
HIBERNIAN CELLULAR NETWORKS LTD.

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MULTI-USER LATTICE SUPPORT STRUCTURE & ALL ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT, ROSSES POINT, CO. SLIGO

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

November 2025

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**DOCUMENT APPROVAL**

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CLIENT / JOB NO	Hibernian Cellular Networks	6486
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A LATTICE SUPPORT STRUCTURE AT ROSSES POINT**CO. SLIGO****SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT****CONTENTS**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited have been commissioned by Hibernian Cellular Networks Ltd. to carry out a Stage I Appropriate Assessment Screening under Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) for the Provision of Works of a Telecommunications structure 'the Project'.

The purpose of this report is to assess the various elements of the Project in terms of potential impacts to European Sites within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the Project. Potential cumulative impacts of the overall project, individually and in-combination with other plans and projects within the area of the waterbody catchment were also. All locations where site works are proposed and surrounding area were surveyed for the presence of protected habitats and species as set out in the Birds and Habitats Directives.

This proposal is not necessary for the conservation management of a European Site.

1.2 AUTHOR'S QUALIFICATION AND EXPERTISE

This Screening for this AA Screening Report has been prepared by a qualified and accredited experts as follows: Ryan Mitchell BSc who is an Environmental Scientist and Ecologist at Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited. He has a Bachelor of Science in Animal Conservation and Biodiversity from Greenwich University. His ecological experience includes Phase 1 Habitat surveys, report writing, preparing chapters for Environmental Impact Assessments, Appropriate Assessments, Natura Impact Statements and Construction Environmental Management Plans. He experienced in mammal surveys and carries out Preliminary Bat Roost Survey Assessment Reports and Bat Activity surveys. More recently, he has obtained a license for freshwater pearl mussel monitoring (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) with NWPS on a certified training course Phase 1 & Phase 2.

In addition, he is an experienced entomologist his fieldwork experience includes working with/for Buglife NI, Natural History Museum London, Oxford University and National Museums Northern Ireland. His most recent fieldwork (2024) includes conducting Common Standards Monitoring of Invertebrates for NEIA in Northern Ireland on ASSI sites, Marsh Fritillary surveys in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. He has published 74 publications in peer reviewed journals on terrestrial invertebrates in Britain and Ireland such as added numerous species to the Irish list (20) and rediscovered a rare species of *Sphaeroceridae Minilimosina secundaria* (Duda, 1918) which was thought to be extinct in Britain.

This Screening for this AA Screening Report has been Mr. Evan Concar & Ms. Breena Coyle of Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited. Evan Concar, M.Sc., B.Sc. is an Environmental Scientist and Planner. He holds a first-class honours MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security

from the University of Galway and a Bachelor (Hons.) of Arts Degree with Geography and Spanish, also from the University of Galway. He is experienced in report writing, EIA Report chapter writing, Planning Compliance, Planning and Environmental Reports, Feasibility Studies, Stakeholder Engagement, and assisting with Project Management.

Breena Coyle BA, MSc MRTPI HD Planning and Environmental Planning Law. Breena has over 15 years' experience in the private sector and has a thorough knowledge of the planning system. Breena holds a MSc in Environmental Planning from Queens University Belfast and a Bachelor of Arts in History & Geography from NUI Galway. She is a Member of the Irish Planning Institute and a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Since joining JOD, she has developed experience in a range of sectors through various projects and planning issues with a current focus within the environmental and renewable energy sector.

1.3 REGULATORY CONTEXT

Under Section 177U (1) of the Planning Acts, a Screening for AA of the Project shall be carried out by the competent authority (in this case, Sligo County Council) to assess in view of best scientific knowledge, if the Project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect(s) on any European Sites.

Collectively, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are referred to as the Natura 2000 Sites. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended. The designation features of SACs are referred to as Qualifying Interests (QI) and include both species (excluding birds) and habitats. Similarly, Special Protection Areas (SPA's) are legislated in the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. The designation features of SPAs are referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) which comprise bird species as well as wetland bird habitats.

In general terms, SACs and SPAs are considered to be of exceptional importance in terms of rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species within the European Community.

Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Habitats Directive states 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. In the 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”.

The statutory agency responsible for the European Sites is the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

This report has been prepared in accordance with current guideline documents:

- Assessment of plans and projects significantly effecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2009, Revised February 2010)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2009, revised 2010)
- OPR Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, March 2021, Office of the Planning Regulator
- Methodological Guidance on Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Commission, 2021)
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, (EC, 2000a)
- Methodological Guidance on Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Commission, 2021)
- Guidance on strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (Commission, 2021)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No.477 of 2011).
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission (EC, 2013).
- EU Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (EC, 2007)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018)
- Strict Protection of Animal Species, NPWS, 2021

The following European Court and Irish High Court rulings have been considered:

- C-721/21 Eco Advocacy CLG v An Bord Pleanála and Keegan Land Holdings Limited
- C-127/02 Waddenzee v Staatssecretaris
- C-258/11 Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála
- C-512/12 Briels
- C-387/12 & C388/15 Orleans and others v Vlaams Gewest
- C-142/15 Moorbug
- C-323/17 People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte
- C-162/17 Grace and Sweetman
- C-883/18 Holohan and others v An Bord Pleanála

- IEHC 84 (2019) - Kelly v An Bord Pleanála

Relevant plans from national to local scales are critical to inform a robust assessment of in-combination impacts; these are listed below:

- National Biodiversity Action Plan, for the period 2023-2030
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027
- Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

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1.4 THE STAGES IN AN APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

There are 4 stages in an Appropriate Assessment as outlined in the European Commission Guidance document (2001). The following is a brief summary of these steps:

Stage 1 – Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in-combination with other projects upon a European Site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant.

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, the impact of the project on the integrity of the European Site is considered, with respect to the conservation objectives of the site and to its structure and function.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions: Should the Appropriate Assessment determine that adverse impacts are likely upon the European Site, this stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid these adverse impacts.

Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the European Site will be necessary.

As part of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment, a desk-based study of the European Site within the Zol of the Project is required.

