sign of regrowth. Storage of cut material will not take place within flood risk zone of a river. The cut material will not be placed in a green waste recycling bin. Once dried out, the material will be removed to a licenced waste facility, as outlined in Treatment Option JK4: Off-Site Disposal. The surface of the affected area will be raked with tines to remove crowns and surface material, and in order to break up the rhizomes, bringing them to the surface, which will stimulate leaf production. This will make the plant more vulnerable to herbicide treatment. The more rhizomes that are brought to the surface, the more growth will occur, allowing for a more successful treatment. Reapplication of herbicide will be required in subsequent years until the stand is eradicated. A three-year treatment programme will be undertaken, followed by two years of monitoring to ensure no growth is carried out. The area with Japanese knotweed will be treated accordingly using herbicide treatments. The following criteria need to be fulfilled for successful combined treatment of Japanese knotweed:

- Break up the rhizome and bring it to the surface by raking/digging. This stimulates leafy growth and maximises the uptake of subsequent herbicide treatments to the rhizome;

- Repeat the treatment to continuously weaken growth and expose deeper rhizomes which could not otherwise be as effectively treated;
- Digging while the ground is wet will be avoided as it will compact the soil and slow down growth, reducing uptake of herbicide and compromising treatment;
- It will require the treatment of the entire contaminated area;
- Good site hygiene practices and decontamination of vehicles and equipment is essential and will be undertaken;
- Crown removal will be integrated into these works, including prior to the commencement of herbicide treatment. Crown removal will involve transportation off-site and will be subject to licencing from NPWS; and,
- Rhizome dormancy can occur with improper herbicide application, however ground disturbance can encourage regrowth of rhizomes.

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12.2.7.3 Treatment Option JK4: Off-Site Disposal

Where the above treatment options are not possible or where the infestation simply cannot be avoided by the construction works, removal of excavated material may be the only option. Off-site disposal of material is only to be considered as a last resort when none of the other treatment options can be carried out.

If any IAPS material is collected (e.g. by hand-pulling or mowing), it is important that its disposal will not lead to a risk of further spread. Where there are small amounts of Japanese knotweed material to be removed the material will be double bagged and sent to a licenced waste facility for disposal. Where the amount of material is larger in volume, it will be necessary to haul it from site to a suitably licenced waste facility.

- Invasive species material, particularly roots, flower heads or seeds, will be disposed of at licensed waste facilities in compliance with the relevant legislation;
- Invasive alien plant species material or soil containing residual herbicides may be classified as either 'hazardous waste' or 'non-hazardous waste' under the terms of the Waste Management Acts, and both categories will require special disposal procedures or permissions;
- Advice will be sought from a suitably qualified waste expert regarding the classification of the waste and the suitability of different disposal measures;
- Any movement of material into areas where infestation has not already occurred carries the risk of introducing Japanese knotweed to the area, in contravention of Regulation 49 of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations;
- Contaminated soil and plant material can only be transported under licence from the NPWS under Section 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended).
- Material will only be brought to a licenced landfill which has acknowledged the nature of the infestation and has agreed in writing, in advance, to accept and treat the material appropriately;
- The updated ISMP will outline all biosecurity and treatment measures to be taken to prevent escape of contaminated material; and,
- Monitoring of the area will still be required, and any regrowth will be treated by herbicide.

12.2.7.4 Treatment Option JK5: Soil Screening

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This method requires all viable parts of Japanese knotweed to be extracted and removed off-site to a licenced facility. Soil screenings and sieving methods can provide effective means on rhizome removal. If soils have been efficiently screened it can be re-used onsite, however it will not be re-used off-site unless being disposed of at a licenced waste facility. This method can be undertaken effectively at any time of the year. This method will be combined with the herbicide treatment if re-growth is recorded after screening. Contaminated soil must show two years no growth before it can be disturbed by the development. If chosen, this treatment option will be carried out over a three-year treatment programme followed by two years of monitoring to ensure no growth is carried out.

- This method is viable in areas with large amounts of infected soils and materials.
- Material that is removed off-site, will only be brought to a licenced landfill which has acknowledged the nature of the infestation and has agreed in writing, in advance, to accept and treat the material appropriately.
- The updated ISMP is prepared by the invasive species contractor will outline all biosecurity and treatment measures to be taken to prevent escape of contaminated material.
- Monitoring of the area will be required, and any regrowth should be treated by herbicide.

Re-surveying/monitoring provides information on the success of the management methods and allows for the planning of follow-up treatments. Sites with a strong likelihood of reinvasion will be surveyed every year and treated appropriately according to the same protective measures as outlined in this NIS and the ISMP.

12.2.8 Follow-Up Treatment and Monitoring

Considering how prolific Japanese knotweed is, follow up monitoring is required to ensure that the proposed project does not result in a spread of IAPS. In line with best practice guidance, monitoring and chemical treatment of sites will continue over a five-year programme, or three consecutive years until no regrowth has been recorded (Kelly *et al.,* 2015). Following initial treatment, long-term annual monitoring for each infestation will be completed for a minimum of two years post finalisation of treatment. Any additional infestations that are recorded during pre-construction surveys, or during the construction period will also be included in the plan and treated immediately according to the measures outlined in this Section, and the ISMP.

12.2.8.1 Treatment of All Other Invasive Alien Plant Species (non-Third Schedule Species)

There are a number of IAPS present within/adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project that do not feature on the Third Schedule list which include montbretia, winter heliotrope and Himalayan honeysuckle. Although it is not illegal to cause the dispersal of these species, they do pose a threat to biodiversity in Ireland as they can out compete native plants and alter the plant community composition of natural habitats.

Therefore, the cuttings of these plants will be separated from other removed vegetation so the seeds and cuttings don't result in a further spread of these species, should the vegetation be

moved elsewhere. This IAPS vegetation will be removed and disposed of appropriately (under the supervision of an ECoW).

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Table 12.1: IAPS Recorded Within/Adjacent to the Planning Application Boundary of the Proposed Project, Descriptions of the Infestations, Details of the Locations and Appropriate Treatment Methods

Note: Cells highlighted grey indicate Third Schedule IAPS. Location	Species	Description of record (maturity of plant(s), quantity etc.)	Location Details	Treatment Method
Carricknagat permanent works area	Himalayan Honeysuckle	10+ stands of plants bearing flowers	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	As these species do not feature on the Third Schedule list of invasives, these cuttings do not need to be considered a biohazard. However, any vegetation containing low, medium or high impact invasive species (i.e. invasive species not_considered Third Schedule) will still be separated from other removed vegetation and can be dealt with via methods outlined in Section 12.2.8.1of this report.
Carricknagat permanent works area	Himalayan Honeysuckle	500+ stands bearing flowers	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	
Carricknagat permanent works area	Winter Heliotrope	2mx5m area	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	
Carricknagat permanent works area	Butterfly bush	One butterfly bush located here	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	
Along N59, west of Ballysadare	Japanese knotweed	5mx3m stands of young plants	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	This infestation of Japanese knotweed is located directly adjacent to the proposed project. If following the pre-construction survey, the EcOW determines that a 7m buffer from works areas cannot be maintained, treatment will be required. Treatment Option JK4: Off-site Disposal is recommended. Mitigation measures outlined in Section 12.2 must be strictly adhered to by all site workers.

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Crossmolina permanent works area	Japanese knotweed	Large infestation-10x3x3m	Approximately 3m from the proposed clear-span bridge location at its closest point, and 8m from the location of piling works. Additional to this infestation, Japanese knotweed is present throughout the banks of the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 waterbody (Figure 5.6)	This infestation of Japanese knotweed is located approximately 8m from works associated with the proposed project. A pre-construction survey will be carried out by the EcOW, and a 7m buffer will be marked out. If following the pre-construction survey, the EcOW determines that a 7m buffer cannot be maintained, treatment will be required. As outlined in the EcIA, the proposed bridge installation at this point is heavily ecologically constrained due to the presence of Japanese knotweed along the banks of the River Deel (Deel (Crosmolina)_050), which is located within the River Moy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 002298). This SAC is designated for a number of sensitive aquatic species and habitats, and additionally, freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is present within this waterbody. Considering these constraints and following advice from the NPWS, only Treatment Option JK2: Stem Injection to treat the Japanese knotweed is considered to suitable for this location. Detailed mitigation measures for these works are outlined in Section 12.2.

12.3 PROTECTION OF OTTER

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12.3.1 Surface Water Quality Protection Measures

The surface water quality protection measures outlined in Section 12.1 will also serve to protect otter in the ZoI of the proposed project.

12.3.2 Mortality and Disturbance

Although no active otter holts were recorded in the vicinity of the proposed bridge structure at the Crossmolina permanent works area, there is potential for new holts to be established in the interim period between the baseline field surveys and the construction phase. Thus, a pre-construction survey will be carried out by a suitably qualified ECoW no more than 10-12 months in advance of construction to identify any newly established otter holts within 150m upstream and downstream of the works associated with the proposed bridge (NRA, 2008).

In the event that holts are identified within the ZoI of the proposed project during the pre-construction surveys, the EcOW will arrange for an otter derogation licence to be sought from the NPWS[33] and the mitigation measures outlined below will be implemented:

- For active holts, otters will be evacuated from the holts prior to any closures. Otters with cubs, however, will not be evacuated until the otters have vacated the holt themselves naturally. In the case of non-breeding active holts, general disturbance (e.g. vegetation clearance) and approved chemical deterrents will be used first to encourage the otters to vacate the holts. Once the otters have left the holt, the entrance will then be soft blocked. In some cases, the installation of one-way gates on the entrances to the holt may be required and a monitoring period of 21 days will be carried out to ensure the otters have left the holt prior to removal.
- There are no seasonal restrictions with regard to the exclusion of otters from disused, or currently inactive holts. Confirming that a holt is inactive would require a period of monitoring (five or more days of checking activity at the holt either with sticks or with sand pads to identify footprints). Where holts have been verified as inactive, and to prevent their reoccupation, the entrances will be soft blocked (i.e. lightly blocked with vegetation and a light application of soil). If the entrances remain undisturbed for five days, the holt will then be destroyed immediately using a mechanical digger, under the supervision of the holder of an NPWS Otter Derogation Licence.
- In accordance with NRA (2008) guidelines, where pre-construction surveys confirm the destruction of an active breeding holt will be required, and no suitable alternative natural holts are present, the construction of an artificial holt may be recommended as an alternative to mitigate for the loss. Artificial holt(s) will be constructed prior to exclusion of an active holt. The artificial holt will be established in close proximity to the existing holt. The construction and location of a potential artificial holt will be agreed in advance under licence with the NPWS. A suitably qualified ECoW will oversee the process from the start, i.e. from design to installation. A period of monitoring will be required in order to determine use of the artificial holt by otters. The duration and

[33] Derogation licence applications available on NPWS website: Application for Derogations | National Parks & Wildlife Service

frequency of monitoring will be site-specific, depending on when and if otter colonise, and will be agreed with the ECoW. The construction of an artificial holt will either avail of pre-constructed holts purchased from UK companies or create a holt from a variety of available designs that have been approved by the NPWS.

- To prevent mortality of otter during the operational phase, the speed of turbine delivery vehicles will be limited to 25km/h and will be observed by operatives and the ECoW.

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12.4 Signage

As an additional measure to further reduce the potential for human related disturbance, appropriate signage will be erected near the proposed bridge structure in Crossmolina to discourage activities which could affect sensitive receptors such as fishing.

12.5 Mitigation Effectiveness

The appointed ECoW will be responsible for ensuring all mitigation measures listed above, including any additional planning conditions, are fully implemented during the entirety of the proposed project works.

The above listed mitigation measures will be implemented prior to the proposed project commencing and/or undertaken throughout the duration of the works.

The above outlined mitigation measures are best practice and are proven technologies/ methods. The mitigation measures, once correctly applied, will avoid or reduce the magnitude of potential impacts on the receiving environment, therefore ensuring avoidance of significant adverse effects on the integrity of the following European sites:

- River Moy SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA;
- Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA;
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Unshin River SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- Donegal Bay SPA;
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC; and
- Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC.

13. ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL IN COMBINATION EFFECTS

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Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that: "*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.*"

It is therefore required that the potential impacts of the proposed project are considered in-combination with any other relevant plans and/or projects. A summary of the relevant projects is provided below.

13.1.1 Projects

AQUACULTURE SITES

There are a number of licensed aquaculture sites present downstream of the proposed project (e.g. in Donegal Bay, Ballysadare Bay and Killala Bay). There is potential for these projects to result in likely significant hydrological effects on European sites such as Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, Donegal Bay SPA, Ballysadare Bay SAC, Ballysadare Bay SPA, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to water quality degradation. However, these aquaculture sites are not expected to act in-combination with the proposed project as they are subject to a stringent aquaculture licensing procedure which requires an AA Screening process to be undertaken.

Therefore, following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

EXISTING BARNESMORE WINDFARM An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) reference: PA05E.306303

Permission has been granted for the decommissioning and removal of 25 existing wind turbines and the construction of up to 13 wind turbines in Co. Donegal. The planning application was accompanied by an AA Screening Report and NIS. These reports described the site and confirmed that this proposed projectwould not be located within any European sites, however, they noted potential effects arising from a downstream hydrological connection to Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC. The NIS concludes: "*This report concludes that if the mitigation measures specified for this specific development are implemented, as detailed in Section 8, the proposal will not, in the light of best scientific knowledge, adversely affect the integrity of any European Site either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects"* (Woodrow Sustainable Solutions, 2019).

Given the conclusion of the Barnesmore Windfarm's NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

QUARRY IN BALLYSADARE Sligo County Council reference: 1850

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Permission has been granted for the continued use and operation of the existing quarry and quarry extension area (19 hectares) permitted under Plan Reg. Ref. No. PL02/299 (ABP Ref. No. PL21 .201367). An AA Screening Report was prepared for this planning application. This report notes that Ballysadare Bay SPA, Ballysadare Bay SAC and Unshin River SAC are within the ZoI of the proposed project. The report concludes: "*There is no likelihood of significant effects on these Natura 2000 sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects*" (SLR, 2018).

Given the conclusion of the Ballysadare Quarry's NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

FIRLOUGH WIND FARM AND GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT ACP reference: 317560

Permission has been granted for the Firlough Wind Farm and Green Hydrogen Plant including 13 no. wind turbines in Bunnyconnellan, Co. Mayo and hydrogen plant in Castleconnor, Co. Sligo. An NIS was prepared for this planning application which details potential for effects on the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to hydrological connectivity. The NIS concludes: "*in the light of the assessment which it shall conduct on the implications for the European sites concerned, the competent authority is enabled to ascertain that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the European sites concerned*"(BioSphere Environmental Services, 2023).

Given the conclusion of the Firlough Wind Farm and Green Hydrogeon Plant's NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

BALLINA FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME – RIVER MOY ACP reference: 322329

Permission has been granted for the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme works on the River Moy and its tributaries in Ballina, Co. Mayo. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for this planning application. The AA Screening Report identified likely significant effects on four European sites: River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA. This NIS concludes: "*This NIS comprehensively demonstrates, based on best scientific knowledge available, that subject to implementation of bespoke mitigation measures and monitoring as detailed above, it can be objectively concluded that the Proposed Scheme on its own and in combination with other plans and projects will not adversely affect the integrity of these European Sites having regard to site-specific conservation objectives*"(RPS, 2025).

Given the conclusion of the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme's NIS and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project.

Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

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PROPOSED RAISING/FILLING OF LANDS Mayo County Council reference: 2460315

Planning permission has been granted for the proposed raising/filling of lands with inert material at Ballyhola, Ballina, Co. Mayo. An AA Screening Report was prepared for this planning application. The report notes that the River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA are within the ZoI of this development.

The AA Screening concludes: "*Appropriate Assessment is not required as there will be no significant or insignificant, direct or indirect impacts on the Natura sites qualifying interest habitats (QIH), qualifying interest species (QIS), special conservation interests (SCI's) or conservation objectives either during or post filling with inert material when consider alone or in combination with other projects. There are no direct connections to the Killala Bay / Moy Estuary SAC or SPA. The development site is not directly or indirectly connected to the River Moy SAC. There is no reasonable or realistic scientific evidence or data indicating that the proposed projectwill significantly impact on any Natura sites SCI's, QIH's, QIS or conservation objectives either alone or in combination with any other plan or project*"(Neary, 2024).

Given the conclusion of this raising/filling of lands' NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

RIVER DEEL (CROSSMOLINA) DRAINAGE SCHEME Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform/OPW reference: DPE063-014-2018

The River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme has been submitted to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform for Confirmation and is at Scheme Confirmation Stage. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for this project. The AA Screening Report identified for the River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme to result in significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA, in the absence of mitigation. The proposed works will occur partially within the River Moy SAC and there is potential for direct effects arising from habitat loss and disturbance, and indirect hydrological and hydromorphological changes. There is also potential for direct effects on the Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA as a result of physical disturbance and habitat deterioration, and indirect effects arising from water pollution. In summary, the Crossmolina Drainage Scheme involves the construction of a diversion channel which will intake water from the River Deel during flood periods, and divert this water towards Lough Conn. It is also proposed to construct a bridge over the river. These works are proposed to occur upstream of the bridge structure, which is part of the proposed project, at a hydrological distance of 2.3km.

The NIS concluded that: *Where the potential for any adverse effect on any European Site has been identified, the pathway by which any such effect may occur has been robustly blocked through the use of avoidance, appropriate design and mitigation measures as set out within this report and its appendices. The measures ensure that the construction and operation of the proposed project does not adversely affect the integrity of European sites. Therefore, it can be*

*objectively concluded that the proposed development individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site in light of their site conservation objectives and in view of best scientific knowledge. (*Ryan Hanley, 2020)

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Given the conclusion of the River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme's NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

PROPOSED TIRAWLEY WIND FARM ACP reference: 323778

Planning permission has been applied for to ACP and is due to be decided by 28/09/2026. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for this planning application. In the absence of mitigation, the AA Screening report identified likely significant effects on Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to hydrological and hydrogeological connectivity. The NIS concludes: *on the basis of the assessment set out in this NIS, it is respectfully submitted that the competent authority is able to determine that no reasonable scientific doubt remains that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, in view of the conservation objectives of that site* (BioSphere Environmental Services, 2025).

Given the conclusion of the Tirawley Wind Farm's NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

OWENINNY WIND FARM PHASE 3 ACP reference: 316178

Planning permission has been granted for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 project, consisting of 18 wind turbines. This proposed project is required to facilitate the construction of the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. An AA Screening Report and NIS were prepared for the planning application for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3. This NIS identified for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 to result in significant effects on the River Moy SAC and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA, and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA due to hydrological connectivity.

The NIS for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 concludes: *Following an analysis and evaluation of the relevant information and in light of best scientific knowledge, in particular, the nature of the Proposed Development, characteristics of the qualifying and special conservation interests, the potential link between the Proposed Development, the identified European sites within the ZoI, and the mitigations measures to be implemented, it can be concluded that no significant adverse effects are anticipated alone or incombination with any other plans or projects.*

Given the conclusion of the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3's NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

OWENINNY WIND FARM PHASE 1 AND 2 ACP reference: PA0029

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The existing Oweninny Wind Farm was developed by Oweninny Power Limited, a joint venture between ESB Wind Development Limited and Bord na Móna Energy Limited. The project was delivered in two phases. Phase 1 of the Oweninny Wind Farm, which consists of 29 turbines, has been in operation since mid-2019. Phase 2 consists of 31 turbines and has been in operation since 2023. The existing Oweninny Wind Farm (Phase 1 and 2) is located to the north of the westernmost section of the proposed project.

An NIS for the Oweninny Wind Farm (Phase 1 and 2) was undertaken in 2013 by Biosphere Environmental Services (2013), on behalf of ESB. The AA Screening Report identified the potential for likely significant effects on Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC, Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC, Lough Dahybaun SAC, River Moy SAC and Carrowmore Lake SAC, due to the risk of peat slippage due to the construction works and a degradation of water quality from a runoff of suspended solids and construction related pollutants. The NIS concluded that:

"Whilst the Proposed Development could potentially have impacts on five European sites, it is considered that the sensitive design of the project along with rigorous mitigation measures proposed will ensure that the project, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will have no significant adverse impacts on the conservation of these European sites." Mitigation measures to prevent potential impacts were subsequently implemented.

Given the conclusion of the Oweninny Wind Farm NIS (Phase 1 and 2), and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

DOOLEEG WIND TURBINE Mayo County Council Planning reference: 20467

Conditional planning permission was granted in 2021 for a single wind turbine generator with an overall max height of 180m and 20kV grid connection to Bellacorick 110kV substation. The grid connection route is located along the proposed project in the townland Dooleeg.

Of the protected sites identified in the NIS for this project, only the River Moy SAC was found to be at risk from potential negative impacts, in the absence of mitigation measures, associated with the discharge of surface drainage waters during the construction phase. Mitigation measures are to be implemented for this project to prevent any discharge of silt, pollutants, cement or sewage into the River Deel catchment (River Moy SAC) during the construction phase. The NIS for this project concluded that:

"Based upon the information provided in this NIS, it is the considered view of the authors of this NIS that it can be concluded by Mayo County Council that the project will not, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, result in the significant adverse effects to the integrity and conservation status of European Sites in view of their conservation objectives and on the basis of the best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion."

Given the conclusion of the Dooleeg Wind Turbine NIS, and following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12, there are no direct or indirect impacts that could

adversely affect the integrity of any European site as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with this project to result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

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13.1.2 Plans

13.1.2.1 National and Regional Policy

This section considers plans that promote wind energy development and associated infrastructure, including those set out in the National Planning Framework, Climate Action Plan 2025 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The National Planning Framework is a strategic framework document which will be supported by regional and local level plans. This plan notes that at the project level, all applications for development consents for projects emanating from any policies that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment will need to be accompanied by one or more of the following, as relevant:

- An Ecological Impact Assessment Report;
- Environmental Report;
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report if deemed necessary under the relevant legislation (statutory document);
- Natura Impact Statement if deemed necessary under the relevant legislation (statutory document).

National Policy Objective 75

Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the National Planning Framework are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2025

The Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead Ireland to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

Overarching SEA and AA Mitigation

The Climate Action Plan is a whole-of-Government plan with all relevant Departments and Agencies feeding into its development. Therefore, the relevant Departments and Agencies have legal obligations in relation to protection of the environment.

These Departments and Agencies' plans, programmes and projects must be consistently screened for SEA, EIA and AA processes as appropriate to ensure that protection of the environment and sustainable development are driving principles of Climate Action Plan implementation.

Where the above processes have been or are being undertaken, the measures identified to mitigate, remedy and offset negative effects must be given effect along with any associated

planning conditions, at the appropriate scale and level of detail. Notwithstanding there is existing guidance related to linear infrastructure, the principle of robust constraints, site and route selection, and environmental assessment, reporting and monitoring, shall be applied to all infrastructure projects as best practice, to avoid significant negative environmental effects and to ensure the legal protection of European sites and the avoidance of adverse effects on site integrity.

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REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY, NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGION 2020

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) came into effect on the 24th of January 2020 and provides a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region that supports the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government. This plan includes objectives relating to biodiversity protection.

Regional Policy Objective 5.5

Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all our natural resources, including inland waterways, peatlands, and forests in a manner which ensures a healthy society a clean environment and there is no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development supported in this strategy. Conserve and protect designated areas and natural heritage area. Conserve and protect European sites and their integrity.

Regional Policy Objective 5.7

Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the RSES are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate.

Adherence to the National and Regional policies and objectives will ensure that all plans and projects proposed will not result in likely significant effects on biodiversity and European sites, and includes the requirement that any future proposed plans or projects be subject to Ecological Impact Assessment, Screening for AA and/or AA to examine and assess their effects on biodiversity and European sites, cumulatively and alone and/or in-combination with other plans and projects. Thus, following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12 of this report, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with these plans to result in adverse effects on the integrity of any European site.

13.1.2.2Local Policy

The proposed project is located across Donegal, Sligo and Mayo. The development plans for these counties include objectives and policies which are associated with the protection of the natural environment, European sites and watercourses. The relevant biodiversity objectives and plans are outlined herein.

