

5. **ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS**

The findings of this Screening Assessment are presented following the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

5.2 **Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment**

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17 & Article 12) Reports^{13,14}.
- Review of online web-mappers: EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the proposed project.
- Site visits undertaken during in January and February 2022 by MKO

5.3 **Concluding Statement**

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant data and information set out within this Screening Report, it cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the following sites:

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

¹³ Status of Habitats and Species - [Article 17 Reports](https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports), Online, Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports> Accessed 16.02.2021

¹⁴ NPWS, 2020, The status and trends of Ireland's bird species - [Article 12 Reports](https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting), Online, Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting> Accessed 16.02.2021

As a result, an Appropriate Assessment is required, and a Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development in order to assess whether the Proposed Development will adversely impact the integrity of the screened in European Sites.