1.5 SCREENING METHODOLOGY

The function of the Screening Assessment is to identify whether or not the project will have a likely significant effect on any European Site. In this context “likely” refers to the presence of doubt with regard to the absence of significant effects (ECJ case C-127/02) and “significant” means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that has the potential to undermine the site’s conservation objectives (ECJ case C-127/02). In other words, any effect that compromises the functioning and viability of a site and interferes with achieving the conservation objectives for the site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the Project and the integrity of a European Site will depend upon the sensitivity of the European Site’s qualifying features to potential impacts arising from the Project; the current conservation status of the European Site and its qualifying features;

and any likely changes to key environmental indicators (e.g. water quality) that underpin the conservation status of European Sites and their qualifying features, in-combination with other plans and projects.

The European Commission (2018) Guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Assessment of a project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for this Screening Assessment is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following steps:

1. Define the project and determine whether it is directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of European Sites
2. Identify other plans or projects that, in-combination with the project, have the potential to effect European Sites
3. Assess whether or not the project is likely to have significant effects on European Sites in the view of its conservation objectives.

1.6 DESK STUDY

A desk study was carried out to collate the available information on the ecological environment of the Project area. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) database was consulted concerning designated conservation areas and records of rare and protected plant and animal species in the vicinity of the Project. The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) website was also consulted.

The Project is contained within the two-kilometre Grid square 'G64K'. 15 protected species have been recorded in this 2km square details are outlined in Table 1. All species recorded in the grid square are detailed in **Appendix I**.

Table 1: Protected species recorded in Grid Square G64K (Accessed: 06/08/2025)

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
G64K	Bird	House Martin (Delichon urbicum)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 – 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
G64K	Bird	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
G64K	Bird	Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
G64K	Flowering plant	Frog Orchid (<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Threatened Species: Near threatened
G64K	Flowering plant	Least Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium natans</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Threatened Species: Near threatened

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
G64K	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Chaetarthria seminulum	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Data deficient
G64K	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Heterocerus flexuosus	1	27/09/1991	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Data deficient
G64K	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Limnebius nitidus	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Endangered
G64K	Insect - butterfly	Marsh Fritillary (Euphydryas aurinia)	13	31/12/2012	All Ireland Marsh Fritillary Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Threatened Species: Vulnerable
G64K	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Irish Damselfly (Coenagrion lunulatum)	1	30/05/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
G64K	Terrestrial mammal	Otter (Lutra lutra)	1	31/01/2013	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

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
						Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
G64K	Terrestrial mammal	Pygmy Shrew (<i>Sorex minutus</i>)	1	09/09/2015	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

The Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, and the Sligo County Council planning enquiry website were reviewed to identify any proposed plans or projects which may have a direct, indirect or cumulative impact with the Project.

1.7 FIELD STUDY

A site visit was carried out on July 29th, 2025, on an overcast but dry day with periodic spells of sunshine, with an ambient temperature of 18 degrees Celsius. The survey consisted of traversing the entire Project site, being conscious of adjacent lots and any invasive species either overhanging the Project or rooted near/within the site. Habitat classification followed Fossitt (2000), and the floral nomenclature used followed Parnell and Curtis (2012) and Scannell and Synnott (1987). The locations where works will be carried out were also surveyed for the presence of invasive species (as listed in the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011). During the site visit no evidence of badger or Otter was identified within or adjacent the redline line boundary.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 SITE LOCATION

The Site is located on the outskirts of Rosses Point village c1.3km from the village center situated on the peninsula, which is located approximately 6.3km northwest of Sligo Town, along the L7311 Creggyconnell Road (**Figure 2.1**). The surrounding lands are mainly agricultural lands, low density ribbon development housing, lowland heathland scrub and coastal areas. The Site is located (approximately 0.8m west) of a designated Special Area of Conservation Cummeen strand/Drumcliff bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. The entire redline boundary is situated outside of the SAC boundary. The Project and redline boundary covers an area of c. 1057m².