MAYO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2028

Strategic County Development Plan Objective (SO) 9:

Ecological Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

"To ensure the assessment of all planning applications in the Plan area have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report contained in Volume 5 of the Mayo CDP 2022-2028.

To require project planning to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project development and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA) and assessments of disturbance to species protected under the Wildlife Act and/or the Flora Protection Act and of Habitat IV species protected under the Habitats Directive.

Ensure that proposals for developments located within identified or potential flood risk areas, or which may exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere, are assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding document), the relevant policies, objectives and guidelines within this plan and shall also take account of the National CFRAM Programme Flood Hazard Mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans when they become available.

***NEP 1** To support the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage and biodiversity of County Mayo, including the protection of the integrity of European sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves and Wild Fowl Sanctuaries (and other designated sites including any future designations).*

***NEO 11** To ensure that the impact of development within or adjacent to national designated sites, Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves likely to result in significant adverse effects on the designated site is assessed by requiring the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment report (EcIA), Environmental Report (ER), an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), if deemed necessary, and/ or a Natura Impact Assessment (NIS), if deemed necessary, prepared by a suitably qualified professional, which should accompany planning applications."*

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024 - 2030

***"P-BD-2** Protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011) as amended, Flora (Protection) Order 2015, the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, including all statutory instruments made under each act.*

***P-DSNC-1** Protect and maintain the conservation status of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, as identified by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan. In addition, the Council will identify, maintain and develop non-designated areas of high*

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nature conservation value which serve as linkages or 'stepping stones' between protected sites in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

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***P-DSNC-2** Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of 'favourable conservation status' of habitats and species in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).*

***P-DSNC-3** Carry out an appropriate level of assessment for all development plans, landuse plans and projects that the Council authorizes or proposes to undertake or adopt, to determine the potential for these plans or projects to impact on designated sites, proposed designated sites or associated ecological corridors and linkages in accordance with the Habitats Directive. All appropriate assessments shall be in compliance with the provisions of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).*

***P-DSNC-4** Ensure that all development proposals are subject to the process of Screening for Appropriate Assessment and subsequent stages of Appropriate Assessment, as relevant, carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, as appropriate.*

P-NCODS-2 Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive."

Donegal County Development Plan

***"WE-P-8** To ensure that the assessment of Wind Energy Development Proposals have regard to the following Specific Biodiversity Related Requirement:*

a. Loss of functionally linked habitat: Developers of wind energy proposals on greenfield sites shall undertake a preconstruction appraisal of habitats. Should habitats suitable for supporting Special Conservation Interest bird species be present, developers will be required to undertake pre-construction bird surveys to confirm whether the site supports a significant proportion of bird populations (typically taken to be 1% of the population of a SPA, at time of designation). Depending on whether qualifying birds represent breeding or overwintering species, surveys will need to be undertaken in the breeding season or overwintering period (October to March). If a site represents functionally linked habitat, avoidance / mitigation measures will be required and the proposal will need to be supported by a bespoke Appropriate Assessment.

b. Mortality due to collision with operational wind turbines: Wind energy development proposals shall demonstrate that they can be delivered without resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. Vantage point surveys will be required to establish:

(i) the overall use of the development site by Special Conservation Interest birds and

(ii) more detailed usage by Special Conservation Interest birds of the turbine swept area taking account of specifications such as turbine height, blade length, nacelle (blade hub) rotation speed and the number of turbines. Mitigation measures may need to be delivered to ensure that any residual risks are appropriately avoided or reduced.

c. Disturbance displacement: To avoid potential permanent disturbance displacement impacts on Special Conservation Interest bird species, Donegal County Council will generally not

support wind energy proposals within 1km of Special Protection Areas unless clear evidence from the applicant or scheme promoter can demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity will arise.

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d. Water Quality: Any wind energy developments within 1 km of sensitive SPAs / SACs shall ensure that potential adverse impacts on the European sites due to water quality impacts are assessed and, where required, mitigated. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, water quality and ecological baseline studies, run-off / leachate modelling, delivery of Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) and Water Management Plans (WMPs) and compliance with industry good practice

BIO-O-1 *To preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the County in accordance with the relevant EU policies and national legislation.*

BIO-P-1 *To require all developments to comply with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive and EU Bird Directive, including ensuring that development proposals:*

a. Do not adversely affect the integrity of any European/Natura 2000 site (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) including effects on ex-situ but functionally linked habitats, and species (e.g. Pearl Mussel) save where a plan must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

b. Provide for the protection of animal and plant species listed in Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive and the Flora Protection Order.

c. Protect and enhance features of the landscape (such as rivers, riverbanks, field boundaries, ponds and small woods) which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network. ***WW-P-2*** *Ensure that new developments:*

a. do not have an adverse impact on surface and ground water quality, drinking water supplies, Bathing Waters and aquatic ecology (including Water dependent qualifying interests within Natura 2000 sites); and

b. do not hinder the achievement of, and are not contrary to:

i. The objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive.

ii. EU Habitats and Bird Directives.

iii. The associated Programme of Measures in the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 including any associated Water Protection or Restoration Programmes.

iv. Drinking Water Safety Plan. v. The Guidelines on the Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works In and Adjacent To Waters (IFI, 2016)

BIO-P-4 *Ensure that any development proposals do not lead to the introduction or spread of invasive species. Where invasive species are present, development proposals will be required to be submit an appropriate control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).”*

Adherence to the Councils' plans and objectives will ensure that all plans and projects proposed will not result in likely significant effects on European sites, and includes the requirement that any future proposed plans or projects be subject to Screening for AA and/or AA to examine and

assess their effects on European sites, alone and/or in-combination with other plans and projects. Thus, following the implementation of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 12 of this report, there is no potential for the proposed project to act in-combination with these plans to result in adverse effects on the integrity of any European site.

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14. CONCLUSION

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This NIS has been prepared with regard to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland; Guidance for Planning Authorities*". The function of this report is to assist and provide sufficient objective scientific information to the competent authority for undertaking an AA in accordance with the Habitats Directive, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2010 (as amended), and case law.

The assessment considers whether the proposed project, alone and/or in-combination with other projects or plans, will result in adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within the ZoI of the proposed project and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid or reduce the risk of such adverse effects.

In the absence of mitigation, the potential risks to European sites within the ZoI are the potential reduction in water quality from the release of suspended solids and/or pollutants, spread of IAPS and impacts on otter. However, following the application of the detailed mitigation measures outlined herein, potential adverse effects on integrity of European sites will be avoided. Consequently, it is determined that there will be no risk of adverse effects on the QI/SCI habitats and species, or on overall site integrity, nor in the attainment of the specific conservation objectives for the following European sites within the ZoI:

- River Moy SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC;
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA;
- Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA;
- Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Unshin River SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- Donegal Bay SPA;
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC; and
- Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC.

In line with the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, an analysis and evaluation of the relevant information including, in particular, the nature of the proposed project, including mitigation measures, characteristics of the QIs/SCIs, the potential link between the proposed project and the relevant European sites, no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites as a result of the proposed project are anticipated, either alone and/or in-combination with any other plans or projects, and there is no scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

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Appendix A Construction Environmental Management Plan (TOBIN, 2026)

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Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 (OP3)

Turbine Delivery Route

Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

BnM

BUILT ON KNOWLEDGE

Document Control Sheet	
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Project Reference	12141

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1. INTRODUCTION

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This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared on behalf of Bord na Móna PowerGen Ltd. a subsidiary of Bord na Móna plc. (trading as BnM), hereafter referred to as BnM ('the Applicant'). It defines the project specific construction environmental measures that are to be implemented and the procedures to be followed for the proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) to service the permitted Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 (OP3) (Planning Ref: ABP Ref: PA16.316178) at Oweninny Co. Mayo (herein referred to as the Proposed Project).

The CEMP sets out the arrangements that the Contractor will use for planning, managing, and monitoring the construction phase activities to safeguard the environment throughout the construction stage. This CEMP only covers the permanent works required for the accommodation of the turbine blades and ancillary components along the TDR. These permanent works are required at two locations along the TDR; at Carricknagat, Co. Sligo and at Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. These works are described in detail in Section 2.1.

A specialist and experienced Contractor will be appointed by the Applicant to undertake these works as described in this CEMP prior to the commencement of development. This CEMP should be considered a live document and as such once a contactor is appointed, the CEMP will be updated and will be developed as the project progresses.

It should be noted that a separate Traffic Management Plan (TMP) has also been prepared by TOBIN and this plan will be implemented onsite by the Contractor in conjunction with this CEMP.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE CEMP

The purpose of this document is to communicate the key environmental obligations that apply to all contractors, their sub-contractors and personnel while carrying out any form of construction activity regarding the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 TDR.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE CEMP

This CEMP is a live document and will be reviewed and updated, as necessary. Upon appointment, the Main Contractor for construction of the proposed project shall update this document to produce an updated version of the CEMP (i.e. the Contractor's CEMP) which will account for any additional requirements set out in the Planning Conditions.

Potential impacts are addressed in accordance with current legislative requirements and best practice guidelines. It will assist in the control of environmental risks that may arise during construction to ensure that these works do not result in an environmental incident, environmental damage or undue nuisance to the local environment.

This CEMP should be read in conjunction with the Planning Documents & Drawings, included as part of this planning application as well as the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR) which accompanies this planning application. The CEMP draws from relevant good practice guidance, standards, and codes of practice applicable to the work being undertaken as part of the proposed project. The following is a non-exhaustive list of relevant guidance/standards/codes referenced in the preparation of this CEMP:

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- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (May 2022);
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2019);
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2006);
- EPA Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of resource & waste management plans for construction & demolition projects (November, 2021);
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) Guidelines on the Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters (IFI, 2016);
- Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) C532 publication 'Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites: Guidance for Consultants and Contractors' (CIRIA, 2001);
- CIRIA C648 publication 'Control of water pollution from linear construction projects' (CIRIA, 2006);
- CIRIA C741 publication 'Environmental Good Practice on Site' (4th Edition) (CIRIA, 2015);
- CIRIA C750, 'Groundwater control: design and practice' (CIRIA, 2016);
- CIRIA C697 & C753F publications 'SuDS Manual' (CIRIA, 2007 & 2015);
- National Roads Authority (NRA) (2008). Guidelines for the Crossing of Watercourses during the Construction of National Road Schemes. National Roads Authority;
- Irish Working Group on Groundwater (2005) Guidance Document GW5, Groundwater Working Group (WGGW) 2005;
- British Standards Institution (BSI), BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Noise;
- BSI, BS 5228: Part 1 and the European Communities (Construction Plant and Equipment) (Permissible Noise Levels);
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (2019) 'Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction' (4th edition). Scottish Natural Heritage;
- The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) publication 'Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction' (2014);
- Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes published by the NRA (now TII) in 2011;
- The Control of Dust and Emissions during Construction and Demolition published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in 2014;
- Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (2004) guidance document "Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites".
- Guidance for Invasive non-native species (NRA, 2010).

- CIRIA C753 - The SuDS manual (CIRIA, 2015);

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The CEMP is a live document that will evolve during the project. As such it will be subject to constant review to address:

- Any conditions required in the planning permission;
- To ensure it reflects best practice at the time of construction;
- To ensure it incorporates the findings of pre-construction site investigations;
- Changes resulting from the construction methods used by the contractor(s); and,
- Unforeseen conditions encountered during construction.

This CEMP provides a mechanism for ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and statutory consents. It defines the approach to environmental management at the site during the construction phase and addresses all relevant environmental aspects of the management of site preparation and construction work within the development works area.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEMP

The key aims of the CEMP are:

- To ensure the project is undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance for the management of the environment during construction works;
- To set out the client's expectations to guide contractors on their requirements with regards to environmental commitments and environmental management;
- To ensure that mitigation measures to protect all aspects of the environment as set out in the Preliminary Environmental Considerations Report (PECR), Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP), and Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA); are put in place;
- To ensure compliance with legislation and identify where it would be necessary to obtain authorisation from relevant statutory bodies;
- To ensure that construction activities are carried out in accordance with all planning conditions for the two areas of permanent development;
- To carry out the works with minimal impact on the environment,
- Ensure that appropriate proposed development monitoring and reporting will be in place; and,
- To ensure procedures are in place so that there is a prompt response to effects requiring remediation, including reporting and any additional mitigation measures required to prevent a recurrence.

The primary objectives to ensure the above aims are achieved during the construction phase are:

- Appointment and delegation of responsibility to an individual for monitoring environmental compliance and adherence to the Contractor's CEMP;
- Updating the Contractor's CEMP on a continuous basis in accordance with regular environmental auditing and site inspections. This will confirm the efficacy and

implementation of all relevant mitigation measures and commitments identified in the planning application documentation;

- Providing adequate environmental training and awareness to all project personnel;
- Establishing documented schedules and records for monitoring and inspections;
- Establishing reporting procedures for any incidents on site with potential to impact on the environment;
- Provide a framework for reporting, compliance auditing and inspection to ensure environmental aims would be met;
- Providing opportunities for community feedback and submission of complaints; and,
- Adopting a sustainable and socially responsible approach to construction.

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Any reviews to the document will be carried out in consultation with those affected by the changes. The measures identified in the CEMP should be:

- Viewed as mandatory and common practice on-site; and,
- Embedded within the construction company's policies and site procedures, e.g., within an existing environmental management system framework.

1.4 Implementation of the CEMP

In terms of overall environmental responsibility, everyone on site is responsible for ensuring that their actions constitute good environmental practice. All site personnel are charged with following good practice and encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements. All site personnel are also required to ensure compliance with the requirements of the CEMP.

Compliance with the CEMP, the procedures, work practices and controls will be mandatory and must be adhered to by the Contractor, all site personnel, and sub-contractors employed during the construction phase. The CEMP seeks to:

- Provide a basis for achieving and implementing the construction related mitigation measures identified in the PECR, NIS, ISMP, and EcIA; and,
- Promote best environmental on-site practices for the duration of the construction phase.

1.5 Revisions to the CEMP

As mentioned above, the CEMP is considered a 'live' document and as such will be reviewed on a regular basis to allow any changes to construction programme, operations or unforeseen issues be incorporated at any stage throughout the project as deemed necessary by the Applicant, their agents or relevant authorities. The CEMP will be subject to continual review to address, for example:

- Any conditions stipulated in the planning approval;
- Any requirements/issues highlighted through consultations prior to works e.g. by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Local Authorities etc.;
- To ensure it reflects best practice at the time of construction; and,

- To ensure it incorporates the findings of any pre-construction site investigations.

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This CEMP will be provided to the appointed Contractor who will have responsibility for updating the document as necessary through the construction phase.

The Contractor's CEMP will incorporate the conditions associated with any grant of planning for the proposed project. This CEMP will be subject to ongoing review (throughout the construction phase of the development), through regular environmental auditing and site inspections. This will confirm the efficacy and implementation of all relevant mitigation measures and commitments identified in the application documentation.

The appointed Contractor is required to include further details and/or confirmation in the updated version of the CEMP which will include:

- Details of emergency plan including personnel and contact numbers;
- Site and traffic signage;
- Method statements.

The appointed Contractor shall also agree and implement monitoring measures to monitor the effectiveness of the CEMP.

2. SITE LOCATION AND PROJECT DETAILS

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The purpose of this project is to facilitate the delivery of turbine components to the permitted OP3 wind farm The full project description is available in the PECR (Chapter 2) accompanying this planning application, a summary of the project description, as relevant to ecological impacts is provided below.

The proposed Port of Entry is Killybegs Harbour, which has been previously used for the importation of turbines associated with a number of projects including the Oweninny Wind Farm. It is proposed that loads will exit Killybegs Harbour and travel through counties Donegal, Sligo and Mayo via National and Regional Road networks before reaching the Oweninny Phase 3 Wind Farm. The entire route is approximately 188km in length. Figure 2-2 outlines the full TDR. There are a number of constraints associated with the proposed TDR, where works and activities are required to facilitate the successful delivery of turbine components.

The majority of these works and activities are temporary in nature with proposed permanent works occurring at two locations: Carricknagat, Co. Sligo and Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. The temporary activities largely comprise shrub and hedges trimming, land reprofiling, load bearing surfaces laid on verges, removal/replacement of bollards, utility poles, road signs, fences, and walls. The focus of the CEMP is on the permanent works areas.

Turbine blades and ancillary components will be transported using a Clamp and Bogie type trailer. This vehicle offers a degree of flexibility in navigating the various pinch points along the TD

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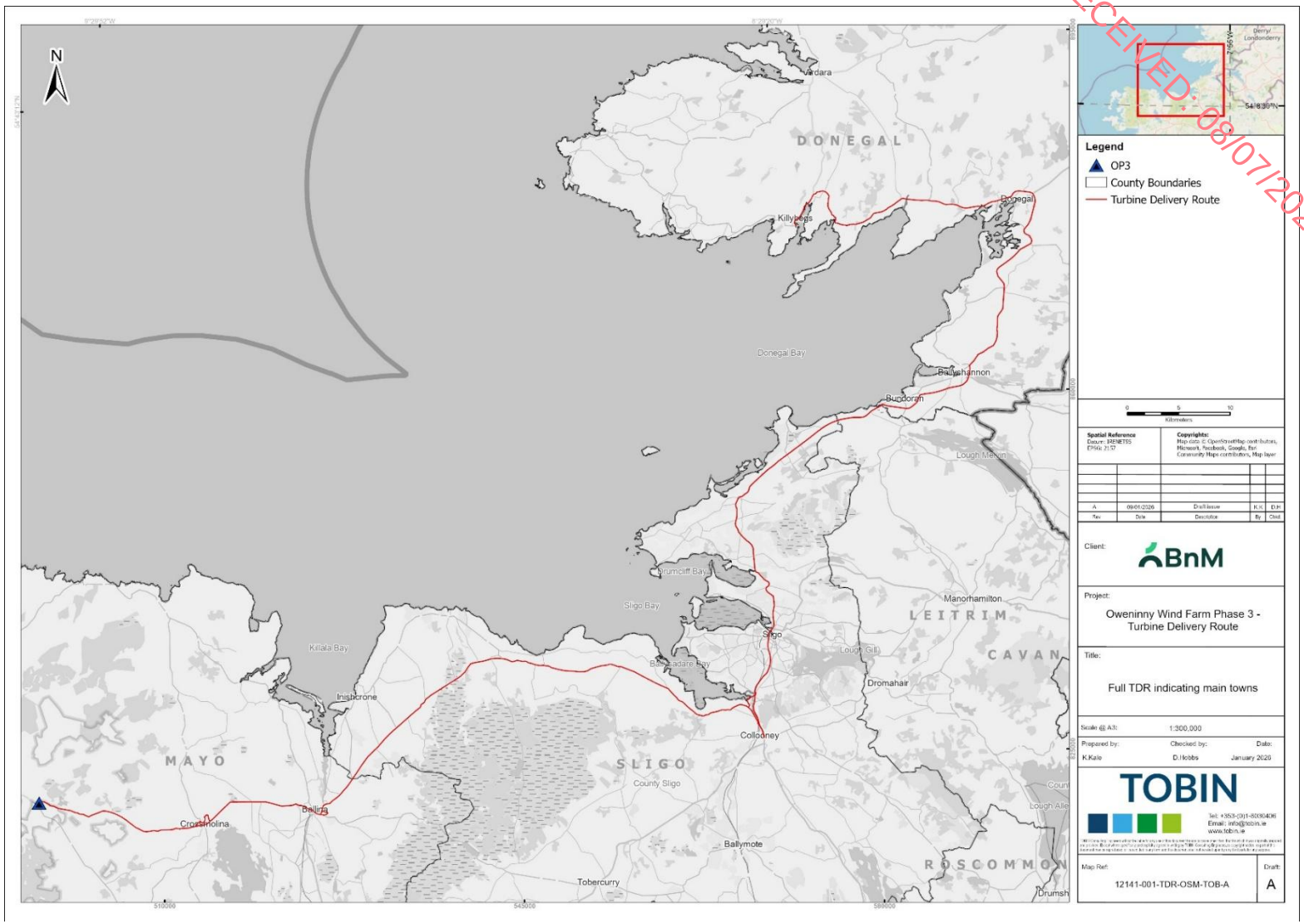


Figure 2-1 Full TDR from Killybegs to the Proposed Wind Farm Site

Due to the proximity of the some of the works along the route to a number of designated European sites, namely the Unshin River SAC and the River Moy SAC, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been completed to inform the Appropriate Assessment process, as required under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

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The NIS concluded that considering the nature of the proposed project, including mitigation measures, characteristics of the QIs/SCIs, the potential link between the proposed project and the relevant European sites, no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites as a result of the proposed project are anticipated, either alone and/or in-combination with any other plans or projects, and there is no scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

The proposed project will be the subject of individual Planning Applications to Donegal, Sligo, and Mayo County Councils via Section 34 planning application.

2.1.1 Carricknagat Permanent Works

Permanent works are required at Carricknagat to facilitate blade load deliveries. The permanent works include the construction of slip way crossing over to the R290 before traversing under a railway overbridge (UBS592) and continuing north on the R290. The surface of the slipway will be developed using granular fill once excavated to a suitable stratum. A layer of geogrid/geotextile may be required at the surface (to be confirmed by the designer). A layer of suitable material such as Cl. 804 will be layered on top of the granular fill with a final unbound surface layer/wearing course placed over the excavated road, providing a profile which will be suitably graded. An additional layer surface of quarry dust may be placed over the roads and compacted before the application of surface dressing. Final specification to be developed preconstruction in consultation with the planning authority.

The slip road off the N4 will only be used for delivery of blades. Bollards will be placed along the interface of the N4/R290 when the route is not in use.

The permanent work also includes the breaking out of the bedrock outcrops (approximately 6117m^3 of material to be removed) to the west of R290 near the rail bridge and laying of a Load Bearing Surface to allow the vehicles carrying the turbine components to navigate the bend on the road. Excess excavated material will be removed off site to be disposed of or recycled at a licensed waste facility in accordance with all applicable waste management regulations.



Figure 2-2: Rock Outcrop to be broken out at Carricknagat

Existing roadside drainage will be modified to accommodate the local realignment of the R290. The link road will be closed to traffic when not in use for turbine component deliveries by installing removable bollards along the interface of the N4 and R290. These works will meet the requirements of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and follow the specification provided by the designer.

A temporary construction compound with site offices, welfare facilities and parking will be established within the site boundary in Carricknagat.

Ground Investigation (GI) works have been completed and a factual report outlining the properties of the rock outcrop is presented in Appendix C of the PECR. The findings of the GI will inform the methodology for the breaking of rock which is likely to be by way of a combination of hydraulic rock hammering, splitters and excavation. Rock blasting will not take place at Carricknagat.

Figure 2-5 outlines the permanent works area at Carricknagat.

Carricknagat Construction Sequence

The anticipated timescale for construction at Carricknagat is 2-3 months.

The works will be timed and sequenced in tandem with other works along the TDR and in consultation with Sligo Co. Co. Roads Department and TII. The following description outlines the anticipated construction activities at Carricknagat.

- The works area will be surveyed for services prior to the commencement of works.
- Temporary compounds will be set up.
- The material and plant required for the works will be brought to and stored at the temporary construction compound.
- Local traffic management measures will be implemented - A traffic management plan has been prepared and is presented as part of this planning application.

- Widening and realignment works will begin with the use of excavators that will first remove any topsoil / vegetative layer which may be present.
- Rock breaking will commence thereafter using suitable machinery (excavators and or/ rock breakers) with excavated material loaded onto dumper trucks that will remove the excess material from site. Excess excavated material will be removed off site to be disposed of or recycled at a licensed waste facility in accordance with all applicable waste management regulations.
- Once the section of the widened road is exposed; a layer of geogrid or geotextile material may be placed along its formation depending on ground conditions.
- The stone required at the work area will be spread out locally with the use of excavators on top of the geogrid / geotextile material. This will be compacted with the use of a roller
- Roadside drains will be constructed to manage clean and dirty water runoff along widened and upgraded access roads.
- The final running surface of the new widened / upgraded roads will be capped with a minimum 150mm layer of hard-wearing stone or similar suitable material using a road grader.
- The exposed rockface will be battered back to a safe angle of repose.
- Site temporary construction compound will be decommissioned when works are complete.