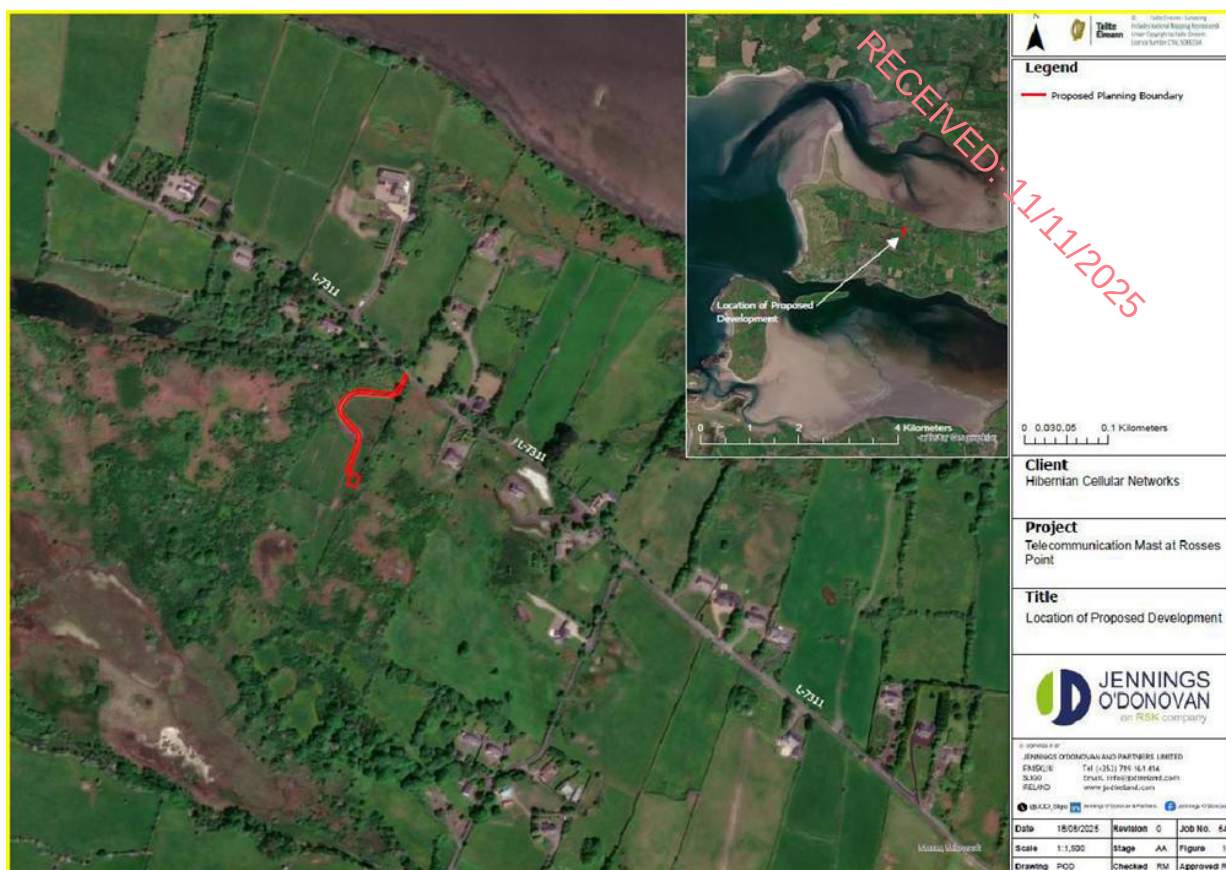


Figure 2.1: General location of the Project

2.2 PROPOSED WORKS

The development will consist of the erection of a 36m high lattice support structure carrying antennas and dishes together with associated ground-based equipment all enclosed in security fencing, upgrade of an existing access track and the provision of a new access track, proposed site access taken from an existing site access from the L-7311 and all ancillary site works. The Site dimensions comprise a 10 x 14 metre compound, internal site tracks, and an overall area of 1057m². The proposed layout will comprise of the following elements:

- Perimeter fencing
- Telecoms equipment Containers
- Propose Radio Antennas and Microwave Link Dishes
- 36 metre lattice telecoms support structure
- Internal site tracks
- The provision of white strobe obstacle lighting at the top of the structure
- The site will be accessed via the L7311

The Development is situated off the L7311 which is located to the north of the application site. Access to the Site will be via the existing access to the Site.

The layout of The Site was designed using best practice principles to enhance the durability and function of the Site, while minimising its visual intrusion where possible. The structure height and compound size are the minimum necessary to ensure functionality for transmission and future requirements. The design and layout of The Site is in accordance with the guidance set out in *'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures-Guidance for Local Authorities'*.

The installation of the telecommunication structure will be completed within a period of one working week.

Periodic maintenance may be required on the Development throughout its lifetime. In terms of traffic and transport impacts, traffic movements to and from the site will have an imperceptible impact on local traffic. The Development will only require approximately 3-4 site visits in any year for maintenance etc.

3 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The EPA maps indicate that the subsoil found onsite is characterised as Tills (diamictons) and Bedrock at Surface. Corine 2018 denotes the extreme northern area of The Site as Pastures and the remainder of the project as Heterogeneous agricultural areas.

3.2 HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

The Site overlies bedrock which is classified as a 'Poor Aquifer' and the groundwater vulnerability at the Site is classified as 'No groundwater vulnerability data is available' this is due to bedrock being at the surface. However, the immediate surrounding area is listed as having 'Extreme Vulnerability'.



Figure 3.1: River Sub Basins (RSB) in the vicinity of the Project

The Project is wholly located within Cregg (Sligo)_010 WFD River Sub Basin (RSB) (Figure 3.1). The RSB had 'Moderate' ecological status for the 2016-2021 period, which has deteriorated in the last 15 year period from the 'Good' ecological status given for the 2013-2018 period and 'High' ecological status given for the 2010-2015 period. The overlap of the project area is small in size (1,057m²) and given the environmental conditions, engineering proposed and works being carried out according to Section 2.2 above, the impact of the proposed operations on this waterbody is considered to be negligible.

There are no watercourses situated within The Site. The closest waterbody denoted on EPA maps is situated 236m southeast of the curraghnagark waterbody (Segment Code: 35_202_1) order 1 stream and 295m north east of Doonweelin Lough (Segment Code: 35_1366) and order 1 stream (Figure 3.2). There is no direct hydrological interconnectivity between The Site, and these EPA

mapped water courses. However, the surface water from the project site drains and will flow into the surface water drainage network and will ultimately into the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC.



Figure 3.2: EPA watercourses and waterbodies in the vicinity of the Project

Currently, the groundwater (Code: IE_WE_G_0053) is currently listed as 'Not at risk' the area has no significant underlying pressures, including waste abstraction, agriculture, anthropogenic, aquaculture, atmospheric, extractive industry, hydro morphology, invasive species, urban runoff or otherwise (EPA Water Maps, accessed August 2025). The Project is however within a groundwater area denoted as SAC habitat sensitive and SAC species sensitive, as well as SPA habitat sensitive. (EPA Maps website, accessed August 2025). The Project is also within the Rosses Point groundwater body for the abstraction of drinking water (Article 7- EPA code IEPA1_WE_G_0053) The EPA Maps (Water) website was also accessed (August 2025) to examine the Project area and its environs for nitrate and phosphorus loading and Pollutant Impact Potential (PIP). PIP maps for Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) have been generated by the EPA to show the highest risk areas in the landscape for losses of N and P to waters. The PIP model estimates the annual nutrient losses from agricultural land at specific locations, using spatial data from farm management, soils and hydrogeology. This model estimates loads at an annual temporal resolution.

The area immediately surrounding the Project supports natural areas of habitat within the SAC, agricultural land and very low density residential land use. The Project site boundary has no indicated Phosphorus ranking, the nearest lands with a ranking is the adjacent field to the east with a score of 6 (7 is the lowest impact ranking). Pollution Impact Potential Nitrate (PIP N) for the lands of the site have a ranking of 7. Overall, the Critical Source Areas Maps for the Project and adjacent

lands do not indicate a Site where either phosphorus or nitrates are a significant issue.

As noted earlier in Section 3.2, the Project is within the WFD River Sub Basin Cregg (Sligo)_010. Currently, there are no significant nitrogen or phosphorus pressures from the Project site on this RSB.

3.3 FLOODING

A desktop Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken for the site. **Figure 3.3** illustrates an extract from the above OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (NIFM) this outlines the vicinity of The Site for the current scenario 1% AEP (1 in 100 year) and 0.1% AEP (1 in 1000 year) fluvial flood events. **Figure 1.1** indicates that the Site does not fall within an OPW NIFM present-day scenario 1% AEP (1 in 100 year) or 0.1% AEP (1 in 1000 year) fluvial flood zone.

The Project itself has no surface and groundwater records of flooding events (including winter 2015/2016 Geological Survey Ireland surface water flooding records). The nearest historical previous flood event occurred in 2009 at Rosses Point, Sligo Recurring (ID-5280) (Recurring Event), approximately 2.1km west of the Project. There is no foreseen risk of a flood event extending to the Project.



Figure 3.3: Flood map in the vicinity of the proposed Project, Co. Sligo (Source: Flood Maps - Floodinfo.ie , 08/08/2025)

3.4 HABITATS

A site visit was carried out on July 29th 2025 on a clear, dry day with an ambient temperature of 19 degrees Celsius. The survey consisted of traversing the entire Project site being conscious of any invasive species either overhanging the Project or rooted near/within the site.

Seven habitats (according to Fossitt, 2000) were noted in the survey area, namely GS1: Dry calcareous and neutral grassland, WS1: Scrub, WD1: Hedgerow, WL1: Tree line, BL1: Stone walls and other stonework, BL2: Earth banks and ED3 Recolonising bare ground. No Annex I habitat occurs within or adjacent to the Project.

No rare, threatened, or protected species of plants as per the Red Data Book (Curtis and McGough, 1988) were found. No species listed in the Flora Protection Order (2022) were found to be growing within the proposed site of works or adjoining lands.

3.4.1 GS1 - Dry calcareous and neutral grassland

The Site entrance contained Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Broadleaf Plantain (*Plantago major*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum sp*) this species composition is characteristic of disturbed ground. The grass layer contains False Oat Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Meadow Grass (*Poa sp*) other species of herbaceous plants contained White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). The margins had higher sward and different species assemblage which contained Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*). This habitat transitions into Recolonising bare ground ED3 once you begin walking up the access track.

The location of the proposed telecommunications structure (**Plate 1**) contained an area of the following grass species Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire- fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and sporadic patches of Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). Some areas of low growing scrub were present Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). The broadleaved herb component is characterised by a range of species which includes Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) Lesser Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Autumns Hawkbit (*Scorzonoides autumnalis*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). This habitat is continuous to the first field margin approximately 30m north following the proposed existing access track route which will be upgraded.



Plate 1: Location of the proposed Telecommunication Structure.

3.4.2 WS1: Scrub

At the Site entrance there is an area of scrub adjacent the gate on the left-hand side adjacent a disused bath. There is an area of scrub which is comprised of Willow (*Sailax spp*) c.4m in height and a significant amount of Bramble (*Rubus sp*) covering the willow growth. Other plant species includes Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*).

Across the rest of the Site, there are other small pockets of scrub approximately 8m² of Gorse (*Ulex europeus*) approximately 1.2m in height adjacent the site boundary. This area of scrub has an understory of Bramble (*Rubus spp*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). In addition, there is an area of Bracken which runs parallel along the existing site access track for approximately 35m in length.

3.4.3 Earth banks BL2

Along the existing access track there are earth banks approximately 1m in height and 40m in length with exposed bare soil present which have evidence of ground nesting bees present. The grasses contained False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). The shrub layer consists of the following Cross-leaved Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Gorse (*Ulex europeus*) and young willow (*Salix spp*). Two fern species were present along the earth banks Hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). There were numerous flowering plants such as Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Fox glove (*Digitalis purpurea*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Tormenitil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroideis autumnalis*). The Bryophyte layer consisted of Common Haircap (*Polytrichum commune*) and Springy turf-moss *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

3.4.4 ED3 Recolonising bare ground

The majority of the proposed upgraded access track (**Plate 2**) which will follow the old existing track

which has become vegetated with at least 50% vegetation cover this habitat covers an area of approximately c.520m². The vegetation layer is comprised of Broadleaf Plantain (*Plantago major*), Cats Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroides autumnalis*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) Thistles (*Cirsium*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum sp*) and Ragwort (*Senecio spp.*)



Plate 2: Old existing track which has become vegetated with at least 50% vegetation cover.

3.4.5 BL1: Stone walls and other stonework

There are two small areas of stone wall which are located on the margins of the redline boundary. The first is adjacent the proposed access track approximately 1m in height consisting large stones the primary vegetation included lichens and bryophytes were noted growing on the wall structure. The second wall is located adjacent to the entrance approximately 50cm and is heavily vegetated with a dense covering of Ivy.

3.4.6 WL1: Tree line

At the entrance to the Site there is a treeline consisting of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Willow (*Salix spp*). Limited floral fauna within the tree line Ivy (*Hedera spp*) was noted on the trees.

3.4.7 WD1: Hedgerow

There is a hedgerow comprised primarily of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) approximately 50m in length and approximately 1.6m in height. Fuchsia (*Fuchsia magellanica*) a non-native shrub was also noted growing in the hedgerow margin. The understory of the hedgerow was comprised of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus spp*), Bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*).

No red listed invertebrates were noted onsite which includes the species listed within Table 1. No suitable habitat occurs for these species within the site or the immediate adjacent lands. The species include Irish Damsel Fly (*Coenagrion lunulatum*)¹ and the three water beetles *Chaetarthria seminulum*, *Heterocerus flexuosus* and *Limnebius nitidus*².

Marsh Fritillary was noted within the desktop study suitable breeding habitat was searched for within the redline boundary and immediate surrounding area. No suitable breeding habitat and no Devils bit- Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) was recorded within the Site which is the food plant for this Annex II protected species.

3.5 INVASIVE SPECIES

No invasive alien species as listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) Part 1 or 2 or of Union Concern were recorded within the Project or its close environs (incorporating 7m in all directions, to allow for any Japanese knotweed root system).

Invasive species not listed as Third Schedule invasive species that are common in the region include Sycamore *Fagus sylvatica*, Sycamore is a common tree species in Ireland, this species was noted within the site boundary within the mixed deciduous woodland boundary. Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) and Fuchsia were also recorded onsite this is a non-native species however not listed as an invasive species currently. However, these species are noted to be problematic and can be invasive in nature especially on brown field sites.