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The following machinery and materials are likely to be required for the works.

- 2-4 Operatives including site foreman and excavator operative.
- 1No. Excavator/Rock Breaker
- 1No. Dumper
- 1No. Roller
- Crushed Rock, CI804, gravel
- Drainage material, bedding, drains, gullies
- Materials for localised road resurfacing

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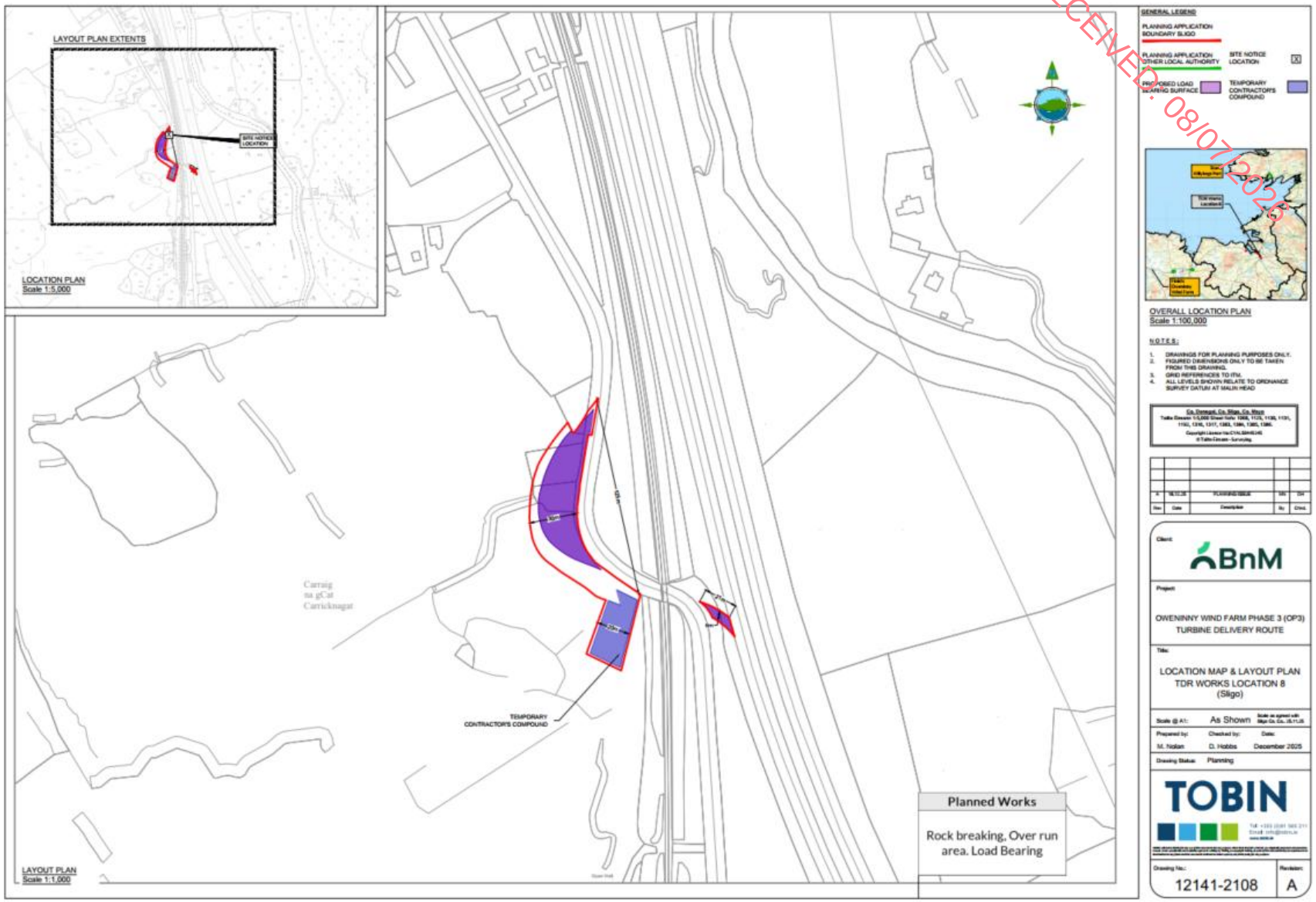


Figure 2-3: Permanent works at Carricknagat

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2.1.2 Crossmolina Permanent Works

Works required along the TDR in County Mayo comprise both temporary and permanent works. The minor temporary works largely comprise tree and hedge trimming, land reprofiling, load bearing surfaces laid on verges, removal/replacement of bollards, utility poles, lighting road signs, fences, and walls. All temporary works areas in Mayo will be reinstated to their original condition upon completion of delivery of turbine components.

The permanent works at Crossmolina comprise the construction of the proposed TDR, approximately 6m wide, off the N59, through the 'community fields', immediately adjacent to the Crossmolina GAA Grounds. This access point will be a temporary vehicle access point for the duration of the delivery of all the turbine components and the AILs. The TDR will cross the community fields for approximately 675m until it reaches the River Deel crossing point. It is proposed to construct a permanent bridge, constructed from precast concrete sections which will be craned into place. The structural deck will be reinforced concrete with a sprayed on waterproofing membrane. Bituminous layers will be placed on the carriageway, and in-situ concrete on the footways. The abutment supporting piles will be bored cast in-situ concrete. The bridge will measure approximately 33m in length by approximately 7.5m wide with buffer zones of 10m to the east and 9.1m to the west of the river course.

The TDR will be constructed on the western side of the proposed bridge, through agricultural fields and then connect on to Abbeytown lane which is to be widened by approximately 3.5m, before joining the R315 progressing in a westward direction. Approximately 275m west of the Abbeytown lane/R315 junction, the TDR will be constructed and will traverse agricultural lands via a temporary access point for approximately 660m before rejoining the N59 adjacent to St. Tiernan's Cemetery. The TDR within the agriculture fields here are is temporary and the fields will be reinstated once the TDR is no longer required.

Loads will travel along Abbeytown lane which is to be widened by approximately 3.5m, before joining the R315 progressing in a westward direction. Approximately 275m west of the Abbeytown lane/R315 junction, the TDR will be constructed and will traverse agricultural lands via a temporary access point for approximately 660m before rejoining the N59 adjacent to St. Tiernan's Cemetery. The TDR within the agriculture fields is temporary and will be reinstatement once the TDR is no longer required.

It is important to note the proposed TDR will only be used to facilitate the delivery of turbine components to site during the construction phase and, if required during routine maintenance where abnormal loads are involved. The TDR will not be open to public or private traffic and will be closed off by means of secure traffic bollards during the construction phase. When not in use the TDR and associated amenity track and cycleway will be available to the public, there will be no vehicle access allowed on the amenity track.

A temporary construction compound will be located in the community fields on the eastern side of the river. It will be set back approximately 150m from the riverbank.

The TDR shall be constructed according to current TII standards and in compliance with the specifications of the designer.

The TDR at Crossmolina will be constructed using suitable granular fill after excavation to a suitable stratum. A geogrid or geotextile layer may be installed at the surface, subject to designer confirmation. On top of the granular fill, a layer of suitable material such as Cl. 804 will

be placed, followed by an unbound wearing course to achieve the required profile and grading. Additionally, a compacted layer of quarry dust may be applied before surface dressing, as specified by the designer.

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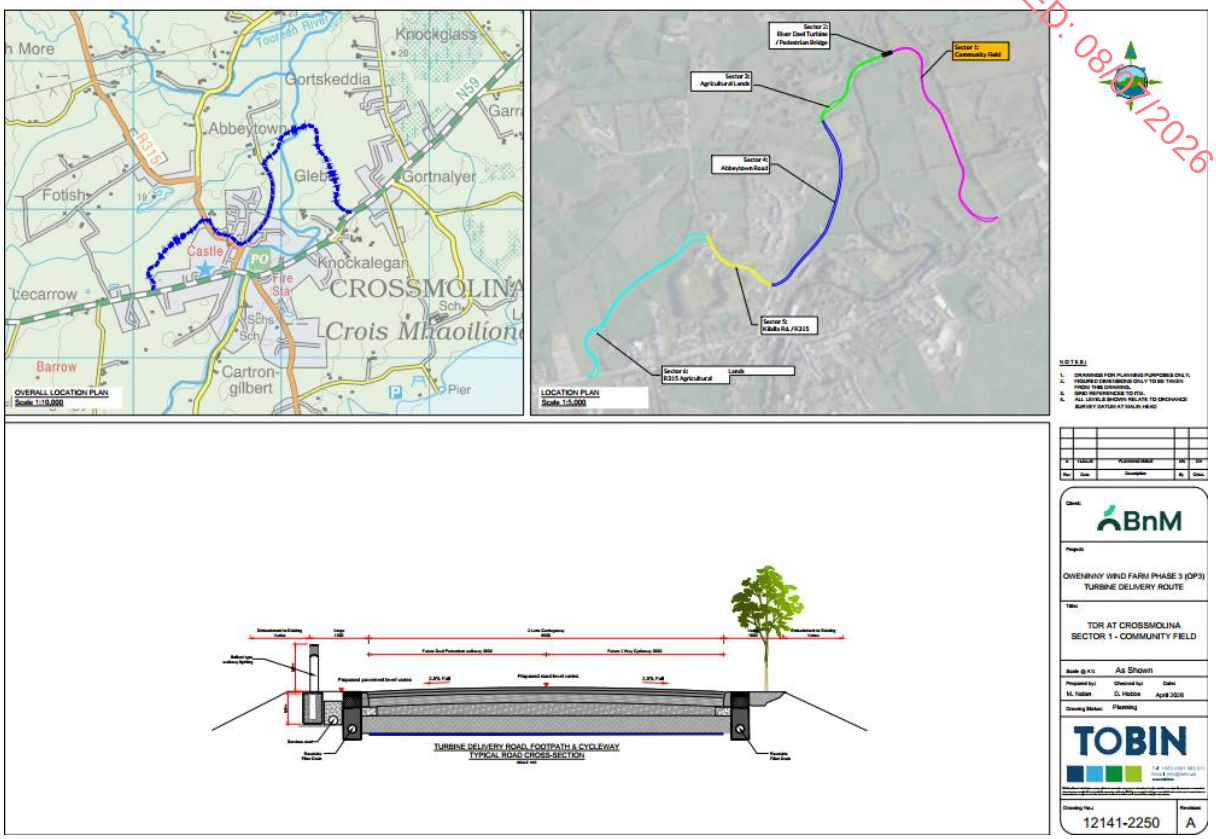


Figure 2-4: Crossmolina TDR

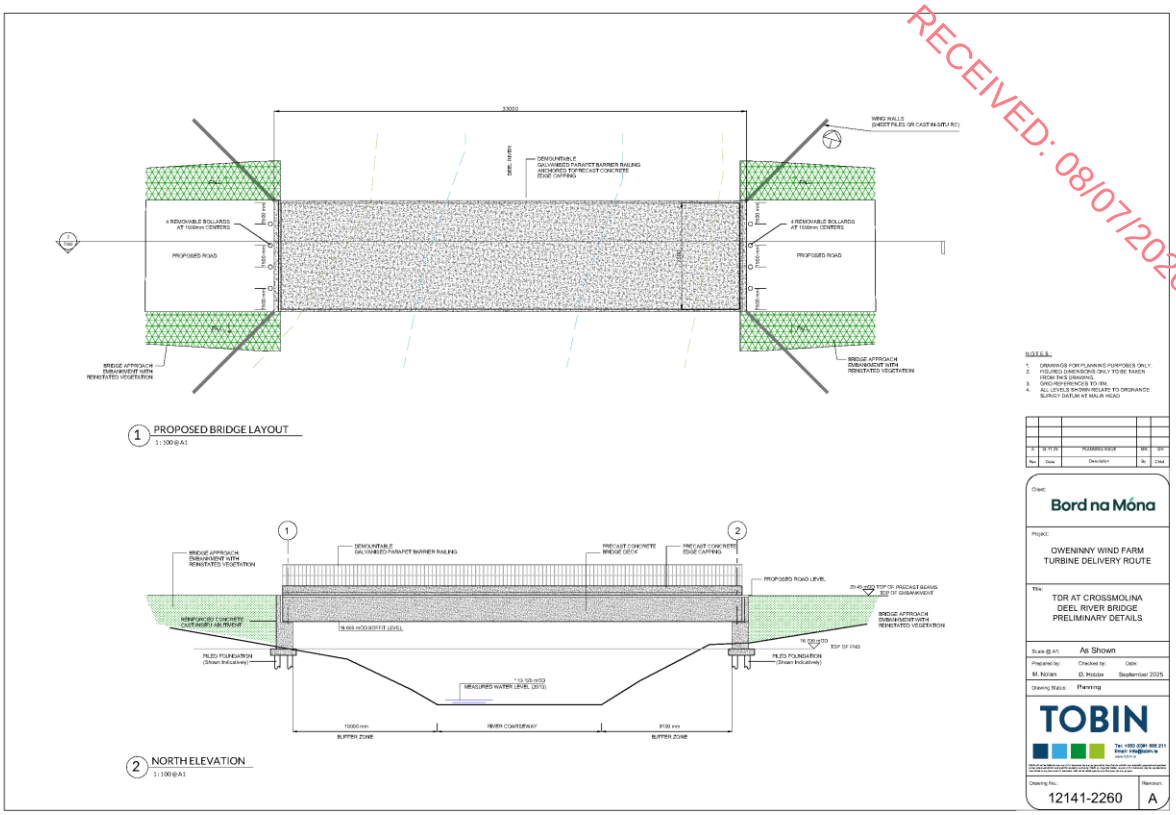


Figure 2-5 River Deel Bridge Detail

Crossmolina TDR Construction Sequence

The following is the anticipated sequence of the activities involved in constructing the TDR at Crossmolina. The construction period of the proposed project is anticipated to last approximately 6-9 months and comprise the following elements.

- Temporary signage and traffic management systems will be installed in advance of the works. These traffic control measures will be implemented in coordination with Local Authorities. A Traffic Management Plan is included as part of this planning application.
- The works area will be surveyed for any services prior to the commencement of works
- Temporary site entrances and compounds will be constructed and surfaced using a permeable gravel surface.
- Construction of roadside drainage system
- Ground works will be conducted and comprise excavation, vegetation clearance, levelling and laying of suitable load bearing surfaces. The land profile is quite flat in the area so ground works will be likely be minimal.
- Once a section of the excavated access road is exposed to suitable formation, a layer of geogrid or geotextile material may be placed along its formation depending on ground conditions.
- Ducting for lighting and drainage channels will be installed.

- The required stone will be delivered to the work area and spread out locally with the use of excavators and compacted with the use of a roller. Road make up will be a combination of crushed stone, CI804, hard wearing class of stone and a macadam top surface dressing (to be applied after completion of the bridge installation).
- The installation of localised lighting along the TDR through Sector 1 only

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The following sequence is proposed for the construction of the permanent bridge crossing the River Deel.

- A secure access route and working zones with fencing and environmental protection measures will be established. Including installation of silt fencing and buffer zones to safeguard the river and surrounding habitats.
- Construction of reinforced concrete abutments, supported by piled foundations set back from the riverbank, avoiding any instream works. No instream works will be carried out as part of the works. The pilecaps and abutments will be cast insitu concrete in formwork. The piles can be cast in a steel sleeve in the ground through the overburden, which can be left in place to minimise loss of concrete.
- Appropriate construction techniques will be implemented adjacent to the bank, with no machinery entering the watercourse.
- The precast bridge beams will be delivered to site via the newly constructed TDR.
- Sections will be lifted and positioned using cranes stationed on the bank, ensuring full span installation without instream supports.
- The deck and edge beams will be cast-insitu concrete, with a combination of lost formwork for the edge beams and lost formwork between the precast beams.
- Deck surfacing, edge protection, and safety features will be installed thereafter.

At Crossmolina a temporary construction compound will be used for storage of materials, which are delivered to the site to suit the proposed construction programme. Materials are generally transported around the site by means of teleporter/small dumpers/tractor and trailer. Storage containers will be delivered to the site and craned into place using a hiab crane on the trucks. Material and equipment will be delivered to the site as it is needed during the construction phase. Deliveries will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods and sensitive community times.

The presence of Japanese Knotweed was recorded approximately 8m from the proposed bridge crossing during the site surveys. A dedicated Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared and is included as part of this planning application.

2.1.3 Designated Sites

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The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared for the proposed project have assessed the potential impact of the TDR on Natura 2000 sites in the ZoI of the proposed permanent works. The NIS and EcIA are included in the planning pack for this planning application.

The NIS concluded that considering the nature of the proposed project, including mitigation measures, characteristics of the QIs/SCIs, the potential link between the proposed project and the relevant European sites, no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites as a result of the proposed project are anticipated, either alone and/or in-combination with any other plans or projects, and there is no scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

3. CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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3.1 CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME AND DURATION

It is estimated that the construction phase will take approximately 6-9 months from starting onsite to completion of the permanent TDR works. All vegetation clearance that is required during construction works will be completed outside the breeding birds season, which runs from the 1st of March to the 31st of August. If any minor clearance or trimming is required within those dates, or if the initial vegetation clearance extends past the 1st of March due to unsuitable weather conditions, the works will be preceded by an ecological survey (from a qualified and suitably experienced ecologist) to ensure there are no sensitivities associated with the action.

The project is expected to employ 50-100 people onsite during peak construction.

The construction phase can be broken down into Xno. main phases as follows (there will be overlap of these phases):

- Month 1-2- Civils and enabling works (including and vegetation clearance, drainage, construction of site roads,);
- Month 3-5 Installation of bridge crossing the river Deel
- Month 5-7 - Site services including electrical (installing cabling and lighting);
- Month 7-9- Turbine component deliveries

3.2 CONSTRUCTION HOURS

The hours of construction activity will be limited to avoid unsociable hours, where possible. Construction operations will generally be restricted to standard day-time operational hours i.e. 07:00hrs to 19:00hrs, Monday to Friday and 08:00hrs to 16:00hrs on Saturdays, with no works undertaken on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

However, during the following critical periods longer hours will be required:

- Concrete pours for foundations;
- Delivery of oversized loads; and,
- In the unlikely event of an emergency (see Section 5 Emergency Response Plan / Procedures).

Any such out of hours working will be agreed in advance with Donegal County Council, Silgo County Council, Leitrim County Council, and Mayo County Council apart from in the case of an emergency and in line with the Schedule of Mitigation requirements of the PECR, NIS and EcIA.

3.2.1 Site Maintenance

The site will require good housekeeping practices, including regular removal of waste, maintaining tidy work areas, and preventing the accumulation of construction debris. Measures include controlled storage of materials, dust suppression, and clear segregation of construction and demolition waste for disposal at licensed facilities. Routine inspections are required to ensure compliance with environmental controls, while spill kits, drainage protection, and pollution-prevention equipment should be kept in place to reduce risks to soil and water.

Consistent monitoring and corrective actions maintain environmental performance throughout construction.

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3.3 REINSTATEMENT

Temporary works areas associated with turbine delivery routes will be reinstated to their original condition. This includes the removal of temporary road widenings, set down areas, and temporary track surfaces. Reinstatement will involve regrading and compacting surfaces, replacing drainage systems and where agricultural land was temporarily used, it will be reinstated with topsoil and reseeded with appropriate grass mixes to restore its previous function. Hedgerows and vegetation will be replanted in line with ecological mitigation plans.

3.4 KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At this stage it is envisaged that the following roles will be appointed for the construction phase of the proposed project; Construction/ Site Manager; Environmental Manager, Health & Safety Manager, and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

The names and contact details of the individuals with responsibility for implementation and supervision of mitigation measures during all phases of the development will be clearly identified and set out in documents such as the Contractor's CEMP and site- specific method statements as appropriate.

Summary details of these roles are outlined in the following sections. At construction stage, the Contractor's CEMP will confirm roles and finalise responsibilities and contact details once appointed.

3.4.1 Construction / Site Manager

A suitably qualified Construction / Site Manager will be appointed by the contractor for the duration of the construction period. The Construction / Site Manager will have overall responsibility for the organisation and execution of all related environmental activities as appropriate, in accordance with regulatory and project environmental requirements.

3.4.2 Environmental Manager

The Environmental Manager will ensure compliance with all relevant environmental regulations, and environmental quality control on-site during the construction stage. The Environmental Manager will be responsible for:

- The daily implementation of the CEMP and any other monitoring/mitigation proposals required under the planning consent;
- Ensuring that the objectives of the CEMP are achieved and maintained;
- Informing the appointed contractor(s) of the CEMP and ensuring that appropriate training and awareness materials are developed and implemented on-site;
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the inputs from the ECoW;
- Implementing appropriate measures in the event of any environmental incidents and managing communications with relevant authorities; and,

- Regular communication with the Construction/Site Manager detailing the execution and progress of environmental activities on-site.

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3.4.3 Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW)

The role of the ECoW is defined by British Standard BS 42020:2013 as "*person who has the ecological qualifications, training, skills and relevant experience to undertake appropriate monitoring and to provide specialist advice to "development" site personnel on necessary working practices required to i) safeguard ecological features on site and ii) aid compliance with any consents and relevant wildlife legislation related to the works.*".

Typically, the requirements of the ECoW role is largely fulfilled by a single individual, with support and assistance provided by technical specialists and senior colleagues when required, and will include:

- The ECoW (individual or team of individuals) must therefore have appropriate qualifications, training and experience to meet the requirements of the role and in addition, where needed, can access support from senior ecologists within the company with the required qualifications, training and experience;
- The ECoW will have the power to "Stop Works" at any time they deem it necessary to do so;
- The ECoW will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the mitigation measures and construction phase monitoring requirements relating to ecology / biodiversity as set out project PECR, NIS and supporting documents such as the, CEMP etc.;
- The ECoW will be responsible for the day-to-day management and interaction with the project Environmental Manager;
- The ECoW will have authority over the content of routine reports and will act independently in determining instances of non-compliance with the consents and licenses or any breaches of environmental legislation; and,
- The ECoW will provide the contractors team, with advice on environmental issues and compliance with planning conditions, commitments etc. as required. This includes managing certain activities that may be required in discharging consent conditions. The ECoW will inform the Contractor and Project Developer Teams of any information that could increase the risk of a non-compliance and/ or require a new licence, consent or approval.

During construction there will be occasions when the ECoW will be required to rapidly respond to unplanned events such as any wildlife incidents, pollution incidents, etc. The ECoW will have a very specific role within the emergency response teams responding to these incidents. Further detail is provided in Section 6.0. The ECoW will also be expected to support the project team in resolving any other unplanned events that are not classified as emergency responses or incidents.

3.4.3.1 Non-Compliance Events

The ECoW shall produce a procedure setting out the sequence of actions to be completed and the lines of communication required to resolve and appropriately report on a non-compliance event relating to ecology/biodiversity, should one occur.

This procedure shall be approved by the Project Developers Team prior to construction commencing. The ECoW, and any other individual present on-site, has a duty of care to report any wildlife crime or breach of environmental legislation to the Project Developer. The Project Developer must report such breaches to the relevant authorities.

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3.4.3.2 Reporting and Follow Up

After the ECoW has responded to an incident or non-compliance event the ECoW will produce a report to the Environmental Manager for approval before it is issued to the Project Developer. The report will set out the following information as a minimum;

- Precise details of the event and those involved;
- Assessment of impact and severity (method for assessment to be developed by ECoW);
- Mitigation introduced;
- Subsequent revision of risk assessments and construction method statements and/or construction programme; and,
- Lessons learnt.

3.4.3.3 Ad-Hoc Advice and Support

The ECoW will provide the Contractors Team, with advice on environmental issues and compliance with planning conditions, commitments etc. as required. This includes managing certain activities that may be required in discharging consent conditions.