4 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

This AA Screening examined the likely significant effects of the Project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans on European Sites, that were situated within a Zol, or a distance that has a potential source-pathway-receptor (SPR), both direct and indirect with the Project.

A total of fifteen European Sites (6 SACs, 9 SPAs) occur within a wider 15km radius of the Project and are listed below in Table 4.1.

¹ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/RL6.pdf>

² <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/RL1.pdf>

Table 4.1: European Sites within a 15km radius

No.	European Sites within 15km radius	Distance between the Project and European Sites
SAC		
1	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)	0.00008km (8cm)
2	Benbulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (000623)	5.7km
3	Lough Gill SAC (001976)	6.4km
4	Unshin River SAC	11.6km
5	Union Wood SAC (001403)	12.06km
6	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC (000625)	13.2km
SPA		
1	Drumcliff Bay SPA (004013)	0.3km
2	Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)	1.1km
3	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (004187)	5.3km
4	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)	6.6km
5	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (004129)	6.7km
6	Ballysadare Bay SPA	6.9km
7	Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)	10km
8	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)	10.9km
9	Inishmurray SPA (004068)	14.7km

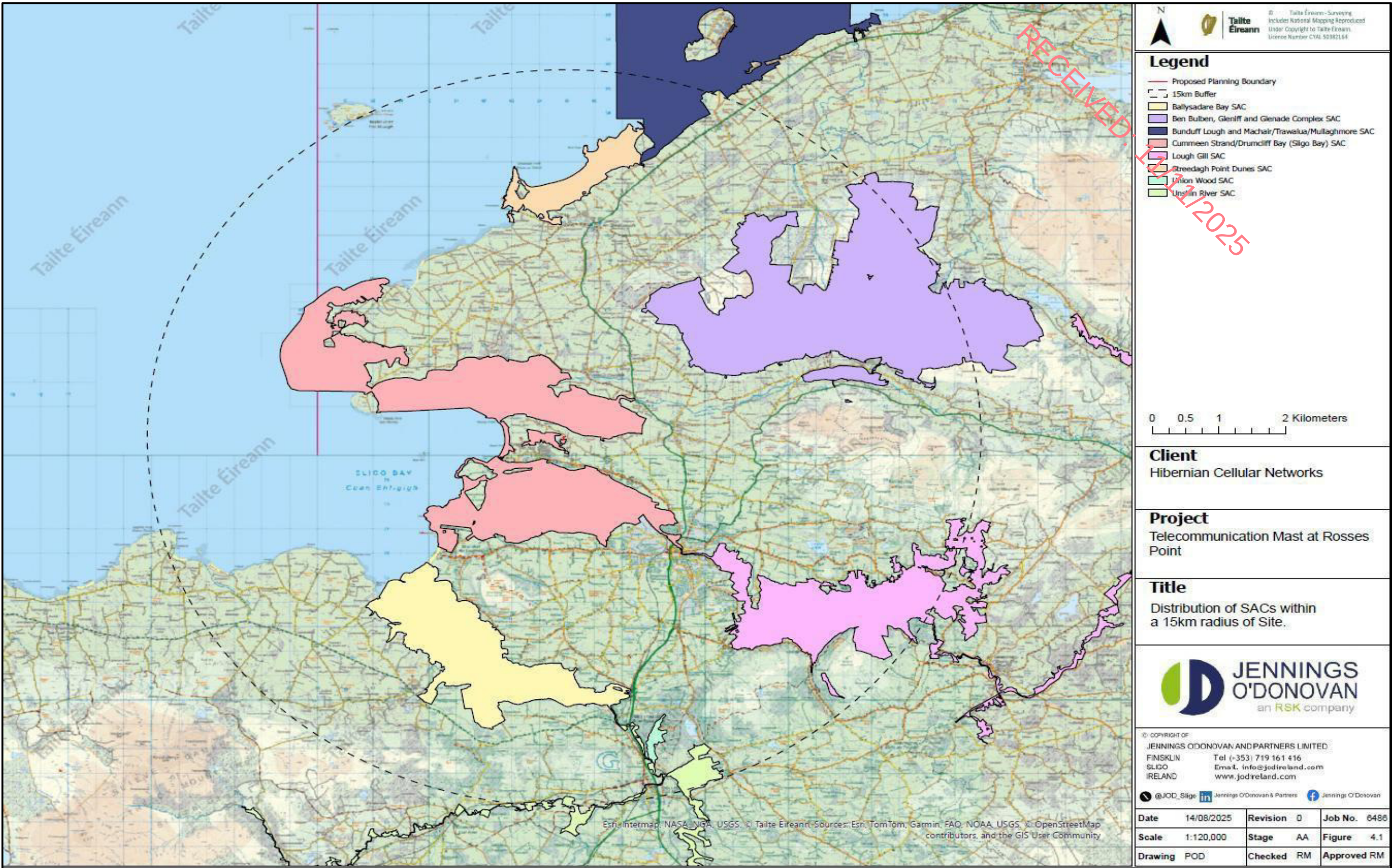


Figure 4.1: Distribution of SACs within a 15km radius of Site.