3.4.4 Project Archaeologist/Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW)

The Project Archaeologist will report to the Environmental Manager and is responsible for inspection and review of any finds discovered during with the construction of the TDR. The Project Archaeologist will monitor all stripping of topsoil for the proposed project, including the proposed Grid Connection Route (GCR) and will visit site at least once a month, or at agreed stages, during the remainder of the construction phase.

3.4.5 Environmental Compliance Audits and Communications

The ECoW and Environmental Manager will develop appropriate procedures and programmes for the following non exhaustive list of items:

- Environmental Audits. A programme of planned and spot check audits shall be developed and approved by the client;
- A programme of toolbox talks shall be developed. Toolbox talks covering relevant topics during construction;
- The ECoW and Environmental Manager will support the project team in producing site induction material tailored to the different activities carried out on site, and ensuring this material is appropriately incorporated into the overall project induction material. This will require attendance to project meetings, and production of material relevant to planning conditions and Environmental Legislation. The toolbox talks and site inductions shall include information on the role of the ECoW in the event of an incident;
- The ECoW shall ensure this information is included in the relevant induction and toolbox talk material. Once the above programmes and plans have been agreed, the

Environmental Manager will be responsible for managing these plans and conducting the necessary audits, toolbox talks etc.;

- The ECoW shall check progress, and the Environmental Manager will be reporting on progress against the programmes, plans and status of completed audits, toolbox talks etc to the ECoW on a daily basis;
- The ECoW will be required to report on audits and toolbox talks delivered in the monthly compliance report; and,
- Occasionally the ECoW will be required to deliver toolbox talks and produce site induction material depending on the topic being considered.

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3.4.6 Health and Safety Project Supervisor for the Design Process (PSDP)

The proposed project will be constructed, in accordance with all relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

Aspects of the development that will present health and safety issues include:

- Health and safety aspects of construction activities;
- General construction site safety (e.g. slip/trip, moving vehicles etc);
- On site traffic safety (during construction and operational phases);
- Traffic safety during the transport of equipment/material to the site;
- Lifting of heavy loads overhead using cranes;
- Working near water;
- Working at heights; and,
- Working with electricity during commissioning.

The scale and scope of the project requires that a Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) are required to be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations. The PSDP role has been performed by TOBIN Consulting Engineers up to the end of the planning stage of the proposed project.

The PSDP and PSCS appointed for the project will be required to perform his/her duties as prescribed in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations.

3.5 Facilities, Safety and Security

Measure will be put in place which focus on preventing unauthorised access, theft, vandalism, and risk to the public. Measures include minimising site entrances, securing gates with robust locks, installing perimeter fencing or hoarding, and using security lighting to deter intruders. High-risk sites may employ approved security personnel and controlled access systems.

Rigorous safety checks will be conducted on the TDR works during construction. Safety signage will be erected at suitable locations as required. Further details regarding signage is provided in Section 3.5.3 of this CEMP.

3.5.1 Site Access and Public Safety

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Public safety will be addressed by restricting site access during construction works and the erection of security fencing as appropriate at construction work areas. The entrance to the proposed construction site will be controlled by the main Contractor.

3.5.2 Compound and Facilities

Two temporary construction compounds are included as part of the permanent construction works for the proposed project. The temporary compound for the Carricknagat works will be located adjacent to the proposed works. The temporary compound for the Crossmolina works will be located in the community fields on the eastern side of the River Deel. It will be sufficiently set back from the riverbank and River Moy SAC as to mitigate any potential impact.

The construction compounds will typically consist of temporary site offices, staff welfare facilities, storage areas (including waste and recycling areas), and car-parking areas for staff and visitors.

Temporary toilets will be used during the construction phase as part of the welfare facilities for site staff and visitors. Wastewater from toilets will be directed to a sealed storage tank, which will be collected and tankered off site by an appropriately consented and licensed waste collector to wastewater treatment plants.

3.5.3 Signage

Warning Signs will be erected at the construction work areas clearly stating that construction works are underway. A notice board will be erected at the site entrance and at the construction compound gates with the information on the contact details for site management, PPE requirements for the site and any other information deemed necessary in accordance with the H&S Plan.

Signage will be erected on both sides of the local, regional and national, roads associated with the proposed the site entrances to warn approaching vehicles of the construction site entrance locations and the potential presence of slow-moving vehicles.

On the internal site access roads, prior to exit from the site, signage will be erected to inform construction traffic that they are leaving the site and directing them in the correct direction.

Road signage on the public road will be in accordance with the current Traffic Signs Manual and associated best practice guidelines. Signage in respect of traffic management is presented in the TMP and will be in accordance with the Local Authority recommendations and relevant planning conditions. Within the site, maximum speed signage will be erected along the access roads for construction vehicles and, health and safety signage will be erected and where deep excavations, or other areas of increased risk, are occurring. Signage will also be erected as a reminder to concrete delivery drivers that concrete truck wash-out is not permitted on-site and identifying the area(s) where concrete chute wash-out is permitted.

3.5.4 Emergency Response Plan

The appointed main Contractor will be responsible for developing a detailed Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the proposed works, to cover health and safety emergencies as well as

environmental emergencies, as part of the H&S Plan. Details related to the ERP are outlined in Section 5 (Emergency Response Plan / Procedures) of this CEMP.

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3.5.5 Incidents / Complaints

All safety or environmental incidents associated with the proposed development will be reported and investigated in line with the ERP. Details related to the Incidents / Complaints are outlined in Section 5 (Emergency Response Plan / Procedures) of this CEMP.

3.5.6 Safety and Security

All activities carried out by the appointed Contractor on the proposed project will be in accordance with the requirements of the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005* as amended and Regulations made under this Act.

The scale and scope of the proposed project will require the appointment of a Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) in accordance with the provisions of the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2103)*, as amended. These persons will be appointed by the Applicant and notified to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) prior to commencement of detailed design works (in the case of the PSDP) and prior to commencement of construction (in the case of the PSCS). As mentioned, the PSDP will prepare a Preliminary H&S Plan which will identify any particular risks, residual risks and particular sequences of work that are envisaged during the design of the works.

Prior to commencement of construction, this Preliminary H&S Plan will be provided to the Contractor and the PSCS will further develop the document to prepare a Construction Stage H&S Plan addressing all aspects of the construction process and providing relevant contact details and emergency response procedures for the project. This H&S Plan will be developed at the procurement stage and developed further at construction stage to the satisfaction of the Applicant. The H&S Plan will identify the potential safety hazards associated with the site and the works and assess the associated risks. Mitigation and control measures will be implemented to minimise the identified risks.

Evidence of completion of construction safety training, typically in the form of a Safepass Card, will be required for all construction personnel prior to commencing on site. A record of Safepass Cards and personnel approved for entrance to site will be completed as part of a site induction process. The Contractor's H&S Plan will detail the site induction and access requirements. Where relevant, equipment operators or specialist works will require personnel to hold a valid Construction Skills Scheme Card. All equipment and machinery used on site will be appropriately certified for its intended purposes. The Applicant will ensure that only competent contractors are appointed to carry out the construction works on the site.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING AND AWARENESS

In order to ensure that environmental awareness and compliance is communicated effectively at the start and throughout the construction works, this CEMP and its contents will be communicated to all site personnel, including management staff, operatives and sub-Contractors. The key elements of this CEMP will form part of the site induction which will be mandatory for all employees, Contractors and visitors attending the site.

Environmental toolbox talks will be provided to all site personnel and sub-consultants on a regular basis. These will be targeted at particularly sensitive environmental issues such as:

- Protection of sensitive ecological habitats and key ecological receptors;
- Works close to sensitive water bodies;
- Invasive species management;
- Water pollution and silt control;
- Water pollution in relation to cement and concrete handling;
- Spill prevention and control.

4.2 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The successful completion of this project will require significant co-ordination and a comprehensive set of mitigation measures will be put in place before and during the construction and operational phase of the project. A Traffic Management Plan proposed for the project is included as part of the planning application.

4.3 VEHICLE MANAGEMENT

Vehicles will be kept on site access roads for the vast majority of the construction phase, however in the initial construction phases, there will be some requirement for off-road vehicle movements (ground works, etc.).

For ground works and other off-road activity, the use of specialist vehicles that are tracked or use large low ground pressure tyres or load bearing mats which distribute their weight evenly across a large surface area will be used. These will minimise ground disturbance, and therefore minimise the risk of sediment entering downstream watercourses.

All vehicles will be restricted to the areas where works are required, and unnecessary off-road movements around the wider site will be avoided. Where there are any sensitive habitats present around a proposed work area, these areas will be marked out so that vehicles will not enter and damage them.

4.3.1 Vehicle Washing

Wheels or vehicle underbodies are often washed before leaving sites to prevent the build-up of mud on public (and site) roads. Site roads will be already formed using on-site materials before other road-going trucks begin to make regular or frequent deliveries to the site (e.g. with steel

or concrete). The site roads will be well finished with compacted hardcore, and so the public road-going vehicles will not be travelling over soft or muddy ground where they might pick up mud or dirt.

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However, in the interest of best practice and to avoid the potential for the transfer of alien invasive plant species into the site, it is proposed to install a self-contained wheel-wash system near the project site entrance. Water will be supplied for this using a water bowser.

A road sweeper will be available if any section of the surrounding public roads becomes soiled by vehicles associated with the proposed project.

4.4 Refuelling - Fuel and Oil Management

Any easily manoeuvrable road-going vehicles (i.e. cars, jeeps, lorries etc) will be refuelled off-site. For any vehicles which are slow moving or tracked or those for whom regular trips off-site to refuel will not be practical, on-site fuelling will be required.

No fuel will be stored onsite. A spill kit in the form of a supply of fuel absorbent material and mats and a drip tray will be kept in the site compound at all times. The drip tray and fuel absorbent mats will be used at all times during refuelling. Similar spill kits will be stored in each construction compound, and at the in case of emergency.

No refuelling will be carried out within 50 m of a stream. The fuel bowser, typically a double-axle custom-built refuelling trailer, will be re-filled off-site, where possible, or at either of the two construction compounds and will be towed as required within the site by a 4x4 vehicle to where machinery is located. The 4x4 vehicle will also carry fuel absorbent material and pads in the event of any accidental spillages. The fuel bowser will be parked on a level impermeable area in either of the construction compounds when not in use.

Oils, lubricants and other hazardous liquids required for maintenance of equipment during the construction phase will not be stored onsite. Taps/nozzles for fuels and storage containers for oils will be fitted with locks to ensure their use is controlled. Only designated trained and competent operatives will be authorised to refuel plant on site.

New clean ancillary machinery equipment such as hoses, pipes and fittings required on-site will be contained within a bunded area, however any used or damaged parts will not be stored on-site and will be removed immediately. Any repair works required on machinery involving fuel and oil control will be carried out off-site where practical, or in the construction compounds over an impermeable surface. Unless unavoidable, repair works carried out in the field where machinery is operational will use spill trays and absorbent materials to prevent release of contaminants to the ground. Maintenance and repair works will be carried out at least 50m from any stream.

At least daily checks prior to start-up of plant and machinery will minimise the risk of break-down and associated contamination risks for on-site repairs. Records of daily pre-start checks will be maintained and kept in the site office. A clean site policy and diligent housekeeping will also reduce the potential of hydrocarbon release on-site.

4.4.1 Spill Control and Response

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Emergency spill kits with oil boom and absorbent materials will be kept on-site in the event of an accidental spill. Spill kits will be stored in each construction compound in case of emergency and with the 4x4 vehicle transporting the fuel bowser, smaller spill control kits will also be kept in all construction machinery. All construction personnel will be notified of where the spill kits are located as part of the site induction and will be trained on the site procedures for dealing with spills.

In the event of a leak or accidental fuel spill in the field, the source of the spill will be fixed, and the fuel will be contained and cleaned as quickly as possible using the spill kits to contain and absorb the pollutant and prevent any further potential contamination. The absorbed pollutants and contaminated materials will be placed into leak proof containers and transferred to a suitable waste container for hazardous materials in the construction compounds. Where a leak has occurred from machinery, the equipment will not be permitted to be used further until the issue has been resolved. The incident will be reported to the Construction/Site Manager and Environmental Manager, and appropriate remediation will be carried out i.e. soil removal for safe disposal by licensed waste collectors.

The Environmental Manager (or equivalent appointed person) will be notified of any spills on-site and will determine the requirement to notify the authorities as set out in Section 5.4 (Incidents / Complaints).

4.5 Noise and Vibration Control

4.5.1 Construction Phase

It is recommended that appropriate noise abatement measures are implemented, when deemed necessary, to comply with the recommendations of BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction on open sites.

The hours of construction activity will be limited to avoid unsociable hours where possible. Construction operations shall be restricted to between 07:00hrs and 19:00hrs weekdays and between 08:00hrs and 16:00hrs on Saturdays. However, any necessary or emergency out of hours working will be agreed in advance with the local Planning Authority.

The Contractor undertaking the construction of the works will be obliged to take specific noise abatement measures when deemed necessary to comply with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 *Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Noise*[1].

The Environmental Manager, or equivalent, will supervise the works to ensure compliance with the noise and vibration limits set out in the Standards document referred above and in the PECR. The following list of measures will be considered, where necessary, to ensure compliance with the relevant construction noise criteria:

[1] British Standards Institute (BSI), *BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of Practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites* (2008)

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- No plant used on site will be permitted to cause an on-going public nuisance due to noise;
- Regular and proper maintenance of plant and machinery, will be employed to minimise the noise produced by on site operations;
- Plant with low inherent potential for generation of noise and/ or vibration will be selected where practicable;
- Noisy / vibratory plant will be placed as far away from sensitive properties as permitted by site constraints;
- Where practicable, all vehicles and mechanical plant will be fitted with effective exhaust silencers and maintained in good working order for the duration of the contract;
- Compressors will be attenuated models, fitted with properly lined and sealed acoustic covers which will be kept closed whenever the machines are in use and all ancillary pneumatic tools will be fitted with suitable silencers;
- Machinery that is used intermittently will be shut down or throttled back to a minimum during periods when not in use;
- Any plant, such as generators or pumps, which is required to operate before 07:00hrs or after 19:00hrs will be surrounded by an acoustic enclosure or portable screen;
- Channels of communication will be established between the contractor/applicant, Local Authority, and residents; and,
- A site representative responsible for matters relating to noise and vibration will be appointed.

4.6 Dust Suppression and Management

There will be some temporary dust and exhaust emissions from construction activities during the construction phase.

The Contractor will have due regard to relevant guidance such as *The Control of Dust and Emissions during Construction and Demolition* published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in 2014 and *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* published by the NRA (now TII) in 2011.

During the construction phase, dust or air pollutants generated from the proposed project will typically arise from:

- Movement of construction vehicles;
- Laying hardstanding areas and access tracks (i.e., roads);
- Transportation of construction materials to and within the site;
- Excavation, movement and placement of soil stockpiles (excavated soils / fill materials); and,
- Wind generated dust from stockpiles, exposed unconsolidated soils and roads.

Potential effects arising from dust and exhaust emissions will be minimised through the implementation of the following best practise measures:

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- Minimisation of extent of working areas;
- Plan site layout so that machinery and dust causing activities are located away from receptors, as far as is possible;
- Stockpiling of excavated materials will be limited to the volumes required to practically meet the construction schedule;
- Minimise drop heights from conveyors, loading shovels, hoppers and other loading or handling equipment and use fine water sprays on such equipment wherever appropriate;
- Daily inspections by site personnel to identify potential sources of dust generation along with implementation measures to remove causes where found;
- Remove materials that have a potential to produce dust from site as soon as possible, unless being re-used on site. If they are being re-used on-site use dust suppression/mitigation measures will be utilised;
- Provision of dust suppression measures (e.g. sweeps/covers/water bowsers) will be used on stockpiles and the road surface during periods of extended dry weather;
- Water will be brought to site for dust suppression if required
- Silty or oily water will not be used for dust suppression, because this will transfer the pollutants to the haul roads and generate polluted runoff or more dust;
- Ensure equipment is readily available on site to clean any dry spillages and clean up spillages as soon as reasonably practicable after the event using wet cleaning methods.
- Water bowser movements will be carefully monitored, as the application of too much water may lead to increased runoff;
- Traffic coming to site will only use the specified haul routes;
- Vehicles and plant will be routinely serviced to minimise the exhaust emissions during construction;
- Vehicles will not be left running unnecessarily and low emission fuels will be used where possible;
- Avoid the use of diesel- or petrol-powered generators and use mains electricity or battery powered equipment where practicable;
- Only use cutting, grinding or sawing equipment fitted or in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques such as water sprays or local extraction, e.g. suitable local exhaust ventilation systems;
- Use enclosed chutes, conveyors and covered skips;
- Record any exceptional incidents that cause dust and/or air emissions, either on- or off-site, and the action taken to resolve the situation in the logbook;
- Record all dust and air quality complaints, identify cause(s), take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner, and record the measures taken;
- Make the complaints log available to the local authority when asked;

- Avoid bonfires and burning of waste materials.

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The following measures must be implemented in areas in close proximity to the ecologically sensitive areas that have been assessed as having a high risk of impacts. These measures are also recommended for other areas of the site earthworks.

- Re-vegetate earthworks and exposed areas/soil to stabilise surfaces as soon as practicable.
- Use Hessian, mulches or tackifiers where it is not possible to re-vegetate or cover with topsoil, as soon as practicable.
- During dry and windy periods, and when there is a likelihood of dust nuisance, a bowser will operate. This is to ensure moisture content is high enough to increase the stability of the soil and, therefore, suppress dust.
- Ensure sand and other aggregates are stored in bunded areas and are not allowed to dry out. If this is required for a particular process, then ensure that appropriate additional control measures are in place.
- Avoid dry sweeping of large areas.
- Ensure vehicles entering and leaving sites are covered to prevent escape of materials during transport.
- Install hard surfaced haul routes which are regularly damped down, with fixed or mobile sprinkler systems, or mobile water bowsers, and regularly cleaned.

4.7 Protection of Water Quality

During the construction stage, best practice construction methods as set out in CIRIA c741 *"Environmental good practice on site guide"* will be implemented in order to prevent water (both surface water & groundwater) pollution. This will include proper site management during construction, to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to prevent run-off/pollutants from entering any watercourse in the vicinity. There will also be no direct discharge of suspended solids or any other deleterious matter to drains (wet or dry) or watercourses.

4.8 Site Drainage

The proposed works will utilise existing drainage systems where available and in the case of the TDR at Crossmolina the site will have both temporary (for the duration of the construction phase) and permanent drainage infrastructure installed as part of the proposed site development. Site drainage at Crossmolina will utilise standard sustainable roadside drainage methods.

The site drainage measures will be installed from the outset, being constructed at the same time as the initial civils works (site roads, etc.). This will ensure that there is no uncontrolled runoff from the site during proposed works.

4.9 PRE-EMPTIVE SITE DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT

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The works programme for the initial construction stage of the proposed project will take account of weather forecasts and predicted rainfall in particular. Large excavations and movements of subsoil or vegetation stripping will be suspended or scaled back if heavy rain is forecast. The extent to which works will be scaled back or suspended will relate directly to the amount of rainfall forecast.

The following forecasting systems are available and a combination of them will be used on a daily basis at the site to direct proposed construction activities:

- General Forecasts: Available on a national, regional and county level from the Met Eireann website (www.met.ie/forecasts). These provide general information on weather patterns including rainfall, wind speed and direction but do not provide any quantitative rainfall estimates;
- MeteoAlarm: Alerts to the possible occurrence of severe weather for the next 2 days. Less useful than general forecasts as only available on a provincial scale;
- 3-hour Rainfall Maps: Forecast quantitative rainfall amounts for the next 3 hours but does not account for possible heavy localised events;
- Rainfall Radar Images: Images covering the entire country are freely available from the Met Eireann website (www.met.ie/latest/rainfall_radar.asp). The images are a composite of radar data from Shannon and Dublin airports and give a picture of current rainfall extent and intensity. Images show a quantitative measure of recent rainfall. A 3-hour record is given and is updated every 15 minutes. Radar images are not predictive; and,
- Consultancy Service: Met Eireann provide a 24-hour telephone consultancy service. The forecaster will provide interpretation of weather data and give the best available forecast for the area of interest. Using the safe threshold rainfall values will allow work to be safely controlled (from a water quality perspective) in the event of forecasting of an impending high rainfall intensity event.

4.10 SOIL / SPOIL MANAGEMENT

Stockpiling of large volumes of loose soil material onsite will be avoided, where possible, and surplus material will be removed from the proposed development as soon as work is completed. Exposed ground, soil, and other material stockpiles and any imported backfill material which are to be left in situ for extended periods of time will be seeded with soil-binding grasses.

4.11 CONCRETE DELIVERIES AND POURING

Concrete is required for the construction of the permanent bridge construction works at Crossmolina. After concrete is poured at a construction site, the chutes of ready mixed concrete trucks must be washed out to remove the remaining concrete before it hardens. Wash out of the main concrete bottle will not be permitted on site; wash out is restricted only to chute wash out. Wash down and washout of the concrete transporting vehicles will take place at an appropriate facility offsite.

The best management practice objectives for concrete chute washout are to collect and retain all the concrete washout water and solids in leak proof containers or impermeable lined wash out pits, so that the wash material does not reach the soil surface and then migrate to surface waters or into the ground water. These will be located near the site entrance so that they are easily accessed when departing the site. The collected concrete washout water and solids will be emptied on a regular basis. Washout will be undertaken at the construction compounds.

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Primarily ready-mixed concrete will be used during the construction phase, with all concrete being delivered from local batching plants in sealed concrete delivery trucks. Localised mixing will be used for small tasks such as blockwork/kerbing. The use of ready-mixed concrete deliveries will eliminate any potential environmental risks from large scale on-site batching. When concrete is delivered to site, only the chute of the delivery truck will be cleaned, using the smallest volume of water necessary, before leaving the site. Concrete trucks will be washed out fully at the batching plant, where facilities are already in place.

The small volume of water that will be generated from washing of the concrete lorry's chute will be directed into a temporary lined impermeable containment area. These residual liquids and solids will be collected by an appropriately licensed waste collector. Where temporary lined impermeable containment areas are used, such containment areas are excavated and lined with an impermeable membrane. This washout will be located near the site entrance and also at any significant concrete pour locations (e.g. at a foundation pour) so that it is easily accessed when departing.

General measures to prevent surface water contamination from concrete pouring on-site will include:

- Using weather forecasting to assist in planning large concrete pours and avoiding large pours where prolonged periods of heavy rain is forecast;
- Restricting concrete pumps and machine buckets from slewing over watercourses while placing concrete;
- Ensuring that excavations are sufficiently dewatered before concreting begins and that dewatering continues while concrete sets;
- Ensuring that covers/mesh are available for freshly placed concrete to avoid the surface washing away in heavy rain;
- Disposal of surplus concrete after completion of a pour off-site;
- Discussing arrangements for concrete deliveries with the suppliers before works commence to ensure they are aware of on-site wash-out restrictions; and,
- Clearly visible signage will be placed in prominent locations close to concrete pour areas specifically stating washout of concrete lorries is not permitted on the site.

4.12 WORKS NEAR WATERBODIES

The construction works will involve some works within 50 m of waterbodies, in particular the permanent bridge construction works at Crossmolina. However, no instream works are proposed, and a suite of measures will be in place to avoid any adverse effects on streams. Clear span bridges will be utililsed for stream crossings. Trees will be cut manually inside the 50 m

buffer. During the near river construction work, silt traps and a double row silt fences will be placed immediately down-gradient of the construction area for the duration of the construction phase.

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Near-river construction work will only be carried out during the period permitted by Inland Fisheries Ireland for in-stream works according to the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (2004) guidance document *"Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites"*, that is, May to September inclusive, unless otherwise agreed. This time-period coincides with the period of lowest expected rainfall and, therefore, minimum runoff rates. This will minimise the risk of entrainment of suspended sediment in surface water runoff, and transport via this pathway to surface watercourses.

Runoff will be maintained at greenfield (pre-development) runoff rates. The layout of the development has been designed to collect surface water runoff from hardstanding areas within the development and discharge to associated roadside drainage channels. It will then be managed by gravity flow at greenfield runoff rates.