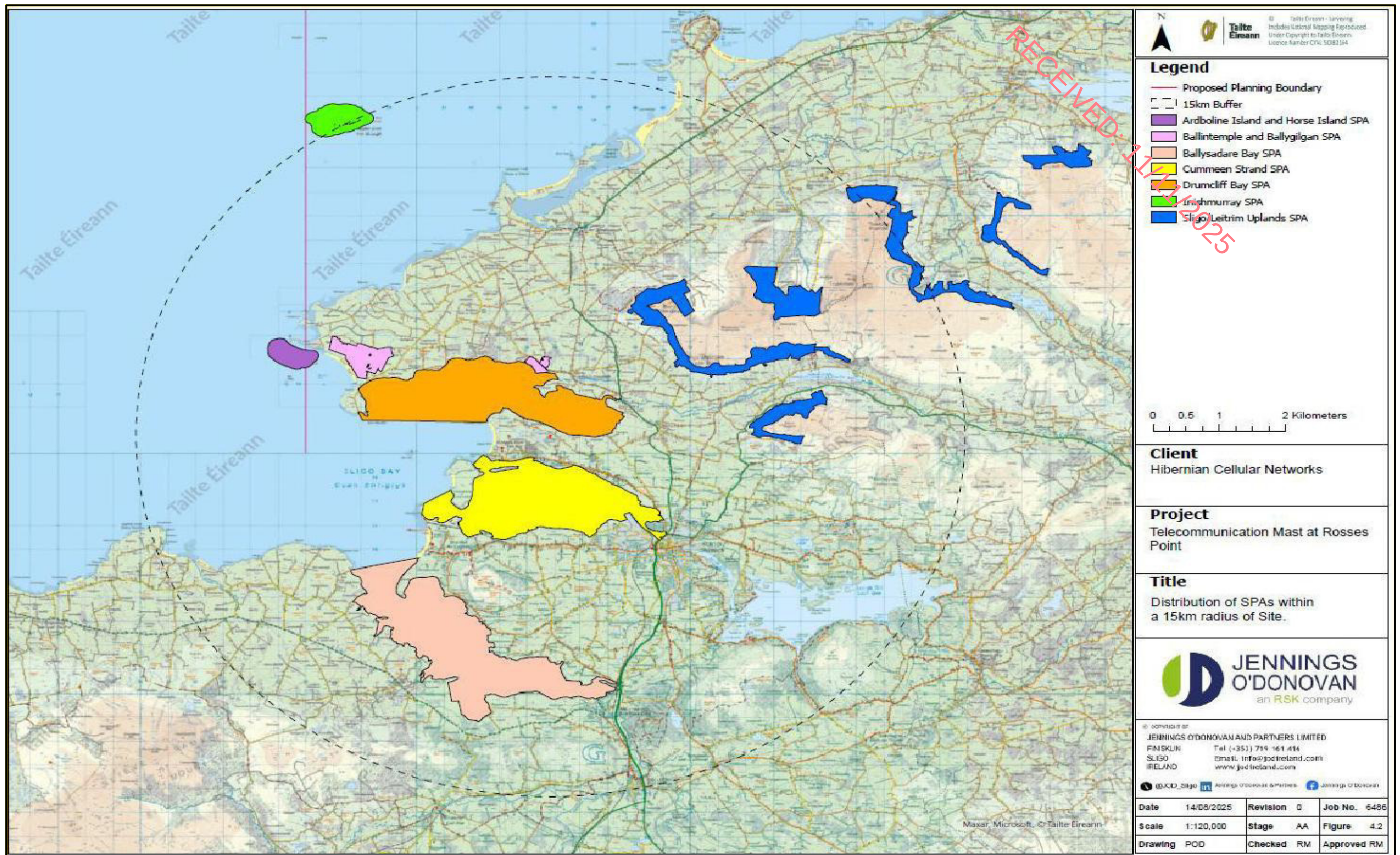


Figure 4.2: Distribution of SPAs within a 15km radius of Site



Figure 4.3: Site proximity to Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)

4.1 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE (ZOI) OF THE PROJECT

The European Sites identified as being within the Project Zone of Influence (Zoi) using the Source Pathway Receptor (SPR) principle, will be assessed to examine the likelihood of significant effects of the Project either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, on any European Sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maps were used to identify European Sites that could potentially be located within the Zoi and possibly be connected to the Project site via pathways. In this instance, given the size and scale of the Project, the permanent nature of the works, and the installation of a 36m support structure, a distance of 5km from the Project has been identified as the terrestrial Zoi for any European Site. Other European Sites with a hydrological link either upstream or downstream are considered to have a potential wider Zoi and are assessed separately in Section 4.2.

Three European Sites fall within the 5km Zoi of the Project, namely the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627) (Figure 4.1) situated 8cm from the project boundary. The next nearest European Site to the Project is 300m north namely the Drumcliff Bay SPA. The last Site is Cummeen Strand SPA situated 1.1km south of the site.

All other European Sites were therefore considered to occur outside of the terrestrial based ZoI of the Project and have been 'screened out' at this stage (hydrological link to be assessed in Section 4.2).

Table 4.2: Relevant European Sites, reason for designation and data for Screening

Designated Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 12 th May 2021) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Distance from Proposed Development (km)	Potential adverse effect: Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage
SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs)			
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Species <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] Habitats Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates	The SAC occurs approx. 8cm north of the Project The location for the proposed telecommunication structure is approximately 8cm from the SAC (closest straight-line distance). The terrestrial QI habitats and species will not be impacted from the Development due to proximity and no connectivity. It is concluded that there is hydrological connectivity between the location of the proposed telecommunications structure through proximity to the SAC. In addition, historical mapping indicates an indirect surface water network may flow into the SAC.	

Designated Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 12 th May 2021) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Distance from Proposed Development (km)	Potential adverse effect: Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage
	(<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 2. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2024), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain and restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.		
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAs)			
Drumcliff Bay SPA	Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	0.3km south	This SPA is designated for its role in supporting a variety of Bird species. There is no surface water and groundwater linkage. During operation, there is a possible collision risk to birds. However, the proposed structure does not have guy wires, most towers that result in large bird mortality have such wires. Structures placed on migratory flight paths have been shown to present the greatest risk of collision, which tend to be along a broad front or topographical feature, such as mountain passes or river valleys. It is concluded that there is potential connectivity between the SPA and the Site of the proposed telecommunication structure.

Designated Site	Reasons for designation (information correct as of 12 th May 2021) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Distance from Proposed Development (km)	Potential adverse effect: Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage
Cummeen Strand SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		This SPA is designated for its role in supporting three specific water dependent birds and one water dependent habitat and its related waterbirds. There is no surface water and groundwater linkage. During operation, there is a potential for collision risk to birds. However, the proposed structure does not have guy wires, most towers that result in large bird mortality have such wires. Structures placed on migratory flight paths have been shown to present the greatest risk of collision, which tend to be along a broad front or topographical feature, such as mountain passes or river valleys. It is concluded that there is potential connectivity between the SPA and the Site of the proposed telecommunication structure.

The European Site closest to the Project, namely Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, is outlined in **Figure 4.1**.