It is proposed, that during the ground clearance of the proposed project, the contractor will implement water control measures to limit the effect on water quality.

4.13 Invasive Species Management

All works involved with the proposed development must follow the biosecurity measures outlined within the Transport Infrastructure Ireland guidelines to avoid the spread of invasive species (TII, 2020). Invasive species were recorded in close proximity to the proposed project site during the baseline survey. As a result, it is possible that the movement of construction vehicles and material to and from the site may result in the introduction of invasive species if not appropriately managed. Invasive species may also travel via watercourses if a sufficient buffer is not established from the riparian zone. Colonization of invasive species to an area can inhibit growth and crowd out native plant species, alongside reducing the overall biodiversity of an area.

An Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared to prevent and mitigate against the spread of invasive species and has been submitted as part of this planning application.

4.14 Waste Management

Best practice in waste management will be employed during all phases of the proposed project, with a view to reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering waste produced, in that order of preference. Waste disposal will be avoided where possible. The following sections outline the Waste Management Plan (WMP) and waste management practices associated with the proposed project, which will be in accordance with relevant provisions of the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC on waste), the Waste Management Act 1996 as well as all other Irish and EU legislation.

4.14.1 Resource Waste Management Plan

The main site contractor will ensure that all waste contractors have the correct permits for any waste streams they are removing from site, and that they are taking it to the appropriately licensed/permitted waste facilities. They will prepare a construction stage

Resource Waste Management Plan (RWMP) and ensure that all parts of the plan will be implemented onsite. The RWMP will be regularly reviewed throughout the lifetime of the project to ensure that waste is managed as efficiently as possible. The RWMP will be prepared in line with the EPA Best Practice Guidelines 2021[2] for the preparation of resource and waste management plans.

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All waste generated from the construction phase will be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended and associated Regulations. In line with good industry practice, the following measures will be implemented on site by the appointed Contractor for the duration of construction:

- Ensure all excavated topsoil and subsoils will be reused within the site boundary, insofar as possible. Any excess material which cannot be reused in creating berms or other landscaping will be transferred off-site to a licensed waste facility. However, it is not anticipated that any excess material will not be suitable for reuse within the site;
- Ensure typical waste streams (such as metals, paper, cardboard, plastics, wood, rubber, textiles, bio-waste, packaging, WEEE (electronic waste, batteries, accumulators and construction waste) will be managed, collected, segregated and stored in separate area(s) at the site before being removed off site by a licensed waste management contractor at regular intervals for the duration of the construction works;
- Provide skips and bins of appropriate sizes onsite in a designated area(s) and used to maximise source segregation of waste materials. This will include food and packaging waste from canteen and welfare facilities. Appropriate control of food waste in the compound will minimise the potential for pests and rodents to visit the area;
- Any contaminated materials used for spills and equipment maintenance works will be separately stored in a suitable container for collection by the appointed authorised hazardous waste contractor(s);
- Encourage all staff to minimise waste generation and to maximise the segregation of waste at source. Material wastage will be avoided by delivering only the required quantities of material to site and utilising off-site manufacturing of materials as much as possible;
- Establish 'just-in-time' deliveries to avoid excess material storage at the site which can lead to waste generation. Delivery drivers will be encouraged to remove any excess packaging from materials delivered to site and remove unused timber pallets where possible;
- Reusable formwork for concrete pouring will be used where possible, in preference of non-reusable options. Other opportunities for material reuse across the site will be sought by the appointed Contractor;
- Due to the current nature / use of the site (agriculture), it is not anticipated that there will be contaminated soils or materials encountered during the excavation works.

[2] https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/CDWasteGuidelines.pdf

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- It is noted that illegal dumping is common in rural areas and may be encountered at the time of construction. Where illegal dumping is discovered, appropriate communication and measures will be taken to try and identify the source of the illegal waste. The appropriate authorities will be notified, and the materials will be removed from site by authorised waste collection contractors and transferred to suitably licensed waste facilities;
- The Environmental Manager, or other appropriate person, will be designated by the appointed Contractor as the Waste Manager for the duration of the project in accordance with the general guidance set out in the *Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects*[3], published by the EPA in November 2021;
- At the pre-construction stage, the Waste Manager will be in a position to require fellow designers to take full advantage of all reasonable C&D waste prevention, reuse and recycling opportunities;
- During construction, the practicalities of waste prevention, salvaging re-useable materials, and the need to synchronise the recycling of waste materials through the timing of their use in the new construction works will be emphasised by the appointed Waste Manager.

[3] EPA *Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects* (November 2021) - https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/CDWasteGuidelines.pdf (26 August 2022)

5. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN / PROECEDURES

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5.1 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

In order to establish the type of potential emergencies that may occur, the hazards outlined in Table 5-1 have been identified as being potential situations that may require an emergency response they occur.

Table 5-1: Hazard Identification

Hazard Type	Emergency Incident
Plant / Machinery/tools causing damage	Accident resulting in injury / power failure / loss of critical infrastructure
Spillages / Leaks	Accidental spill / leak leading to significant environmental contamination
Flooding	Accident leading to injury / damage to site infrastructure
Severe Weather	Accident leading to injury / damage to site infrastructure
Fire / Explosion	Accident leading to injury / damage to site infrastructure
On-site/Construction Traffic – plant/machinery and construction vehicle movements	Traffic accident leading to injury / damage to site infrastructure

5.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

An indicative organisational chart which identifies the typical roles and associated responsibilities for the construction of the proposed project is provided in Section 3.5 of this CEMP. This will be subject to specific contractual agreements upon appointment of a Main Contractor and any additional/further appointments required in compliance with a grant of permission.

The Project Manager will have overall responsibility for environmental management and compliance during the construction works. He/she will be supported in this role by an Environmental Manager / SHEQ Officer, or Environmental Officer as appropriate, who will liaise directly with the relevant regulatory bodies and stakeholders throughout the construction phase. Additional specialist input will be included from the Ecological Clerk of Works, or other disciplines as required.

5.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Every effort will be made to prevent health and safety emergencies and environmental incidents during the construction and operational phase of the project.

The appointed main Contractor will be responsible for developing a detailed Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the proposed construction works, to cover health and safety emergencies as well as environmental emergencies, as part of the H&S Plan.

This ERP shall be activated in the event of an emergency such as an accident, fire, spillage, collapse etc. and will provide details on who is required to be notified, first aid facilities and closest hospitals. The ERP will also include details of all personnel inducted and authorised to work on the site as well as next of kin contact details and relevant medical information.

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In the event of an emergency, the Environmental Manager / SHEQ Officer and Project Manager will be notified immediately and will determine the scale of the emergency and the requirement for the assistance of emergency services. Works will cease in the area of the incident and contact will be maintained with the emergency services to direct them to the scene of the incident as required.

As part of the ERP, an evacuation drill will be carried out on a regular basis to make all personnel aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency where a full site evacuation is required. Emergency muster point(s) will be identified at suitable locations in the construction compounds and the ERP will outline the persons responsible for checking names at the safety muster points. Records will be maintained of such drills.

The ERP must include contact names and telephone numbers for the relevant local authorities (all sections/departments) including ambulance, fire brigade, An Garda Siochána and the HSA. Reporting of environmental emergencies to the local authority will be required as well as other relevant stakeholders such as IFI, NPWS or the EPA.

5.3.1 Site Evacuation and Fire Drills

A site evacuation/fire drill procedure will be developed to provide basis for carrying out the immediate evacuation of all site personnel in the event of an emergency. At induction, all personnel will be made aware of the evacuation procedure. The Fire Services Acts of 1981 and 2003 require the holding of fire safety evacuation drills at specific intervals and maintaining records of such drills. The details of this procedure will be finalised in the appointed main Contractor's CEMP at construction stage and will include:

- Details regarding the notification of emergency situations to all those on site including use of a siren/horn to notify all personnel;
- Details of assembly point(s) and signage;
- Details of the roll call procedure to account for all personnel on site;
- Communication process between the Site Security Officer and the Site Manager during the procedure (i.e. notification of roll count etc.);
- Course of action to be undertaken by the Site Manager.

5.3.2 Spill Response and Control

A detailed spill response and control procedure will be developed and finalised in the appointed main Contractor's CEMP at construction stage, outlining the steps that will be followed in the event of an oil / fuel spill occurring, including:

- Identification and blocking of the source of the spill;
- Alerting personnel in the vicinity of the spill and any possible dangers;

- Elimination of any potential ignition sources in the vicinity of the spill;
- Spill containment approach and spill control materials;
- Covering or bunding off of any vulnerable areas where appropriate (i.e. drains, streams, sensitive habitats);
- Clean up using the spill control materials;
- Containment and disposal of used spill control materials;
- Communication with the ECoW – providing relevant information on the location, type and extent of the spill so that they can take appropriate action;
- ECoW actions including inspection of the site, making certain necessary measures are in place to manage the spill and prevent further spillage;
- ECoW notification to the appropriate regulatory body if necessary.

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5.3.3 Other Environmental Incidents

Environmental incidents are not only limited to spills. Any environmental incident must be investigated and the ECoW notified immediately. If necessary, the ECoW will inform the appropriate regulatory authority depending on the nature of the incident. Details of the incident will be recorded (e.g. cause, extent, actions and remedial measures). Recommendations made to avoid reoccurrence will be recorded also. The ECoW will liaise with the Project Ecologist regarding any incidents as required. A record of all environmental incidents will be kept on file by the ECoW and the main Contractor. These records will be made available to the relevant authorities if required. Furthermore, the ECoW will be responsible for any outlining corrective actions required and will advise the main Contractor as appropriate.

5.4 Incidents and Complaints

All safety or environmental incidents associated with the project will be reported and investigated in line with the ERP. Typically, the following procedures will be followed in the event of an incident:

- Works will stop immediately where safe to do so;
- The Environmental Manager / SHEQ Officer will be contacted;
- The size of the incident will be assessed and determined if it can be controlled by site staff or if emergency services are required to attend;
- The appropriate enforcing authority will be contacted;
- The Environmental Manager / SHEQ Officer will investigate after the incident;
- The findings will be sent to the appropriate authority; and
- An action plan will be prepared to set out any modifications to working practices required to prevent a recurrence.

This section sets out a procedure to manage and resolve any complaints received from members of the public during the construction phase of the proposed project. The following measures will be adopted and refined, as necessary, taking account of any relevant planning conditions.

The following measures will be implemented to deal with complaints and the appointed main Contractor's CEMP will contain more specific details with regard to phone numbers to contact:

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- Clearly display a notice board at the site entrance so that the public know whom to contact if they have a complaint or comment;
- Personnel on site, including sub-contractors are required to perform their duties in accordance with this CEMP, and in such a way as to minimise the risk of complaints from third parties;
- All complaints received regarding the construction works will be recorded and categorised (e.g. noise, property damage, traffic, dust etc.) within a central Site Complaints Log. This complaints log will include the following key details:
    - Name, address and contact details of the complainant (with the complainant's permission);
    - Brief outline of the complaint;
    - Date of Complaint;
    - Name of person receiving complaint details; and
    - Agreed timeline for response to complaint.
- All complaints will be communicated to the Project Manager and the Applicant immediately;
- All complaints will be followed up and resolved in so far as is practicable; and,
- The complainant, Applicant and other stakeholders will be kept informed of the progress in resolving the complaint.

5.4.1 Emergency Contact Details

A list of emergency contacts is presented in Table 5-2 below. The appointed contractor will review this list and update accordingly prior to construction commencing. A copy of these contacts will be included in the Site Safety Manual and in the site offices and the various site welfare facilities.

Table 5-2: Emergency Contact Details

Contact	Telephone
Emergency Services – Ambulance, Fire, Gardaí	112 / 999
ESB Faults / Emergencies	1850 372 999
Gas Networks Ireland 24hr Emergency Line	1850 20 50 50
Sligo Town, Co. Sligo	
Local Garda Station – Sligo Town Garda Station	(071) 915 7000
Local Fire Station – Sligo Town Fire Station	(071) 911 1404

Contact	Telephone
Local Doctor / GP Service – The Mall Family Practice	(071) 932 1140
Local Doctor / GP Service – Wine Street Medical Centre	(071) 917 0522
Local Primary Care – Health Centre	(071) 916 2355
Sligo University Hospital	(071) 917 1111
Ballina, Co. Mayo	
Local Garda Station – Ballina Garda Station	(096) 20560
Local Fire Station – Ballina Fire Station	(096) 22444
Local Doctor / GP Service – Dr. Charles G. Meehan	087 222 5119
Local Doctor / GP Service – Dr. Brian Barrett	(096) 72931
Urgent Care Centre – Westdoc Ballina	(0818) 360 000
Local Primary Care – Ballina Medical Centre	(096) 22868
Ballina District Hospital	(096) 21166
Project Contacts	
Site Manager / Construction Manager / Site Supervisor	TBC
Client: Bord na Mona	TBC
Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)	TBC
Environmental Manager / SHEQ Officer	TBC
Project Supervisor Design Stage (PSDS)	TBC
Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS)	TBC
Project Engineer	TBC
Project Ecologist	TBC
Project Hydrologist	TBC
Project Archaeologist	TBC

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5.4.2 Emergency Communication Procedure

The appointed main Contractor's CEMP will be updated with an agreed Emergency Communication Response Procedure following appointment of the Contractor.

5.4.3 Personnel Tracking Procedure

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All personnel on site will be required to undergo a site induction where they will be required to provide personal contact details (including contact information for next of kin). In the event that a member of personnel is involved in an emergency situation where serious injury has occurred and hospitalisation has followed, the Site Manager, or next in command if unavailable, will be responsible for contacting and informing the next of kin.

5.4.4 Induction Checklist

Table 5-3 below provides a list of items highlighted in the Emergency Response Procedure (ERP) which must be included in the induction or gathered from all personnel that will work on the Proposed Project during the mandatory site induction. This will be revised throughout the various stages of the project. This list will be updated and expanded on within the appointed main Contractor's CEMP.

Table 5-3: Induction Checklist

Emergency Response Plan – Site Induction Items TBC	Status
Site Induction (all personnel must undergo the site induction prior to commencing work on-site)	
All personnel must be made aware of site evacuation and fire drill procedures	
All personnel must be made aware of the spill response and control procedure	
All personnel must be made aware of environmental incident procedures	
All personnel must be made aware of incident and complaints procedures	
All personnel must be made aware of the emergency communication procedure and Emergency Contact Details for the project	
All personnel must be made aware and have access to the Site Safety Manual	
All personnel must be made aware of the personnel tracking procedure and provide their contact details at induction	

6. MITGATION PROPOSALS

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All mitigation measures relating to the pre-construction and construction phases of the proposed project were set out in the various sections of the PECR, NIS, ISMP and EcIA prepared as part of the planning application.

This section of the CEMP groups together all of the additional mitigation measures presented in the prepared documentation. The Mitigation Measures are outlined in Table 6-1.

By presenting the mitigation proposals in this format, it is intended to provide a review list that can be easily checked and reported on during the future phases of the project. The use of a table to present the information be further expanded upon over the course of the Proposed Project to provide a template for use during site compliance audit.

6.1 MITIGATION EFFECTIVENESS

The appointed Contractor will be responsible for ensuring all mitigation measures included in the body of this CEMP as well as those listed below, including any additional planning conditions, are fully implemented prior to the proposed project commencing and undertaken throughout the duration of the works.

The below outlined mitigation measures are best practice and are proven technologies/ methods. The mitigation measures, once correctly applied, will avoid or reduce the magnitude of potential impacts on the receiving environment.

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Table 6-1: Table of Mitigations

Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
Construction Phase			
Biodiversity			
MM1	Otter	NIS Section 12.	Pre-construction surveys for otter (resting or breeding places) will be undertaken prior to the commencement of any works in order to identify any changes in otter activity or holt/couch locations/status in the vicinity of the proposed N59 Bypass at Crossmolina. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted no more than 10-12 months in advance of construction, as per the NRA guidelines (2008).
			In the event otter holts are identified within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the Proposed Project during the pre-construction surveys, an otter derogation license will be sought from NPWS and the mitigation measures outlined herein will be implemented.
			For active holts, otters will be evacuated from the holts prior to any closures. Otters with cubs however will not be evacuated until the otters have vacated the holt themselves naturally. In the case of non-breeding active holts, general disturbance (e.g. vegetation clearance) and chemical deterrents will be used first to encourage the otters to vacate the holts. Once the otters have left the holt, the entrance will then be soft blocked. In some cases, the installation of one-way gates on the entrances to the holt may be required and a monitoring period of 21 days will be carried out to ensure the otters have left the holt prior to removal.
			There are no seasonal restrictions with regard to the exclusion of otters from disused, or currently inactive, holts. Confirming that a holt is inactive would require a period of monitoring (five or more days of checking activity at the holt either with sticks or with sand pads to identify footprints). Where holts have been verified as inactive, and to prevent their reoccupation, the entrances will be soft blocked. If the entrances remain undisturbed for five days, the holt will then be destroyed immediately using a mechanical digger, under the supervision of the holder of an NPWS Otter Derogation Licence.
			In accordance with NRA (2008) guidelines, where pre-construction surveys confirm the destruction of an active breeding holt will be required, and no suitable alternative natural holts are present, the

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			construction of an artificial holt may be recommended as an alternative to mitigate for the loss. Artificial holt(s) will be constructed prior to exclusion of an active holt. The artificial holt will be established in close proximity to the existing holt. The construction and location of a potential artificial holt will be agreed in advance under licence with the NPWS. A suitably qualified ECoW will oversee the process from the start, i.e. from design to installation. A period of monitoring will be required in order to determine use of the artificial holt by otters. The duration and frequency of monitoring will be site-specific, depending on when and if otter colonise, and will be agreed with the ECoW. The construction of an artificial holt will either avail of pre-constructed holts purchased from UK companies or create a holt from a variety of available designs that have been approved by the NPWS.
MM2	Badger	EcIA Section 8.1.3.1	No construction machinery will be used within 30m of badger setts (extended to 50m for active setts during the breeding season, December to June inclusive).
			In unavoidable circumstances, works closer to active setts may take place during the breeding season provided appropriate mitigation measures, designed by the EcOW in line with guidelines, are in place (e.g. sett screening, restricted working hours).
			During the pre-construction survey, any new setts identified adjacent/close to the proposed TDR (within 50m) will be marked, and the area from which vehicles are prohibited will also be clearly marked by timber post and rail fencing (and appropriate signage) which will allow badgers to move in and out freely. Such marker fencing will be sufficiently durable and robust to cover the period of construction. To ensure that accidental damage to setts does not occur, the EcOW and site foreman will ensure that there will be a transfer of information between construction personnel at all levels.
			A 30m buffer (extended to 50m for active setts during the breeding season, December to June, inclusive) will be marked out around the setts by the EcOW, using barrier tape. Where any works are planned in the ZoI of these exclusion zones (or where they could encroach into the zone), an ECoW will be contacted prior to any such works. The ECoW will ensure that the appointed contractor(s) is complying with the mitigation measures outlined herein.
			The use of noisy construction machinery in the ZoI of badger setts will cease before sunset. The EcOW will ensure and verify each day that excavations are either covered (with plywood), fenced

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			or have an escape ramp installed overnight to prevent badgers, or other wildlife, from falling into them and becoming trapped.
			Any spoil heaps will be sited at a minimum distance of 30m from setts.
			Chemicals will not be used within 30m of a badger sett and will be confined to the construction compounds.
			Mammal-proof fencing to be installed in the ZoI of a sett to exclude badgers will be hand-dug under supervision by the EcOW in line with NRA (2006) guidance. Weekly monitoring of mammal-proof fencing will be undertaken by the ECoW to determine any possible defects, gaps and/or weaknesses.
			The location of any spoil heaps or other additional site usage during clearance and construction will avoid any disturbance to the location of active badger setts. Landscaping activities after the construction phase can also affect badger setts, and care will be taken to ensure that setts are safeguarded on or near the site and are not interfered with at this stage and that access to foraging areas is not restricted.
			Badger setts requiring exclusion and removal will require a monitoring period of at least five days prior to any construction works commencing in order to confirm activity status. If the sett is active, then it will not be removed within the badger breeding season (December to June inclusive). To exclude or remove an active badger sett outside of this period, inactive entrances will be soft and hard-blocked with one-way gates installed on active entrances. One-way gates will be tied open for three days before being set to exclude, and then monitored for a period of at least 21 days before the sett is deemed inactive and destroyed immediately following the 21-day period. If at any time during the monitoring period the sett becomes active, the exclusion process/programme must commence again from day one of the 21-day monitoring period. For inactive setts, entrances will be soft-blocked (lightly blocked with vegetation and soil) and if all entrances remain undisturbed for a period of five days the sett will be destroyed immediately. This can be undertaken at any time of the year for inactive setts.
			Destruction of a successfully evacuated badger sett will only be carried out under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced ECoW. The possibility of badgers remaining within a sett will always be considered. Destruction of a sett will commence 25m from the outer sett entrances and

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			working towards the centre cutting 0.5m slices in a trench to a depth of 2m. Exposed tunnels will be checked for badger activity. The sett will be destroyed from several directions until the core sett remains. Once it is determined that no badgers remain, the core of the sett will be destroyed and the entire area backfilled. This work will be completed within one working day, as badgers may enter exposed tunnels.
MM3	Bats	EcIA Section 8.1.5 EcIA Section 8.2.5	Trees with PRFs will be retained where possible. They will be fenced off at the outset of works and for the duration of construction to avoid structural damage to the trunk, branches, or root system of the tree which could disturb roosting bats. Temporary fencing will be erected at a sufficient distance from the tree so as to enclose the Root Protection Area (RPA) of the tree, as defined based upon the recommendation of a qualified arborist.
			Where trees with PRFs cannot be retained, an emergence survey will be conducted the night immediately preceding felling to determine if bats are present.
			If bats are absent, trees will be section-felled or soft felled within 24 hours of the emergence survey, under supervision of an ECoW.
			Where bats are present, solutions will be developed in conjunction with a bat specialist and in conjunction with the NPWS.
			Where trees with PRFs are being lost, alternative roosting sites will be provided in the form of replacement bat boxes. The location of these bat boxes will be within the consented project site, and the type, location and height of the bat boxes will be determined by a bat specialist/EcOW.
			The positioning of lighting will be directed away from any adjacent linear habitats (e.g. hedgerows, treelines, rivers, woodland edge) to ensure that there is no light spill onto such habitats.
MM4	Ornithology	EcIA Section 8.1.7	Vegetation removal will be timed to avoid the nesting bird season, from 1st March – 31st August, inclusive. This measure will avoid mortality and disturbance effects on breeding bird species.

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			In the event that the bird nesting season cannot be avoided, a pre-construction survey will be conducted by a suitably qualified EcOW to check for nesting birds. Where nesting birds are recorded as absent, vegetation removal will occur within 24 hours of the survey.
			Where nesting birds are recorded as present, works will cease until the chicks have fledged or where nesting has failed.
			Two suitable grey wagtail nest boxes will be identified and sourced by the ECoW to be installed underneath the proposed bridge structure. The nest boxes will be installed at opposite ends of the proposed bridge structure, and their installation will be supervised by the ECoW. The ECoW will ensure that the installation of these nest boxes does not result in disturbance to aquatic KERs, or IAPS at the permanent works area in Crossmolina.
MM5	Freshwater Pearl Mussel	EcIA Section 8.	No machinery is to enter the River Deel.
			Multiple layers of silt control measures such as mats, fences, and wattles are to be installed and tailored to site conditions, to prevent sediment entering the watercourse and to provide redundancy. Silt fences are to be regularly monitored by the ECoW and maintained to function properly.
			Felling of trees is to be kept to the minimum necessary for the works and installation of the access route and bridge. Tree roots are to be grubbed out only where necessary.
			Works are to only take place in dry conditions. If rainfall exceeds trigger levels, works are to stop.
			Continuous turbidity monitoring is to be undertaken, with meters installed upstream and downstream of the proposed works
			Fuelling and lubrication of equipment will be carried out in a bunded area, well away from the river and any drains flowing to the river.
			Any spillage of fuels, lubricants of hydraulic oils will be immediately contained and the contaminated soil removed from the site and properly disposed of.