In relation to mobile species listed as qualifying features of European Sites, the following guidance was used to identify whether it recommends the European Site is located within the Zol of the Project:

- SPAs with mobile bird species: "Assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)" (2016) guidance document was used to identify connectivity between the Project site and SPAs in the wider surrounding area (SNH, now Natural Scotland) as applicable.
- SACs with bats as a qualifying feature were included when the Project occurred within the core sustenance zone of the qualifying bat population. No SACs occurred within a 5km radius designated for this qualifying feature.
- SACs with marsh fritillary as a qualifying feature are included where suitable marsh fritillary habitat occurs within the Project site footprint and where the Project site is located within a 10km radius of a marsh fritillary population. No suitable habitat (Devil's bit scabious) was detected during the multi- disciplinary site walkover.

Nonetheless, further investigation of a SPR is assessed in Section 4.2 to confidently determine if there will be any potential effect on any European Site hydrologically linked and during the construction or operation of this Project.

4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCE PATHWAY RECEPTOR (SPR) MODEL PATHWAYS

Under the SPR model, the works associated with the construction and operation of the Project represent the source of potential impacts.

Pathways that could arise as a result of Project works and lead to potential impacts are listed below. An appraisal of these pathways potential to connect this Project to European Sites and their qualifying features of interest (which represent the receptors under the SPR model), is also provided:

Emissions to surface water during construction and operation:

There is no direct source pathway linkage between the Development site and any Natura 2000 sites. However, due to the very close proximity of the Site to Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC c.8cm, there is potential for an indirect link for surface water emissions to flow into this Natura 2000 site. In addition, the historical mapping indicates there is an indirect source pathway linkage from the Development through the stormwater/ditch drainage networks which discharges into Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. There is a risk that during construction without any mitigation measures, pollutants could flow into the SAC hydrological network and negatively impact the water quality of the surrounding Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC.

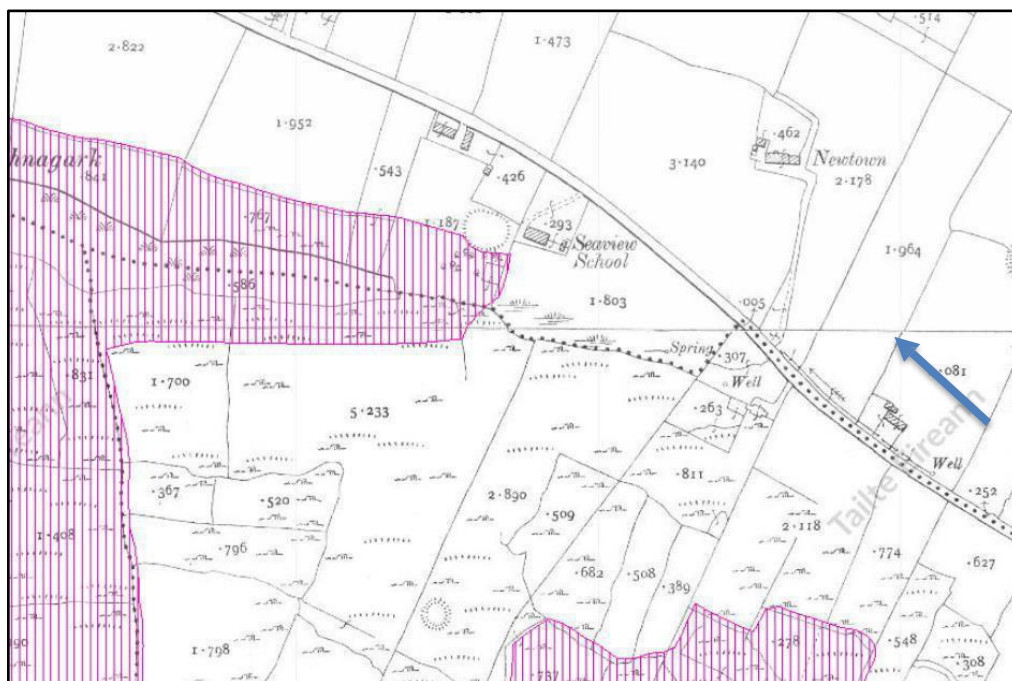


Figure 4.4: The 25 Inch mapping series was surveyed between 1863 and 1924

Emissions to groundwater during construction and operation:

The groundwater flood mapping confirmed that the Site is not at risk from groundwater flooding with no historic record of groundwater flooding at the Project site. However, the Site is located in a sensitive zone for SAC species and Habitats. Given that works proposed on site there could be the potential for a direct hydrological pathway carrying nutrients, silt or contaminants directly into SAC/SPA groundwater.

A groundwater pathway could potentially be created by excavation works during the construction phase, which could carry pollutants via groundwater into Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. The Development has been designed to comply with best practice guidance including "Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and adjacent to Water, IFI 2016". It cannot be concluded that there will be any significant effect from the Development to the water bodies due to emissions from potential groundwater pathways.

These works will be carried out according to site layout plan located in Appendix II, which is intended to ensure compliance with Policy P-WQ-1 of the Sligo County Development Plan 2024 – 2030.

- Emissions to air: the Project site will not result in perceptible emissions to air. Significant adverse air emissions to any QI are not anticipated during construction or operation.
- Light emissions: the Project site is located in a rural area. Project works will only be carried out during daylight hours for the most part (this may progress slightly, i.e. 17:30 to 18:00hrs into dusk hours in the autumn /winter/early spring). Bat species are not qualifying features of the surrounding European Sites and therefore have no impact from any lighting issue as a result of this Project during construction or operation. However, NBDC noted several bat species utilising the local area. Proposed lighting will adhere to EN13201-2015-Part 2 for public lighting standards and will also duly consider the best practice lighting standards provided in the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) guidance document Guidance Note 08/18 – Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK (2018).
- Visual emissions: The Project works were not predicted to have the potential to result in visual emissions that could generate disturbance to qualifying species of any European Sites during construction or operation.
- Human disturbance pathway: Human disturbance to a European Site can occur as an indirect impact arising as a result of land use activities generated by a project. An example of such an indirect impact is an increase in human presence and associated pressures within a European Site. The potential for a human disturbance pathway, through which a proposed development could generate activity within European Sites and result in disturbance to qualifying habitats or species is also identified as a potential pathway requiring examination. The construction period will be limited to a small construction window, and maintenance visits will occur on a very occasional basis 3-4 visits a year, this minor increase in human activity is unlikely to pose a new or combined significant effect on any qualifying interest of the nearby European Sites or any other European Site.