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Waste oils and hydraulic fluids will be collected in leak-proof containers and removed from the site for disposal or re-cycling.
			The use of wet concrete will be avoided where possible and where unavoidable, such as for the piled bridge foundations, it will be strictly controlled. On-site cement mixing will be prohibited. Any washwater from concreting will be monitored for pH and pH neutralisation to be undertaken. CO2 neutralisation method will be utilised at this site.
			On-site cement mixing will be prohibited
			A lined and watertight skip, positioned above the level of the flood zone, is to be used as the only area on site where concrete activities are permitted to wash out, including, barrows, shovels and rakes.
			On completion of construction works, washwater is to be brought to below pH 9, using citric acid, and removed from site.
Water Quality Management			
MM6	Flue storage and spillages.	NIS Section 12.1 / EcIA Section 8.1.2.1	On completion of the works, all apparatus, plant, tools, offices, sheds, surplus materials, waste and temporary erections or works of any kind will be removed;
			Any works affecting water features or riparian habitats will be submitted for assessment to IFI and approval in the form of a detailed method statement;
			All works will follow the guidance set out in the CIRIA guidance note *"Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites"* (CIRIA, 2001);
			Storage locations for excavated materials, equipment, hydrocarbons (including fuels for machinery) will be designated prior to commencement of works. Excavated materials will not be stored within 10 m of any aquatic habitats (dry or wet). Site compounds will also be located at least 30 m from aquatic habitats and European sites;

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Fuels, oils, greases, hydrocarbons and hydraulic fluids will be stored in 110% bunded compounds. In addition, they will be adequately secured to avoid/minimise risk of vandalism;
			A 24-hour, seven-day week Emergency Response protocol will be drawn up and implemented. This will be implementable in the unlikely event of an accidental spillage of chemicals, hydrocarbons or release of sediment;
			Refuelling of machinery will be carried out on level, hard surfaced designated areas. In the event that refuelling is required outside of these areas, fuel will be transported in a mobile double skinned tank and a spill tray will be employed during re-fuelling operations;
			All machinery will be regularly maintained and checked for leaks. Services will not be undertaken within 30 m of aquatic habitats. Servicing will be undertaken on level, hard surfaced designated areas;
			An adequate supply of spill kits and hydrocarbon adsorbent packs will be available at labelled stations throughout the proposed project TDR, with all vehicles on-site also carrying spill kits. All relevant personnel will be fully trained in the use of the equipment. Any used spill kits will be disposed of appropriately off-site;
MM7	Surface Water Management	NIS Section 12. / PECR 5.4.1 / EcIA 8.1.2.1	Silt fences will be installed along the track edge prior to infiltration to the filter drains and filter strips. The final discharge is to the existing drainage ditches onsite;
			Silt traps will be strategically placed down-gradient within drains. The main purpose of the silt traps and drain blocking is to slow water flow, increase residence time, and allow settling of silt in a controlled manner;
			All works will follow the guidance set out in the Guidance document entitled: CIRIA Guidance Note Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites;
			Storage locations for equipment, hydrocarbons (including fuels for machinery) will be at the construction compound;

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Surplus excavated materials will be removed from site. The site compounds will be located at least 130 m from aquatic features and 77m from the River Moy SAC;
			A 24-hour, seven-day week Emergency Response protocol will be drawn up and implemented. This will be implementable in the unlikely event of an accidental spillage of chemicals, hydrocarbons or release of sediment;
			Refuelling of machinery will be carried out on level, hard surfaced designated area at the respective compounds;
			All machinery will be regularly maintained and checked for leaks. Services will be undertaken on level, hard surfaced designated areas within the compounds;
			An adequate supply of spill kits and hydrocarbon adsorbent packs will be available at labelled stations throughout the permanent works area with all vehicles on-site carrying spill kits. All relevant personnel will be fully trained in the use of the equipment. Any used spill kits will be disposed of appropriately off-site;
			On completion of the works, all apparatus, plant, tools, offices, sheds, surplus materials, waste and temporary erections or works of any kind will be removed.
			Concrete pours will be supervised by the ECoW with stop works authority to ensure no leakage of concrete. Installation of parapet railing requires ECoW supervision.
			Contractors will be required to provide a designated bin for washing down the chutes of concrete lorries at the construction compound.
			Wash down and washout of concrete transporting vehicles will take place at the concrete source site to prevent cementitious material and water entering the surface water network.

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			A lined and watertight skip, positioned above the level of the flood zone, is to be used as the only area on site where concrete activities are permitted to wash out, including barrows, shovels and rakes.
			Waste material will be removed from site to an appropriate waste permit facility.
			Disposal of excess concrete on any part of the construction site will be prohibited.
			Concrete pours will be done in good weather conditions;
			ACO channel maintenance will be carried out on an annual basis.
			All concrete will be mixed off-site and imported into the proposed TDR. All concrete bowsers will be washed outside the proposed TDR, back in the concrete plant, with only the chutes to be washed out at a dedicated concrete washout on-site, at least 50 m from aquatic habitats. The proposed washout(s) will be located at the construction compounds. Concrete washings will not be disposed of on-site to any surface or ground water feature. All washings will be removed off-site and treated at a licensed facility;
			The use of wet concrete will be avoided where possible and where unavoidable, such as for the piled bridge foundations, it will be strictly controlled and kept to a minimum. On-site cement mixing will be prohibited. Washwater will be monitored for pH and pH neutralisation to be undertaken. Carbon dioxide neutralisation method will be utilised at on site. Proprietary systems such as Siltbuster or Aska Skyes will be used;
			Felling of trees and grubbing out of roots will be kept to the absolute minimum necessary for the works.
Site Drainage			
MM8	Surface Water Drainage	NIS Section 12.1	Interceptor drains, i.e. diversion drains to divert clean water away around disturbed areas and reduce runoff volume at Carricknagat and Crossmolina;.

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Use of sandbags, filter fabrics, or other equivalent systems, to prevent scouring and sediment mobilisation. These are required where existing drains occur along the access road in Crossmolina;
			Minimising working areas, covering stockpiles, weathering or stabilising stockpiles, and ceasing works in high-risk zones during adverse weather. These measures will reduce exposed soil and align with SuDS best practice for preventing sediment generation;
			Weather conditions will be considered when planning construction activities to minimise risk of run off from site;
			A 30 m exclusion zones between excavated material and any surface water/European site boundary will be implemented during construction to prevent sediment washing into the receiving water environment;
			If watering is in contract with wet concrete, water will be treated (pH and sediment) prior to discharge;
			If very wet ground must be accessed during the construction process, bog mats/aluminium panel tracks will be used to enable access to these areas by machinery. However, works will be scheduled to minimise access requirements during winter months;
			The contractor will carry out visual examinations of local water features in the immediate receiving environment of from the proposed works during the construction phase to ensure that sediment is not above baseline conditions. In the event of water quality concerns, the Environmental Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be consulted.
			Filter drains and filter strips to convey and slow flows through vegetated channels, running parallel with the road. Filter drains will be utilised in Crossmolina to control and convey water to the local drainage channels;
			Erosion and velocity control features such as check dams, sandbags, weirs, baffles, sedimats will be used as needed;

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Collection sumps, temporary sumps or attenuation lagoons, sediment traps, or other appropriate measures to encourage sediment deposition and flow attenuation will be used as required. These features reflect SuDS elements such as detention basins and sediment forebays.
			Temporary sumps, attenuation ponds, storage lagoons, sediment traps, and settlement ponds, will be used as required, designed to allow particulate matter to settle out of suspension; and.
			Proprietary treatment systems, such as Siltbuster units, or other equivalent settlement or filtration technologies that provide enhanced sediment removal or water-quality polishing will be used.
			Silt fences will be emplaced within drains down-gradient of all construction areas at Crossmolina. Silt fences will be placed around stockpiles. Inspection and maintenance will be undertaken during construction phase to ensure their functioning to stated purpose. Double silt fences will be placed within drains down-gradient of all construction areas at Crossmolina and along the River Deel.
			Silt bags will be used where water is pumped from excavations. As water is pumped through the bag, the majority of the sediment will be retained by the geotextile fabric allowing filtered water to pass through. Silt bags will be used with natural vegetation filters or sedimats. Sediment entrapment mats, consisting of coir or jute matting, will be placed at the silt bag location to provide further treatment of the water outfall from the silt bag. Sedimats will be secured to the ground surface using stakes/pegs. The sediment will extend to the full width of the outfall to ensure all water passes through this additional treatment measure.
			If the discharge water from construction areas fails to be of a high quality during regular inspections, then a filtration treatment system (such as a 'Siltbuster' or similar equivalent treatment train (sequence of water treatment processes) will be used to filter and treat all surface discharge water collected in the dirty water drainage system. This will apply for all of the construction phase.
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
MM9	Archaeology	PECR Section 7.	**Carricknagat:** The area proposed for the accommodation works comprises rock outcrops and rough scrub. It is likely that any archaeological remains that may have been present in this area have been removed

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			due to ground disturbances associated with the construction of the railway and the existing road. No impacts are predicted upon the archaeological resource.
			Crossmolina: The proposed TDR will not result in any direct impacts on recorded monuments at their plotted locations. LiDAR coverage has identified a sub-rectangular enclosure or earthwork (CH6) within the proposed permanent works area. This is possibly associated with the nearby medieval abbey MA029-038. Ground disturbances associated with the TDR would result in a direct negative impact on this enclosure/earthwork feature. This impact is deemed moderate-slight. Ground works associated with the proposed TDR will result in a negative impact on the mound (CH3) and the site of post medieval structures marked within the historic maps (CH2). These CH sites are situated within the proposed permanent works area. They be directly and negatively impacted. The impact on CH3 is deemed not significant. The impact on CH2 is deemed slight. Asides from the CH2, CH3 and CH6, no other CH sites will be directly impacted by the proposed TDR. The proposed TDR will cross the River Deel, which is an area of archaeological potential. The crossing will be a clear span structure and as such, no impacts on predicted on the archaeological resource that may survive with the river channel of the watercourse. The proposed TDR will cross a significant amount of previously undisturbed greenfield areas. It is possible that ground disturbances associated with the construction of the TDR will result in negative impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological remains that have the potential to survive within the footprint of the TDR, with no surface expression.
Traffic Management			
MM 10	Traffic	TMP Section 5.4	Mitigation measures will be installed in advance of any AIL delivery activity. Temporary measures may be installed on a phased basis preceding each delivery convoy, while permanent works will be completed before the first turbine component arrives at Killybegs Port. All mitigation works will be inspected, certified, and signed off through a joint process involving:

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			• the Contractor; • the relevant Local Authority (Donegal, Sligo, or Mayo); • An Garda Síochána (where traffic control measures affect public routes).
Refuelling, Fuel and Oil Management			
MM11	Fuel Management	EcIA Section 8.1.2	Fuel storage and any oil storage will be carried out in accordance with the Enterprise Ireland Best Practice Guide BPGCS005 Oil Storage Guidelines;
			Each fixed fuel and oil storage bunds will be sized to hold 110 % of the oil volume of the largest tank therein. The fixed fuel and oil storage bunds will be blind sumped. The rainwater pumped from each bund will be discharged to the surface water drainage system via an oil interceptor;
			In the event of a spill, the liquid contained in the bund will be removed by a liquid waste tanker, as will be the contents of the surface water drainage system and oil interceptor; and, Where refuelling is required on site away from fixed storage locations this will only be carried out utilising steel intrinsically bunded mobile fuel bowsers. At site refuelling locations, all refuelling will take place at the construction compound.
			Double skinned plastic tanks will not be acceptable at the site for any purpose unless they are placed within fixed concrete or steel external bunds.
			Refuelling will take place at the construction compound. An oil interceptor will be installed in the construction compound.
MM12	Fuel Storage	PECR Section 4. / EcIA 8.1.2	Fuel storage and any oil storage will be carried out in accordance with the Enterprise Ireland Best Practice Guide BPGCS005 Oil Storage Guidelines.
			Fuel and oil storage at fixed locations will be in a fixed tank, undercover and within a steel or concrete bund.
			A dedicated impermeable bunded refuelling area will be constructed adjacent to the fixed fuel storage areas.
			Double skinned plastic tanks will not be acceptable at the site for any purpose unless they are placed within fixed concrete or steel external bunds.

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Each fixed fuel and oil storage bunds shall be sized to hold 110 % of the oil volume of the largest tank therein. The fixed fuel and oil storage bunds shall be blind sumped. The rainwater pumped from each bund shall be discharged to the surface water drainage system via an oil interceptor.
			In the event of a spill, the liquid contained in the bund shall be removed by a liquid waste tanker, as will be the contents of the surface water drainage system and oil interceptor. Where refuelling is required on site away from fixed storage locations this will only be carried out utilising steel intrinsically bunded mobile fuel bowsers. At site refuelling locations, refuelling will take place within mobile bunds, but at a minimum fuel line from the bowser to the plant being fuelled will be contained by drip trays.
Soil and Spoil Management			
MM13	Soil and Excavated Material	PECR Section 4	Landscaping areas will be sealed and levelled using the back of an excavator bucket to prevent erosion. Where possible, the upper vegetative layer will be stored with the vegetation part of the sod facing the right way up to encourage growth of plants and vegetation at the surface of the landscaped
			Where mineral soils are encountered in the excavation and construction of site roads, bases, etc, this material will be stockpiled for assessment and subsequent re-use. Where mineral soil is not directly suitable for construction it will be used for reinstatement works and will be geo-engineered as necessary.
			If long term storage is required for reusable soil, particularly where such storage will span spring and summer periods consideration will be given to vegetating the stockpile.
			To control generation of silt run off soil stockpiles will be surrounded by either silt fencing or toe drain or will be covered. Surface run off from across the construction site will be directed to surface water control areas that will include siltation ponds or similar.
			Where access is required off the permanent road network, access will be made by the placement of bog mats or similar and bridging of drainage channels, the purpose of which is to minimise soil compaction and avoid break up and erosion of the soil.

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Soils, overburden, and rock will be reused on site to reinstate any excavations where appropriate. Excavation works will be monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist.
			The earthworks will not be carried out during severe weather conditions.
Invasive Species Management			
MM14	IAPS Management and Biosecurity	EcIA Section 8	Fencing will be established around each working area hosting Third Schedule IAPS prior to IAPS management and construction activities commencing.
			In the case of Japanese knotweed, the bio-secure zone will be 7m from the visible plant parts. This will ensure all areas scheduled to be treated are included in the area fenced off. This will inform personnel that access into and out of the area is restricted. Signage will be erected along the fencing to avoid unnecessary contact with the plant or surrounding contaminated soils.
			Prior to both ISMP works and construction works commencing onsite, the appointed contractor will be required to update and implement this ISMP prior to treatment commencing.
			Any vegetation or soil within the exclusion zone will be considered contaminated (See Table 8.1 and Figure 5.4 to Figure 5.6 for locations). Any disturbance of soil within this zone may stimulate the growth of any rhizomes remaining within the soil. A fragment of its rhizome the size of a fingernail can regenerate into an entirely new plant (RAPID, 2024). Therefore, construction works and activities will be avoided within these exclusion zones.
			A designated wash-down area will be established within the site compound at Crossmolina, approximately 150m from the bank of the River Deel (Deel (Crossmolina)_050). A wash-down area will also be established at POI 46. In the wash-down areas, washings, and material from a power-washed vehicle will be effectively contained, collected and removed to a licenced waste facility along with other contaminated material. The area will include a washable membrane or hard surface.
			Stockpile areas shall be chosen to minimise movement of contaminated soil

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Ref no.	Related to	Location	Mitigation Measure
			Any stockpiles must be marked and isolated by the ECoW.
			Using tracked machines within the contaminated area is likely to contribute to the spread of IAPS and will be avoided.
			The ECoW will monitor and oversee implementation of the plan
			All equipment and machinery will be cleaned prior to entry as a bio security measure. This is to avoid transfer of IAPS to the receiving catchment from equipment and machinery which may have been used elsewhere. The IFI bio security protocol will be implemented.
			On completion of works and decontamination of the site, biosecurity measures will be removed under the supervision of the ECoW.
			No material will be removed from a treatment area without prior consultation and approval from the ECoW and licence from the NPWS.
			All materials entering site will be checked to ensure their sources are free of IAPS, particularly soil and plant material. All machinery will be cleaned and checked for IAPS prior to arrival to site.

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Appendix B eDNA Report (SureScreen Scientifics Ltd, 2025)

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Folio No:	3622-2025
Purchase Order:	PO P001920
Contact:	Tobin Consulting Engineers
Issue Date:	18.07.2025
Received Date:	04.07.2025

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eDNA Report

Technical Report

SureScreen Scientifics

Folio No: 3622-2025
Purchase Order: PO P001920
Contact: Tobin Consulting Engineers
Issue Date: 18.07.2025
Received Date: 04.07.2025

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eDNA Analysis

Summary

When aquatic organisms inhabit a waterbody such as a pond, lake or river they continuously release small amounts of their DNA into the environment. By collecting and analysing water samples, we can detect these small traces of environmental DNA (eDNA) to confirm the presence or absence of the target species within the waterbody.

Results

Lab ID	Site Name	OS Reference	Target Species	Sample Integrity Check	Result	Positive Replicates
FK3283	Site		Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)	Pass	Positive	12
			Brook/River lamprey (Lampetra planeri/ Lampetra fluviatilis)	Pass	Positive	7
			Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)	Pass	Positive	2
			White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	Pass	Negative	0
FK3284	Site 1 - Deel River, Bridge site	54.1086675, -9.3139051	Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)	Pass	Positive	12
			Brook/River lamprey (Lampetra planeri/ Lampetra fluviatilis)	Pass	Positive	7

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			Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)	Pass	Positive	12
			White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	Pass	Positive	3
FK3285	Site 3 - Deel River, Down Stream	54.1098108, -9.3144536	Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)	Pass	Positive	12
			Brook/River lamprey (Lampetra planeri/ Lampetra fluviatilis)	Pass	Positive	7
			Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)	Pass	Positive	12
			White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	Pass	Positive	1

Matters affecting result: none

Reported by:Consuela Sopronyi

Approved by: Lauryn Jewkes

Folio No:	3622-2025
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Methodology

Samples have been analyzed for the presence of target species eDNA following readily available and scientifically published eDNA assays and protocols.

The analysis is conducted in two phases. The sample first goes through an extraction process where the filter is incubated in order to obtain any DNA within the sample. The extracted sample is then tested via real-time PCR (also called q-PCR) for each of the selected target species. This process uses species-specific molecular markers (known as primers) to amplify a select part of the DNA, allowing it to be detected and measured in 'real time' as the analytical process develops. qPCR combines amplification and detection of target DNA into a single step. With qPCR, fluorescent dyes specific to the target sequence are used to label targeted PCR products during thermal cycling. The accumulation of fluorescent signals during this reaction is measured for fast and objective data analysis. The primers used in this process are specific to a part of mitochondrial DNA only found in each individual species. Separate primers are used for each of the species, ensuring no DNA from any other species present in the water is amplified. If target species DNA is present, the DNA is amplified up to a detectable level, resulting in positive species detection. If target DNA is not present then amplification does not occur, and a negative result is recorded.

Analysis of eDNA requires scrupulous attention to detail to prevent the risk of false positive and false negative results. True positive controls, negative controls, and spiked synthetic DNA are included in every analysis and these have to be correct before any result is declared. Stages of the analysis are also conducted in different buildings at our premises for added security. SureScreen Scientifics Ltd is ISO9001 accredited and participates in Natural England's proficiency testing scheme for GCN eDNA testing.

Interpretation of Results

Sample Integrity Check:

Laboratory Arrival:

When samples are received in the laboratory, they are inspected for any tube leakage, suitability of sample (not too much mud or weed etc.) and absence of any factors that could potentially lead to inconclusive results. Any samples which fail this test are rejected and eliminated before analysis.

Degradation and Inhibition check:

Analysis of the spiked DNA marker to see if there has been degradation or inhibition of the kit or sample, between the date it was made to the date of analysis. Degradation of the spiked DNA marker may indicate a risk of false negative results. If inhibition is detected, samples are purified and re-analyzed. Inhibitors cannot always be removed, if the inhibition check fails, the sample should be re-collected.

Result:

Presence of eDNA (Positive/Negative/Inconclusive)

Positive: DNA was identified within the sample, indicative of species presence within the sampling location at the time the sample was taken or within the recent past.

Positive Replicates: Number of positive qPCR replicates out of a series of 12. If one or more of these are found to be positive the pond is declared positive for species presence. It may be assumed that small fractions of positive analyses suggest low level presence, but this cannot currently be used for population studies. Even a score as low as 1/12 is declared positive. 0/12 indicates negative species presence.

Negative: eDNA was not detected or is below the threshold detection level and the test result should be considered as evidence of species absence, however, does not exclude the potential for species presence below the limit of detection.

Inconclusive: Controls indicate inhibition or degradation of the sample, resulting in the inability to provide conclusive evidence for species presence or absence.

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Appendix C RECORDS OF PROTECTED SPECIES RECORDED

Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
1, 2	G7175	Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
4, 5	G7176	Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
6	G7278	Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment >> High Risk
		Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Rhododendron ponticum	National Invasive Species Database	Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment >> High Risk
		Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data - Robert Northridge	Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment >> Moderate Risk
		Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
7	G7378	No records		
8	G7379	Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	National Invasive Species Database	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
9	G7479	No records		
10	G7478	Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
11	G7477	Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Otter Survey of Ireland 1982	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
12	G7476	No records		
12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	G7576	Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*)	National Invasive Species Database	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Badger (*Meles meles*)	Northern Ireland Mammal Database	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus subsp. hibernicus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
19	G7675	Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)	Irish National Frog Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
20	G7676, G7776	Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
21	G9178	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Otter Survey of Ireland 1982	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
22	G9278	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Road Kill Survey	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
23	G9479, G9478	Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Road Kill Survey	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
24	G9375	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
25	G8862	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
26	G8359	Badger (Meles *meles*)	Road Kill Survey	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
27	G7958	Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)	IWDG Casual Cetacean Sightings	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		White-beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)	IWDG Cetacean Strandings Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
28	G7053	Badger (*Meles meles)*	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus subsp. hibernicus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
29, 30	G6649	Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)	Reptiles and Amphibians Distribution Atlas 1978 (An Foras Forbartha)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Badger (*Meles meles*)	Badger Setts of Ireland Database	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
31	G6835	Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)	Amphibians and reptiles of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
32, 33, 34	G6730	Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report)

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Badger (*Meles meles*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Stoat (*Mustela erminea subsp. hibernica*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
35, 36, 39	G6629	Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)	Reptiles and Amphibians Distribution Atlas 1978 (An Foras Forbartha)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)	Amphibians and reptiles of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)	General Biodiversity Records from Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland)
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Stoat (*Mustela erminea subsp. hibernica*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	River Biologists' Database (EPA)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
40, 41	G6529	No records		
42	G6428	Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
43	G6328	No records		
44	G6228	Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)	IWDG Cetacean Strandings Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
45	G6128	Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)	Newt Survey 2010-2014	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Badger (*Meles meles*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)	The Irish Squirrel Survey 2007	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
46	G5830	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
47, 48	G4333	Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus subsp. hibernicus*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Stoat (*Mustela erminea subsp. hibernica*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
49 – 58	G21P	Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)	Newt Survey 2010-2014	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)	General Biodiversity Records from Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)	River Biologists' Database (EPA)	Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Three-cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*)	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment || Invasive Species: Medium Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment >> Moderate Risk
		Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)	Explore Your Shore	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Threatened Species: OSPAR Convention || Threatened Species: Near threatened
		Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Otter Survey of Ireland 1982	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
59, 60	G2219	No records		
61	G1619	No records		
Crossmolina 62 – 68	G1418, G1417, G1317	White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)	River Biologists' Database (EPA)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	River Biologists' Database (EPA)	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
		Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)	Hedgehogs of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus subsp. hibernicus*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)	Irish National Frog Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
69, 70	G0218	Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	Irish Vascular Plant Data - Paul Green	Invasive Species: EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation No. 1143/2014 || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Rhododendron ponticum	Irish Vascular Plant Data - Paul Green	Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 477/2011 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment || Invasive Species: High Risk Invasive Species (2013 Report) || Invasive Species: Regulation S.I. 374/2024 (Ireland) || Invasive Species: Detailed Risk Assesment >> High Risk
71, 72	G0118	No records		
73	F9919	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)	Pine Marten (Martes martes) Database (NPWS)	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
74	F9819	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
75	F9719, F9619	Badger (*Meles meles*)	Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu stricto*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
		Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Point of Interest	Grid Square	Species Name	Title of Dataset	Designation
		Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	National Bat Database of Ireland	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive || Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV || Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Appendix D HABITATS PRESENT AT POIS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Note: Works for which planning permission are being sought are highlighted in grey.

POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
1	-	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
2	Laying of load bearing surface & fence removal, lights to be removed / relocated	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
4	-	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
5	▪ Removal of bollards from traffic island	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
6	-	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
7	▪ -	Treelines (WL2) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
8	▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Temporary removal of bollard	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	N/A
9	▪ Road sign removal	Treelines (WL2) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
10	▪ Tree trimming	Treelines (WL2) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	
11	▪ Laying of load bearing surface on the eastern verge; ▪ Temporary removal of gate, wall and chevrons ▪ Vegetation clearance.	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
12	▪ Temporary removal of road signal, bollards, lighting columns, wall and fence to be removed. ▪ Hedgerow and tree trimming	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Treelines (WL2)	N/A
13	▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Removal of hedgerows, ▪ Temporary removal fence and wall	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Treelines (WL2)	N/A

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
14, 15, 16	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface ▪ Vegetation clearance ▪ Tree trimming	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Treelines (WL2) Scrub (WS1)	N/A
17, 18	▪ Temporary removal of fence ▪ Vegetation to be removed	Wet grassland (GS4) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Hedgerows (WL1)	N/A
19	▪ Modifications to street furniture required. ▪ Land reprofiling ▪ Vegetation removal	Hedgerows (WL1) (Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1)	N/A
20	-	Treelines (WL2) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
21	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (270m) Donegal Bay SPA (270m) Potential hydrological connectivity via the Leitrim Hill Stream_010
22	▪ Trimming of trees	Amenity grassland (GA2) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Treelines (WL2)	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (490m) Donegal Bay SPA (490m) Potential hydrological connectivity via the Leitrim Hill Stream_010
23	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage ▪ Trimming of trees ▪ Laying of load bearing surface	Treelines (WL2) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (600m) Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (1.7km) Donegal Bay SPA (1.7km) Potential hydrological connectivity via the Eske_020
24		Treelines (WL2)	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (690m)

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Vegetation clearance.	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Scrub (WS1)	Donegal Bay SPA (575m) Potential hydrological connectivity via the Clarcarricknagun_010
25	▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Vegetation trimming	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	Donegal Bay SPA (1.4km) Potential hydrological connectivity via the Abbey_010
26	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Amenity grassland (GA2)	Donegal Bay SPA (1.4km) Potential hydrological connectivity via the Bradogue_020
27	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface.	Amenity grassland (GA2) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Hedgerows (WL1)	Lough Melvin SAC (26m) Donegal Bay SPA (445m) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Drowes_010
28	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole.	N/A	N/A
29	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole.	N/A	N/A
30	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	N/A	N/A
31	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
32	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole ▪ Vegetation clearance	Hedgerows (WL1) Treelines (WL1) Amenity grassland (GA2) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	Ballysadare Bay SAC (174m) Ballysadare Bay SPA (174m) Hydrological connectivity via the Knocknahur_010
33, 34	-	N/A	N/A
35	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Ballysadare Bay SAC (45m) Ballysadare Bay SPA (45m) Physical connectivity i.e. within 50m
36	▪ Laying of load bearing surface;	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Unshin River SAC (110m)

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage		Ballysadare Bay SAC (410m) Ballysadare Bay SPA (556m) Hydrological connectivity via the Knocknahur_010
37	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Vegetation clearance.	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Hedgerows (WL1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Unshin River SAC (270m) Ballysadare Bay SAC (3.8km) Ballysadare Bay SPA (3.9km) Hydrological connectivity via the Owenmore (Sligo)_080
Permanent Works 1: Carricknagat 38	▪ Vegetation trimming. ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Removal of trees and vegetation ▪ Remove of bedrock outcrop area ▪ Removal of fence and wall	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Amenity grassland (GA2) Scrub (WS1) Hedgerows (WL1) Stone walls and other stonework (BL1) (Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Exposed siliceous rock (ER1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Unshin River SAC (75m) Ballysadare Bay SAC (2.2km) Ballysadare Bay SPA (2.4km) Hydrological connectivity via the Ballysodare_010
39	▪ Temporary removal of one traffic signal, three road signs, one bollard, one pole, a bridge railing, pedestrian guardrail and wall.	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Unshin River SAC (adjacent) Ballysadare Bay SAC (550m) Ballysadare Bay SPA (720m) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Ballysodare_010
40	▪ Temporary removal of wall, fence, utility poles and ▪ Vegetation to be removed	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
41	▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles. ▪ Temporary removal of a wall and gate ▪ Tree trimming	Scrub (WS1)	N/A

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
42, 43	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility pole.	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Hedgerows (WL1) Treelines (WL2)	N/A
44	Temporary removal of traffic signage and utility poles. ▪ Trimming of trees and vegetation.	Treelines (WL2)	Ballysadare Bay SAC (610m) Ballysadare Bay SPA (610m) Hydrological connectivity via the Barnabrack_010
45	▪ Tree trimming; Temporary removal of traffic signage ▪ Vegetation clearance	Hedgerows (WL1)	Ballysadare Bay SAC (575m) Ballysadare Bay SPA (575m) Hydrological connectivity via the Barnabrack_010
46	▪ Trees and vegetation trimming ▪ Laying of load bearing surface	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Hedgerows (WL1)	N/A
47	▪ Tree trimming.	Amenity grassland (GA2) Treelines (WL2)	N/A
48	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage and a utility poles.	N/A	N/A
49	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Temporary removal of one utility pole, two traffic signals, one bench, two junction boxes, a wall, bridge parapet and bridge railing from southern parapet; ▪ Vegetation clearance.	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Amenity grassland (GA2) Depositing lowland river (FW1)	River Moy SAC (direct overlap) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (direct overlap) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030
50	▪ Modifications to street furniture required	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland (WD1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	River Moy SAC (360m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (450m) Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
51	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Land reprofiling; ▪ Berm regrading;	Scrub (WS1) Amenity grassland (GA1)	River Moy SAC (120m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (840m)

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
	▪ Temporary removal of a gate and fence.		Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
52, 53	▪ Load bearing surface to be laid, ▪ Temporary removal of wall and gate.	Scrub (WS1) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Scrub (WS1) Amenity grassland (GA2) Ornamental/non-native shrub (WS3)	River Moy SAC (390m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (870m) Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
54	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface on; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, utility poles and decorative planters	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	River Moy SAC (490m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (490m) Hydrological connectivity via the Glenree_030 and the Moy Estuary
55	▪ Tree trimming.	N/A	River Moy SAC (210m) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (335m) Hydrological connectivity via the Moy Estuary
56, 57, 58	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Removal of one road sign and six bollards; ▪ Temporary removal of a wall	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Treelines (WL2)	River Moy SAC (direct overlap) Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (335m) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Moy Estuary
59	▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Laying of load bearing surface; ▪ Temporary removal of above ground infrastructure such as traffic signage, a utility pole and one decorative structure	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Amenity grassland (GA2) Scattered trees and parkland (WD5)	N/A
60	▪ Tree trimming	N/A	N/A
61	▪ Tree trimming	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
Permanent Works 2: Crossmolina 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	▪ Construction of proposed bridge ▪ Tree trimming; ▪ Vegetation removal Construction of TDR and amenity track;	Depositing lowland river (FW2) The Deel River and the Abbeytown River Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) Wet grassland (GS4)	River Moy SAC (direct overlap) Lough Conn & Lough Cullin SPA (1.1km)

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POI	Summary of Proposed Works	Habitat	Relevant European site (approximate distance as the crow flies)
	▪ Ground works.	Scattered trees and parkland (WD5) Scrub (WS1) Treelines (WL2) Hedgerows (WL1) Stone walls and other stonework (BL1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Flower beds and borders (BC4) Drainage ditches (FW4)	Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 and Abbeytown_010
69	▪ Tree trimming.	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	N/A
70, 71, 72	▪ Tree and vegetation trimming; ▪ Removal of one road sign	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Scrub (WS1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC (direct overlap) Physical connectivity
73	-	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC (direct overlap) Physical connectivity
74	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage	Scrub (WS1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Amenity grassland (GA2)	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC (8m) Physical connectivity i.e. within 50m
75	▪ Temporary removal of traffic signage ▪ Tree trimming	Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) Wet heath (HH3) Scrub (WS1) Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) Conifer plantation (WD4)	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC (direct overlap) Physical connectivity and hydrological connectivity via the Muing_010

Appendix E INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 – Turbine Delivery Route

Invasive Species Management Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

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This Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) has been prepared by TOBIN on behalf of Bord na Móna PowerGen Ltd. a subsidiary of Bord na Móna plc. (trading as BnM), hereafter referred to as BnM, for the Oweninny Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) project (herein referred to as the proposed project) located in Counties Donegal, Sligo and Mayo.

While the multidisciplinary surveys were being undertaken for the proposed project between 2024 and 2025, a number of Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) were recorded within the planning application boundary of the proposed project. This ISMP was therefore prepared to provide information for the appointed contractor with a sufficiently detailed account of the IAPS records to date, and the management options required to control and/or remove the IAPS and prevent them from reinfesting.

It should be noted that this is a live document and following the appointment of an invasive species contractor, a site-specific ISMP must be prepared once details of the construction are known, based on the options outlined in this ISMP report, and in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines.

1.1 SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project covers several sites including those in ownership of 3rd parties with whom BnM have an agreement to carry out works on.

The proposed TDR follows the National and Regional Road networks from the port of entry at Killybegs in County Donegal through counties, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Mayo before taking a westerly route towards the consented OP3 site in Co. Mayo. The entire route is approximately 188km in length.

The proposed project comprises minor temporary works in Donegal, Sligo and Mayo at various locations. Two locations along the TDR require permanent works to facilitate the delivery of turbine components to site, these are located at Carricknagat, Co. Sligo and Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

Minor temporary works in Donegal are proposed at Killybegs, Glebe, Aghayeevoge, Cashelreagh Glebe, Bruckless, Aighan and Darney. Minor temporary works in Sligo are proposed at Carrownacreevy, Abbeytown, Corhownagh and Carricknagat. Minor temporary works in Mayo are proposed at Lecarrow, Crossmolina, Abbeytown, Knockalegan, Glebe, Gortskeddia, Ballina, Abbeyhalfquarter and Bunree.

Permanent Works Area 1 – Carricknagat Co. Sligo

- At this point loads will be split with blades progressing northbound on the N4 before exiting via a newly constructed permanent slip road (with bollards installed when the slip road is not in use) off the N4 at Carricknagat to join the R290, traversing under the rail bridge and continuing northbound towards Mill Grove/Ballysadare. A section of rock

will be broken out in the R290 to facilitate vehicle overrun and blade over sail. Further detail is presented in Section 2.2.2.

- All other components with exception of blades will join the R290 at the Collooney Roundabout and progress towards Mill Grove. All other components with exception of Blades will utilise the consented planning route and exit the N4 near Balladrihid and join the N59 into Ballysadare. The split routes converge in Mill Grove into a shared route for the remainder of the journey where loads will follow the N59 westbound towards Ballina.
- At Ballina, loads will exit the N59 onto Bunree Road before reversing into the Bunree Industrial Estate in Abbeyhalfquarter. The lane at the southeastern side of the industrial estate will need to be widened into the verge on the eastern side to accommodate the TDR. From the estate, loads will reverse into a field, then drive forwards to join the R294, continuing through the town on Tone Street and then McDermott Street. This will involve the closure of a section of Tone Street as loads will need to travel against the one-way system;
- At Gurteens Roundabout loads will rejoin the N59 and continue west until reaching the Crossmolina GAA ground

Permanent Works Area 2 -Crossmolina Co. Mayo

- It is proposed that a newly constructed TDR will be provided across the lands known as the 'community field' and the adjoining agricultural lands in Crossmolina town. The TDR will comprise the construction of a permanent bridge over the River Deel from the northwestern section of the community field to connect the eastern side of Crossmolina with the western side via Abbeytown Lane. Further detail is presented in Section 2.2.3. The TDR will continue west along the R135 for approximately 275m before turning and crossing agricultural fields. In this area the TDR will also comprise a permanent amenity track with integrated cycleway and walkway which will be a permanent feature available to the public when the TDR is not in use. Figure 2-1 presents the location of the permanent amenity track which will run through Sectors 1, 2, 3 4 and 5.
- The TDR will continue into the agricultural fields (Sector 6) and will rejoining the N59 adjacent to St. Tiernann's Cemetery.
- The TDR will continue west towards the OP3 site.

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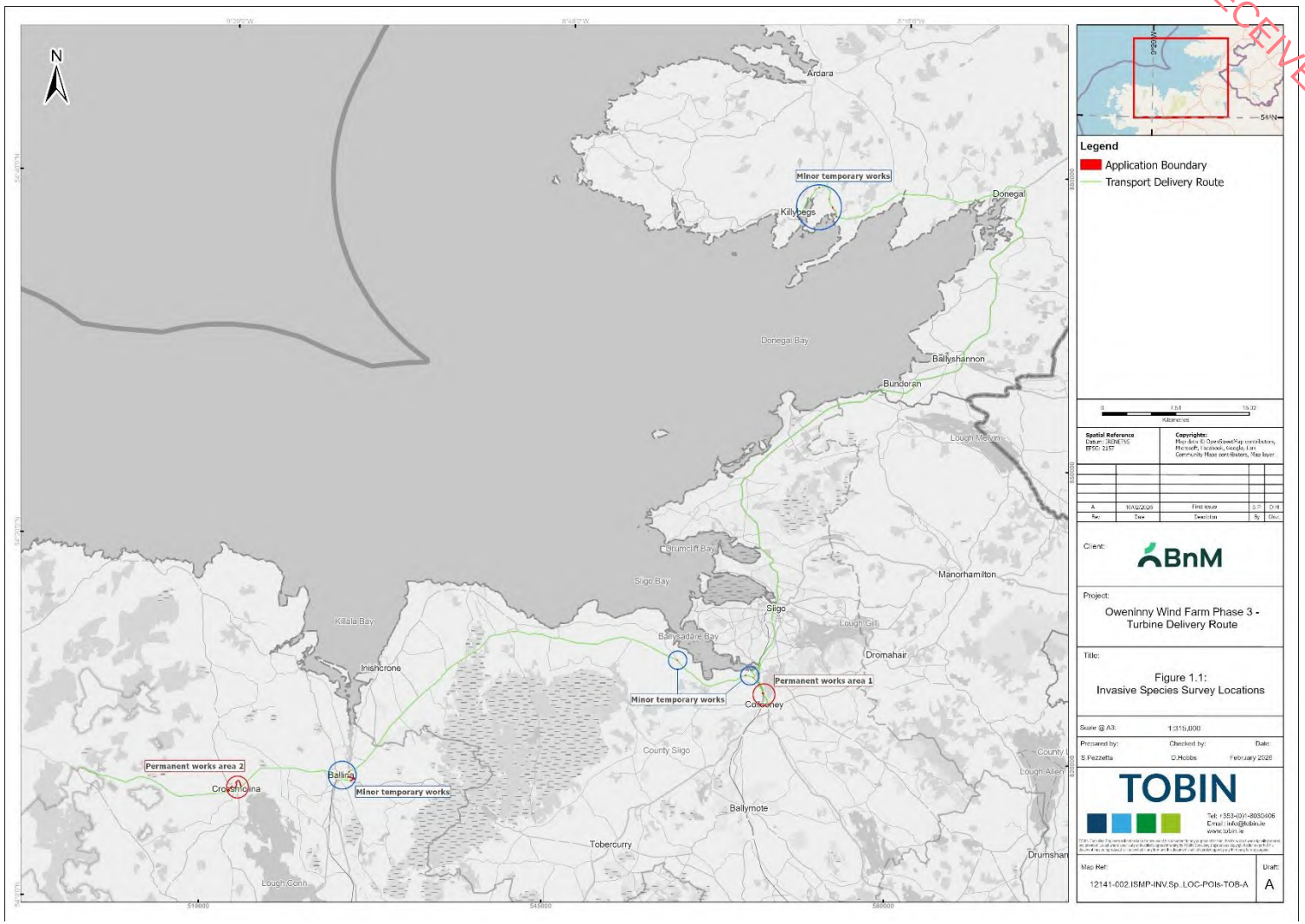


Figure 1-1: The Proposed Project

1.2 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

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The definition of an invasive species as described by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)[1] is; "Species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threatens biological diversity". Invasive species are found in all taxonomic groups including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms and can affect both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems around the world.

Articles 49 and 50 of the Habitat Regulations detail the legal requirements for the strict control of 35 alien invasive species[2] within the EU. Under Articles 49 and 50 of these regulations, it is an offence to:

- Plant, disperse, allow or cause to disperse, or grow any plant listed in Part 1 of the Third Schedule (i.e. High Impact Species);
- Possess the plant or any component of the plant for sale, reproduction, propagation, transportation, distribution, introduction or release any plant listed in Part 1 of the Third Schedule;
- Import or transport any plant listed in Part 1 of the Third Schedule; and/or
- Possess any vector material (e.g. soil, plant material) for the purposes of breeding, sale, distribution, introduction or release as listed in Part 3 of the Third Schedule.

Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica,* formerly *Fallopia japonica*), listed in Part 1 of the Third Schedule was recorded in three locations within or immediately adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project. Areas of Japanese knotweed will require strict measures to eradicate their presence within the proposed project *or* mitigate their further spread as a result of the proposed project by avoidance.

It should be noted that a licence from the NPWS required for carrying out certain activities associated with Third Schedule IAPS.

Additionally, a prioritisation risk assessment was carried out by (Kelly *et al.*, 2013) for 377 non-native species recorded in Ireland and 342 non-native species not known to be present in Ireland. These species were assessed, scored and ranked into categories of high, medium and low. It is further discussed within this document which high, medium and low IAPS species were recorded within and adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project. Although there is no legal requirement to do so, some general guidelines to mitigate the spread of these IAPS (which are not listed on the Third Schedule) during works have been proposed in this document and are included Section 5.

1.3 GUIDANCE

This plan applies the most relevant and current guidance in relation to the treatment and management of invasive plant species in construction projects. The following guidance was referred to in preparation of this plan:

[1] Convention on Biological Diversity: Introduction (Accessed: November 2025)
[2] List of Third Schedule species present in Ireland available from: Third Schedule: Part 1 Plants (Accessed November 2025)

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland: The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Roads – Technical Guidance (TII, 2020);
- Chapter 7 and Appendix 3 of the TII Publication: The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads (NRA, 2010);
- Reducing and Preventing Invasive Species Dispersal: Good Practice Management: Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) (RAPID, 2018);
- Best Practice and Management Guidelines for Japanese Knotweed (Invasive Species Ireland, 2015);
- Circular Letter NPWS 2/08 Use of Herbicide Spray on Vegetated Road Verges (National Parks and Wildlife Services, 2008).

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2. FIELD SURVEY

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2.1 SURVEY METHODS

An initial multidisciplinary ecological survey was carried out of the proposed TDR and amenity track at Crossmolina on the 19th and 20th of February 2024 and the 2nd of October 2024 by TOBIN Ecologists. Follow up surveys, including invasive species surveys were then carried out between 23rd and 26th June 2025 at the proposed TDR and amenity track at Crossmolina, the Carricknagat Site and along the proposed project (at the locations of proposed works and activities within the project RLB). These follow up surveys were completed in the optimum growing season. These surveys were carried out to assess habitats and check for the presence of invasive non-native species of low to high risk and to establish the distribution of such species. All data, including that of IAPS, was collected and mapped using ArcGIS Collector application installed on an iPad.

As previously mentioned in Section 1.1, the majority of the proposed project is present along existing National and Regional Roads. Works and activities will occur to facilitate the successful delivery of turbine components, and it is considered that there is potential for invasive species to be spread as a result of these works and activities. It is not considered likely that invasive species would be spread as a result of turbine delivery traffic utilising the existing road network, throughout the remainder of the proposed project, where works and activities are not proposed.

2.2 SURVEY RESULTS

A list of all IAPS recorded within or adjacent to the planning application boundary and their impact category or designation are outlined in Table 2-1 below. Third Schedule invasive species are highlighted for importance.

Table 2-1: Invasive Species Recorded Within/Adjacent to the Planning Application Boundary and Associated Impact Category

Location	Species	Impact	Distance
Carricknagat permanent works area	Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*)	Medium Impact	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary
Carricknagat permanent works area	Winter heliotrope (*Petasites pyrenaicus*)	Low Impact	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary
Carricknagat permanent works area	Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)	Medium Impact	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary
Along N59, west of Ballysadare	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary
Crossmolina permanent works area	Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)	High Impact; Third Schedule	Approximately 3m from the proposed clear-span bridge

			location at its closest point, and 8m from the location of piling works.

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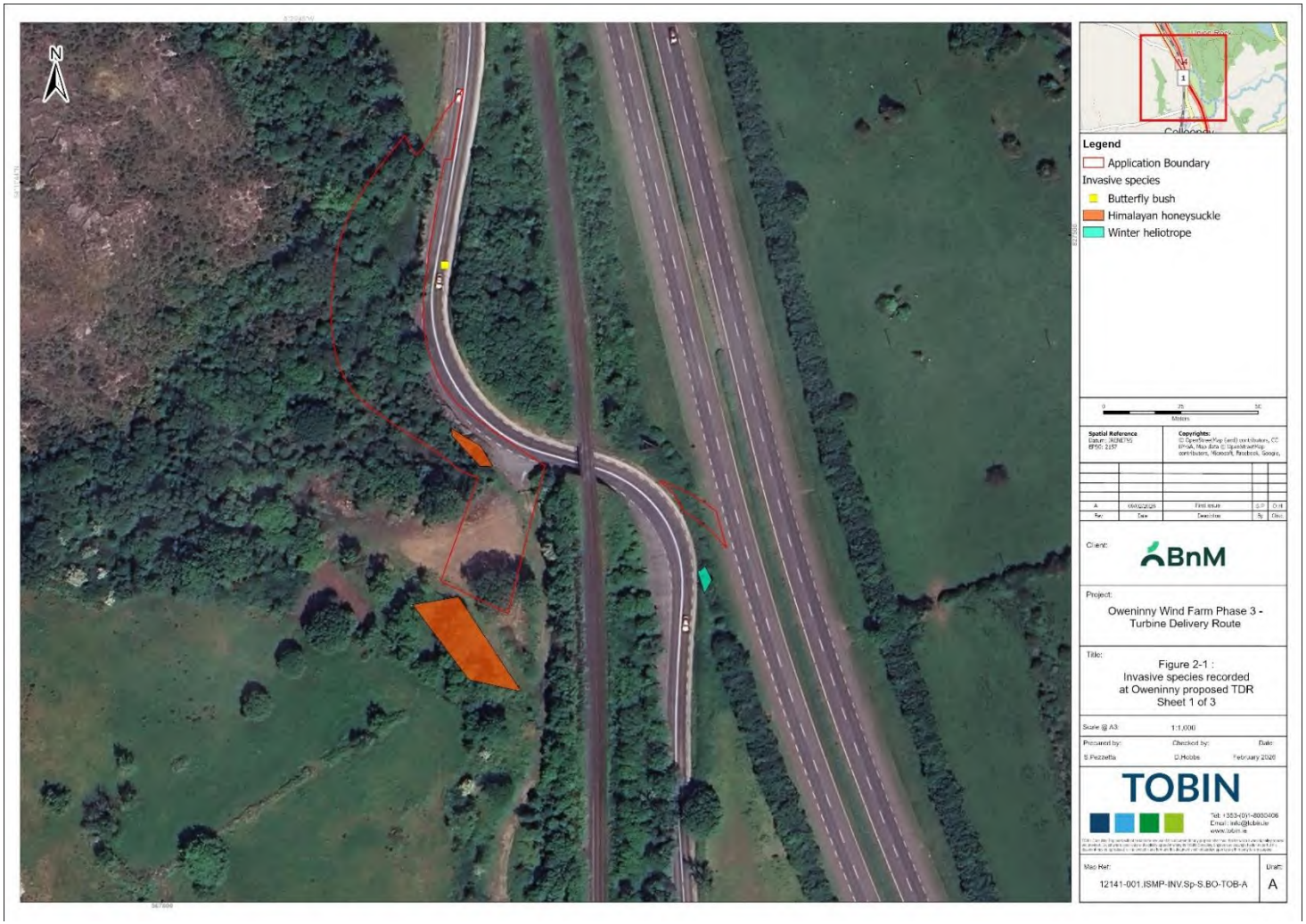


Figure 2-1: Location of Invasive Species (Sheet 1)

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Figure 2-2: Location of Invasive Species (Sheet 2)

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Figure 2-3: Location of Invasive Species (Sheet 3)

3. THIRD SCHEDULE INVASIVE SPECIES INFORMATION AND TREATMENT OPTIONS

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3.1 JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese knotweed, a Third Schedule IAPS was recorded in two locations within and immediately adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project. Background information on Japanese knotweed and guidelines on the identification of this IAPS are provided in Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.2.3 to assist those who may be operating on site to better understand the nature of Japanese knotweed; the extent of the problems it causes; and the importance of the fastidious management of contaminated sites. Viable treatment methods for its eradication are discussed in Section 3.1.3.

3.1.1 Background to Japanese Knotweed

Japanese knotweed is a perennial plant that was first introduced to England in the 19th century as an ornamental plant and subsequently spread to Ireland[3]. In recent years, it has begun to spread rapidly across the country, often carried by watercourses or along road networks.

The species is very robust with penetrating woody rhizomes and bamboo-like stems that can grow to 3m tall. It is capable of growing in a variety of different soil types. Only female plants are present in Ireland and propagation is asexual by the fragmentation of rhizomes and stems and by underground rhizome growth. The rhizomes are strong, and shoots can penetrate through asphalt and concrete. It can outcompete native plant species and poses a threat to infrastructure. Due to this, it has impacts both environmentally and economically.

3.1.2 Identification of Japanese Knotweed

Accurate identification of Japanese knotweed aerial and underground parts is extremely important. It prevents the species spreading unnoticed and allows for specific management of affected areas. The following identification information is provided as a guide.

3.1.2.1 Distinctive Characteristics

- It is rhizomatous (produces underground stems) with distinctive hollow, bamboo-like stems that can grow up to 3m in height.
- The mature canes are hollow and have a characteristic pattern of purple speckles.
- During the winter the leaves die back and reveal orange/brown woody stems.
- The underground rhizomes are thick, woody and when broken reveal a bright orange coloured centre.
- The rhizomes can extend laterally for up to 7m away from the parent plant.

3.1.2.2 Aerial Parts

In the summer months, Japanese knotweed has green, heart-shaped leaves, 10-15cm in length. Stems are hollow and bamboo-like, usually green in colour with red/purple mottling and can grow up to 3 metres in height. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem (in a zig-zag

[3] Japanese Knotweed Control and Solutions from INVAS Biosecurity | Invasive Species Specialist and Environmental Consultants (Accessed November 2025)

pattern). Small white flowers clustered densely together appear from late summer into early autumn. In winter, the plant becomes dormant. Leaves turn yellow and fall off and the canes turn dark brown and brittle.

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3.1.2.3 Rhizomes

Japanese knotweed rhizomes are the underground part of the plant. A rhizome is a modified plant stem that sends out roots and shoots from its nodes. The outside of the Japanese knotweed rhizome is dark brown while the inside is bright orange/yellow in colour. As mentioned above, the rhizome system can spread up to 3m in depth and 7m laterally from the parent plant in certain circumstances, it may extend further this if the plant is particularly well established. The rhizomes are responsible for spreading the plant by vegetative means. Japanese knotweed's ability to spread prolifically is predominantly due to the fact that a fragment of its rhizome the size of a fingernail can regenerate into an entirely new plant (RAPID, 2024).



Plate 3-1: Japanese Knotweed Recorded in the Vicinity of the Proposed Bridge Location in Crossmolina (see Table 2-1 and Figure 2-3 for details)

3.1.3 Choosing an Appropriate Treatment Method for Eradication of Japanese Knotweed

It is vital that a method of eradication is used that is both effective and feasible in the long-term. Below is a list of different eradication options that can be utilised for the IAPS infestation locations within the planning application boundary of the proposed project. The specific treatment options which are considered suitable for each IAPS infestation location are outlined in Table 6-1 in Section 6.

3.1.3.1 Chemical Treatment of Japanese Knotweed

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A possible treatment of Japanese knotweed is the use of herbicide. It is recommended to use an herbicide that is generally considered safe for use near water, one such chemical is Glyphosate.

Glyphosate application is most effective from July to September and will not be applied during the winter dormancy period, as living foliage is required to take up the herbicide. It will not be applied during rain, and a period of 6 hours of dry weather after application is required. Similarly, foliar application will not take place in windy weather as this prevents the application from being sufficiently targeted.

Herbicide treatment may be required over many years in order to completely eradicate Japanese knotweed from the site (See Section 5.7). Chemical treatment is a long-term measure, and only suitable when the site is not predicted to be disturbed for more than 3 years. Even after all growth has stopped, rhizomes may remain viable and future disturbance could potentially reactivate growth.

Failing to allow plants to reach a certain stage prior to herbicide treatment can increase the amount of time required for treatment, along with associated costs. It should be noted that water stress[4] can reduce the herbicide uptake of the plants. (Property Care Association, 2024)

3.1.3.1.1 Treatment Option JK1: Foliar Treatment

One application method for the use of Glyphosate is spraying or foliar treatment. This involves spraying the herbicide on the upper and lower surface of the leaves. A treatment dye will be used to identify clearly all areas of each plant that have been treated. Foliar treatment is an efficient way to treat large monocultures of invasive plants, or to spot-treat individual plants that are difficult to remove mechanically such as Japanese knotweed. In the case of Japanese knotweed to ensure optimal uptake of herbicide into the rhizome system, a second similar treatment will be required within ten days, before the internal vascular system is no longer capable of translocating the herbicide to the root system.

While the upper surface of the leaves will be easier to treat, it is required to treat the leaf under surface as Japanese knotweed possesses many stomata openings on the leaf under surface. Dead stems will be cut and removed off site to a licenced waste facility, as outlined in Section 3.1.3.3- Treatment Option JK4: Off-Site Disposal, in accordance with the relevant legislation. This method is not considered suitable in ecologically sensitive environments.

3.1.3.1.2 Treatment Option JK2: Stem Injection

The second application method of Glyphosate is stem-injection. This involves using a specified herbicide injection tool to inject the herbicide into the stems at high concentrations. Herbicide will be injected at a dilution of 5:1, 20-30cm from the base between the 1st and 2nd nodes. One study by Delbart *et al.* 2012, found this to be a more efficient method of Japanese knotweed control compared to foliar treatments or mechanical methods.

Regrowth will occur in subsequent years, albeit much less vigorously, which will require follow up treatment at the appropriate time of year. Kelly *et al.* (2015) state that 'it can take 3 years

[4] Water stress in plants refers to when the demand for water exceeds its availability, leading to adverse effects on plant growth, development and productivity

and more of herbicide treatment with monitoring and follow up control for up to 5 years' for the treatment of Japanese knotweed. Additionally, spot treatment will be required each year until no regrowth is observed.

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3.1.3.2 Treatment Option JK3: Combined Treatment

Combined treatment involves digging and herbicide treatment in combination. This method will be employed in situations where treatment of the Japanese knotweed is required to be completed in a shorter timeframe and can be undertaken at any time of year. In summary, this management method requires cutting and killing of the surface plant. The cut material will be left on top of plastic sheeting until dried out and subsequently monitored for any sign of regrowth. Storage of cut material will not take place within flood risk zone of a river. The cut material will not be placed in a green waste recycling bin. Once dried out, the material will be removed to a licenced waste facility, as outlined in Section 3.1.3.3- Treatment Option JK4: Off-Site Disposal. The surface of the affected area will be raked with tines to remove crowns and surface material, and in order to break up the rhizomes, bringing them to the surface, which will stimulate leaf production. This will make the plant more vulnerable to herbicide treatment. The more rhizomes that are brought to the surface, the more growth will occur, allowing for a more successful treatment. Reapplication of herbicide will be required in subsequent years until the stand is eradicated. A three-year treatment programme will be undertaken, followed by two years of monitoring to ensure no growth is carried out. The area with Japanese knotweed will be treated accordingly using herbicide treatments. The following criteria need to be fulfilled for successful combined treatment of Japanese knotweed:

- Break up the rhizome and bring it to the surface by raking/digging. This stimulates leafy growth and maximises the uptake of subsequent herbicide treatments to the rhizome;
- Repeat the treatment to continuously weaken growth and expose deeper rhizomes which could not otherwise be as effectively treated;
- Digging while the ground is wet will be avoided as it will compact the soil and slow down growth, reducing uptake of herbicide and compromising treatment;
- It will require the treatment of the entire contaminated area;
- Good site hygiene practices and decontamination of vehicles and equipment is essential and will be undertaken;
- Crown removal will be integrated into these works, including prior to the commencement of herbicide treatment. Crown removal will involve transportation offsite and will be subject to licencing from NPWS; and,
- Rhizome dormancy can occur with improper herbicide application, however ground disturbance can encourage regrowth of rhizomes.

3.1.3.3 Treatment Option JK4: Off-Site Disposal

Where the above treatment options are not possible or where the infestation simply cannot be avoided by the construction works, removal of excavated material may be the only option. Off-site disposal of material is only to be considered as a last resort when none of the other treatment options can be carried out.

If any IAPS material is collected (e.g. by hand-pulling or mowing), it is important that its disposal will not lead to a risk of further spread. Where there are small amounts of Japanese knotweed material to be removed the material will be double bagged and sent to a licenced waste facility

for disposal. Where the amount of material is larger in volume, it will be necessary to haul it from site to a suitably licenced waste facility.

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- Invasive species material, particularly roots, flower heads or seeds, will be disposed of at licensed waste facilities in compliance with the relevant legislation;
- Invasive alien plant species material or soil containing residual herbicides may be classified as either 'hazardous waste' or 'non-hazardous waste' under the terms of the Waste Management Acts, and both categories will require special disposal procedures or permissions;
- Advice will be sought from a suitably qualified waste expert regarding the classification of the waste and the suitability of different disposal measures;
- Any movement of material into areas where infestation has not already occurred carries the risk of introducing Japanese knotweed to the area, in contravention of Regulation 49 of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations;
- Contaminated soil and plant material can only be transported under licence from the NPWS under Section 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended).
- Material will only be brought to a licenced landfill which has acknowledged the nature of the infestation and has agreed in writing, in advance, to accept and treat the material appropriately;
- The updated ISMP will outline all biosecurity and treatment measures to be taken to prevent escape of contaminated material; and,
- Monitoring of the area will still be required, and any regrowth will be treated by herbicide.

3.1.3.4 Treatment Option JK5: Soil Screening

This method requires all viable parts of Japanese knotweed to be extracted and removed off-site to a licenced facility. Soil screenings and sieving methods can provide effective means on rhizome removal. If soils have been efficiently screened it can be re-used onsite, however it will not be re-used off-site unless being disposed of at a licenced waste facility. This method can be undertaken effectively at any time of the year. This method will be combined with the herbicide treatment if re-growth is recorded after screening. Contaminated soil must show two years no growth before it can be disturbed by the development. If chosen, this treatment option will be carried out over a three-year treatment programme followed by two years of monitoring to ensure no growth is carried out.

- This method is viable in areas with large amounts of infected soils and materials.
- Material that is removed off-site, will only be brought to a licenced landfill which has acknowledged the nature of the infestation and has agreed in writing, in advance, to accept and treat the material appropriately.
- The updated ISMP is prepared by the invasive species contractor will outline all biosecurity and treatment measures to be taken to prevent escape of contaminated material.
- Monitoring of the area will be required, and any regrowth should be treated by herbicide.

Re-surveying/monitoring provides information on the success of the management methods and allows for the planning of follow-up treatments. Sites with a strong likelihood of reinvasion will

be surveyed every year and treated appropriately, according to the same protective measures outlined in this ISMP.

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3.1.4 Conclusion of Treatment Options for Japanese Knotweed

Infestations of Japanese knotweed within and immediately adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project have been assessed and appropriate treatment options outlined in Table 6-1 in Section 6.

4. TREATMENT OF ALL OTHER INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES (NON-THIRD SCHEDULE SPECIES)

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As discussed in Section 2.2, there are a number of IAPS present within/adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project that do not feature on the Third Schedule list which include montbretia, winter heliotrope, Himalayan honeysuckle and butterfly bush. Although it is not illegal to cause the dispersal of these species, they do pose a threat to biodiversity in Ireland as they can out compete native plants and alter the plant community composition of natural habitats.

Therefore, the cuttings of these plants will be separated from other removed vegetation so the seeds and cuttings don't result in a further spread of these species, should the vegetation be moved elsewhere. This IAPS vegetation will be removed and disposed of appropriately (under the supervision of an ECoW).

5. MITIGATION MEASURES AND BIOSECURITY

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5.1 ECOLOGICAL CLERK OF WORKS (ECOW)

An ECoW with adequate and evidenced experience in dealing with IAPS will be appointed for the site. The ECoW will assess the current areas of infestation, in the growing season (May to September) preceding site mobilisation, as Third Schedule IAPS may have spread in the interim between previous surveys carried out by TOBIN and when the proposed works commence. The ECoW will fence off the treatment working areas and will also monitor all works being carried out within IAPS infestation locations. Should any additional infestations of Third Schedule IAPS be found, the ECoW will notify the invasive species contractor (as further discussed below in Section 5.2), and this ISMP will be updated with chosen treatments for the additional infestations. The ECoW will also host a toolbox talk in order to make all site workers aware of the IAPS on site and the risks of their spread. The ECoW will have the authority to halt works if non-compliance or unforeseen environmental risks are identified.

5.2 APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR

A suitably qualified invasive species contractor will be appointed. The contractor will review this document and implement appropriate treatment methods, as outlined in Table 6-1 for each infestation. As noted above in Section 5.1, the contractor will be responsible for updating this ISMP with treatment methods for any additional IAPS infestations identified prior to construction activities commencing. These treatment methods will be established in conjunction with the EcOW and will be based on the proposed construction activities, relevant guidance and legislation and the treatment methods outlined in this ISMP.

5.3 ESTABLISHING GOOD SITE HYGIENE AND A BIO-SECURE ZONE

- Fencing will be established around each working area hosting Third Schedule IAPS prior to IAPS management and construction activities commencing. In the case of Japanese knotweed, the bio-secure zone will be 7m from the visible plant parts. This will ensure all areas scheduled to be treated are included in the area fenced off. This will inform personnel that access into and out of the area is restricted. Signage will be erected along the fencing to avoid unnecessary contact with the plant or surrounding contaminated soils. Prior to both ISMP works and construction works commencing onsite, the appointed contractor will be required to update and implement this ISMP prior to treatment commencing.
- Any vegetation or soil within the exclusion zone will be considered contaminated (See Table 6-1 and Figure 2-1 to Figure 2-3 for locations). Any disturbance of soil within this zone may stimulate the growth of any rhizomes remaining within the soil. A fragment of its rhizome the size of a fingernail can regenerate into an entirely new plant (RAPID, 2024). Therefore, construction works and activities will be avoided within these exclusion zones
- The following guidelines will be followed by all personnel on site.
    - A designated wash-down area will be established within the site compound at Crossmolina, approximately 150m from the bank of the River Deel (Deel (Crossmolina)_050). A wash-down area will also be established at POI 46.In the wash-down areas, washings, and material from a power-washed vehicle will be effectively contained, collected and removed to a licenced waste facility along with

other contaminated material. The area will include a washable membrane or hard surface.
- Stockpile areas will be chosen by the ECoW to minimise movement of contaminated soil.
- Any stockpiles will be marked and isolated by the ECoW.
- Using tracked machines within the contaminated area is likely to contribute to the spread of IAPS and will be avoided.
- The ECoW will monitor and oversee implementation of the plan.

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5.4 Works at the River Deel

The works associated with the construction of the proposed bridge structure are adjacent to the River Deel (Deel (Crosmolina)_050), an ecologically sensitive area which is located within the River Moy SAC (site code: 002298). This SAC is designated for a number of sensitive aquatic species and habitats, and additionally, freshwater pearl mussel is present within this waterbody. The closest known infestation of Japanese knotweed is present on the riverbank, underneath the proposed bridge location, approximately 8m from the location of installation works (and approximately 3m from the clear-span section of this proposed bridge). The following targeted mitigation measures will be followed while works occur at the bridge installation at the River Deel.

- A setback distance of 7m from each Japanese knotweed plant will be adhered to during construction works
- A pre-construction survey will be carried out by the EcOW in the growing season (May to September) preceding site mobilisation along the banks of the River Deel to determine if the Japanese knotweed has spread to the works area for the bridge installation. Should it be found to have done so, and it is not possible to keep a 7m buffer from the Japanese knotweed plants, treatment and eradication will be completed before works can occur.
- All Japanese knotweed present on the banks of the River Deel, within the redline boundary will be treated with Treatment Option JK2: Stem Injection as per recommendations by the NPWS.
- While the stem treatment of the Japanese knotweed is being carried out, the ECoW will supervise the works closely. No contractor or any other site workers will step into the River Deel as this may result in injury or mortality of any freshwater pearl mussel present within the river.
- Construction works in this area will occur in conjunction with the Japanese knotweed treatment. The bridge will be lifted and installed from outside of the exclusion zone, in order to avoid any further spread of the Japanese knotweed present.
- All machinery, tools etc will be inspected closely before leaving this works area
- The ECoW will maintain a checklist of all machinery and tools entering or leaving the works area.

5.5 Prevent Further Spread and Introduction of Invasive Species

The priority of these works is to contain the Third Schedule IAPS infestations and prevent further spread to areas which are not currently contaminated. The infested areas will be isolated

by closing the works area to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic during excavation and construction, until such time as the site has been reinstated. Biosecurity measures will be put in place to avoid the accidental transport of material. To prevent the further spread of Third Schedule IAPS within the site the following measures are required:

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- On completion of works and decontamination of the site, biosecurity measures will be removed under the supervision of the ECoW.
- No material will be removed from a treatment area without prior consultation and approval from the ECoW and licence from the NPWS.
- All materials entering site will be checked to ensure their sources are free of IAPS, particularly soil and plant material. All machinery will be cleaned and checked for IAPS prior to arrival to site.

5.6 Transporting Contaminated Material

The following recommendations are requied, when material is transported outside of the site.

- Stockpile areas will be chosen to minimise the movement of contaminated soil. Any stockpiles will be clearly marked and isolated.
- A licence from the NPWS will be obtained for the transportation of contaminated material.
- Additional to this, if the material has been treated through chemical means it may need to be classified as hazardous waste.
- Vehicles used to transport materials will be lined and covered and will be decontaminated before they leave the work zone.
- The truck will not be filled to the top (minimum 20cm buffer) and will be sealed securely with a suitable membrane for transportation to ensure no material escapes.
- Biosecurity measures as outlined above will be implemented for de-contamination.

5.7 Follow-up Treatment and Monitoring

Considering how prolific Japanese knotweed is, follow up treatment and monitoring is required to ensure that the proposed project does not result in a significant spread of either IAPS. In line with best practice guidance, monitoring and chemical treatment of sites will continue over a five-year programme, or three consecutive years until no regrowth has been recorded (Kelly *et al.,* 2015. Following initial treatment, this ISMP will be updated by the EcOW to include a long-term annual monitoring and treatment plan for each infestation (for at least two years post finalisation of treatment), detailing the follow up treatments in line with Table 6-1. Any additional infestations that are recorded during pre-construction surveys, or during the construction period must also be included in the plan and treated immediately. The plan must state who will be responsible for carrying out all of the above-mentioned tasks.

6. TREATMENT OPTIONS

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Details of the infestations of IAPS within and immediately adjacent to the planning application boundary of the proposed project are presented in Table 6-1, along with their appropriate treatment methods.

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Table 6-1: IAPS Recorded Within/Adjacent to the Planning Application Boundary of the Proposed Project, Descriptions of the Infestations, Details of the Locations and Appropriate Treatment Methods

Location	Species	Description of record (maturity of plant(s), quantity etc.)	Location Details	Treatment Method
Carricknagat permanent works area	Himalayan Honeysuckle	10+ stands of plants bearing flowers	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	As these species do not feature on the Third Schedule list of invasives, these cuttings do not need to be considered a biohazard. However, any vegetation containing low, medium or high impact invasive species (i.e. invasive species not considered Third Schedule) will still be separated from other removed vegetation and can be dealt with via methods outlined in Section 5 of this report.
Carricknagat permanent works area	Himalayan Honeysuckle	500+ stands bearing flowers	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	
Carricknagat permanent works area	Winter Heliotrope	2mx5m area	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	
Carricknagat permanent works area	Butterfly bush	One butterfly bush located here	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	
Along N59, west of Ballysadare	Japanese knotweed	5mx3m stands of young plants	Directly adjacent to planning application boundary	This infestation of Japanese knotweed is located directly adjacent to the proposed project. If following the pre-construction survey, the EcOW determines that a 7m buffer from works areas cannot be maintained, treatment will be required. Mitigation measures outlined in Section 5 must be strictly adhered to by all site workers.

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Crossmolina permanent works area	Japanese knotweed	Large infestation- 10x3x3m	Approximately 3m from the proposed clear-span bridge location at its closest point, and 8m from the location of piling works. Additional to this infestation, Japanese knotweed is present throughout the banks of the Deel (Crossmolina)_050 waterbody (Figure 2-3)	This infestation of Japanese knotweed is located approximately 8m from works associated with the proposed project. A pre-construction survey will be carried out by the EcOW and a 7m buffer will be marked out. If following the pre-construction survey, the EcOW determines that a 7m buffer cannot be maintained, treatment will be required. As outlined in the EcIA, the proposed bridge installation at this point is heavily ecologically constrained due to the presence of Japanese knotweed along the banks of the River Deel (Deel (Crosmolina)_050), which is located within the River Moy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 002298). This SAC is designated for a number of sensitive aquatic species and habitats, and additionally, freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is present within this waterbody. Considering these constraints and following advice from the NPWS only Treatment Option JK2: Stem Injection to treat the Japanese knotweed is considered to suitable for this location. Detailed mitigation measures for these works are outlined in Section 5.

7. CONCLUSION

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A description of the infestations of low, medium, high and Third Schedule IAPS within and adjacent to planning application boundary of the proposed project has been provided. General treatment methods are recommended for non-Third Schedule IAPS. Specific treatment recommendations for infestations of Japanese knotweed have been outlined to eradicate their presence and strict mitigation measures provided to stop the further spread of these Third Schedule species during works associated with the proposed project. It is possible these recorded stands of IAPS have spread in the interim between when TOBIN carried out IAPS surveys and when construction works associated with the proposed project commence. Therefore, extensive pre-construction surveys are required in the growing season (May to September) preceding site mobilisation, and this working ISMP updated accordingly. Any treatment of IAPS which is deemed required following pre-construction surveys, either within or adjacent to the project RLB, will be carried out according to the measures set out in this ISMP, and in consultation with the landowner, Local Authority and NPWS, as relevant.

BnM - Data Classification - Confidential

8. REFERENCES

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