In light of the above screening assessment, no significant effects have been identified between the Project and any qualifying feature of a designated European Site during either construction or operation.

4.3 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

Planning Permission Applications

While effects on European Sites are not expected as a result of the construction and operation of the Project, the potential for cumulative effects on these designated sites due to other plans and projects acting in-combination with the Project are considered. The Sligo County Council on-line planning application portal was used to search planning applications close to the Project (August, 2025). A five-year search timeframe was assessed; Retention, refused and withdrawn planning applications were excluded. **Table 4.3** shows the planning applications in close proximity to the Project (circa 2000m).

Table 4.3: Planning applications in close proximity to the Project.

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Distance	Planning Status
2022				
22308	Development consisting of elevation changes to existing dwelling house	10/11/2022	849m South-west	PERMISSION
2271	Development consisting of extension to the existing dwelling, alterations to existing openings and all associated site works	20/04/2022	946m South-west	PERMISSION
2023				
22339	Development consisting of the following: to extend and renovate my existing derelict dwelling house with elevational amendments to all facades. proposed new sewerage treatment system and detached domestic garage together with all associated site development works	27/01/2023	1915m North-east	PERMISSION
22395	Development consisting of demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a detached domestic dwelling and all associated site works and services	06/04/2023	945m South-west	PERMISSION
2360060	Development consisting of the demolition of an existing two storey dwelling and replacement with a new two storey dwelling	28/09/2023	1045m South-west	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Distance	Planning Status
2360277	Development of a two storey dwelling and attached domestic carport with roof terrace over, along with new vehicular entrance and connection to public services and all ancillary site development works	01/12/2023	960m South-west	PERMISSION
2360004	Development consisting of construction of a single storey detached domestic dwelling; a waste water treatment system; and all associated site works	19/05/2023	135m East	PERMISSION
2360191	Provision of an off- licence sales area as part of an existing shop premises including all associated works	20/09/2023	1259m South-west	PERMISSION
2024				
2360137	the erection of 22 no. single story glamping pods, and 1 no. storage building, with associated landscaping, site works and services	12/03/2024	3043m South-east	PERMISSION
2460016	The development of a single storey extension to the front (southwest side) of the existing single storey house including alterations to the existing front facade and roof, a patio and all associated site development works	11/03/2024	926m South-west	PERMISSION
2460259	(1) internal & external alterations to existing detached dwelling house; (2) split level single storey extension to rear; and all associated site works	01/08/2024	679m South-west	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Distance	Planning Status
2460004	The development will consist of the demolition of an existing entrance porch to the front, a single storey lean-to conservatory to the west elevation, and single storey outbuildings to the rear. it also consists of alterations externally to the rear return height and roof, to existing windows to front and both sides and internally to the layout.	26/03/2024	1098m South-west	PERMISSION
2460185	The proposed development consists of the construction of a 2 story domestic dwelling with new residential entrance, detached garage and shed, wastewater treatment system with polishing filter and all associated site works	30/05/2025	862m South-west	PERMISSION
2460205	Retention of the following changes to existing house; (a) 'sunroom' extension to existing house, (b) 'detached 'garage' (with granny flat), (c) changes made to 'site boundary lines'	24/09/2024	2280m North-east	PERMISSION
2460016	The development of a single storey extension to the front (southwest side) of the existing single storey house including alterations to the existing front facade and roof, a patio and all associated site development works	11/03/2024	912m South-west	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Distance	Planning Status
2460071	Description: To demolish the existing porch and boiler house, to construct a new extension (community space) to the western side of the existing church building, to construct new window openings to the rear of the existing sacristy, to widen the existing site entrance and relocate the car park, to provide new landscaped public realm and planting, and all associated site works including new retaining wall for same, along with new connection to public wastewater, and new on site surface water soakaway. The proposed development will provide accessible entry and circulation at ground level to the church and new community space, and it will provide access at mezzanine level to the church gallery, plant room and storage	30/07/2024	1105m South-west	PERMISSION
2025				
2460464	The development will consist of: (1) alterations to an existing dwelling house including modifications to the existing windows, provision of new windows and rooflights, alterations to the existing garage door to create a new door opening (2) extensions to the front and rear of an existing dwelling house (3) a new external staircase and terraced area (4) and all associated site works.	10/02/2025	1026m South-west	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Distance	Planning Status
2560247	To upgrade existing septic tank by installing a proprietary treatment system and polishing filter in lieu of the connection to public sewer which was previously granted under planning ref: 16496	06/08/2025	796m South-west	PERMISSION
2560135	Extension and renovation to include new windows, external insulated render on ground floor walls, charred cladding to first floor, removal of 3 dormers and alteration to south facing roof including new natural slates as well as removal and replacement of existing conservatory and carport with associated siteworks.	27/05/2025	1076m South-west	PERMISSION
2560217	We, Barry and Laura Anne O'Boyle, intend to apply to Sligo county council for planning permission for the construction of a part single-storey/part two-storey house, provision of a domestic shed and all associated site works at rosses upper, rosses point, county Sligo	17/07/2025	1060m South-west	PERMISSION
2560242	Permission for retention of sunroom extension constructed to the side of existing dwelling house, permission for retention of domestic shed constructed on site and all associated works	28/07/2025	1022m South	RETENTION
2560185	1. decommission of existing septic tank and 2. construction of a new effluent treatment system with percolation area, 3. demolition of existing domestic garage, 4. all associated site works	20/06/2025	3308m South-east	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Distance	Planning Status
2560118	Proposed construction of a single storey detached domestic garage to the side of existing dwelling house, proposed revised site curtilage and all associated landscaping and site works	19/05/2025	1582m South-east	PERMISSION
2560079	Permission for retention of bay window and porch constructed to the front of existing dwelling house and all associated works	16/04/2025	892m South-east	RETENTION

There were no other planning applications in the area at the time of writing (August 2025).

5 SCREENING ASSESSMENT – CONCLUSION

It cannot be objectively concluded that there will be no likely significant effects on any European Site due to the construction or operation of the Telecommunication Structure. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

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RECEIVED: 11/11/2025

APPENDIX I

National Biodiversity Data Centre - Species list for G64K

Species list for G64K



RECEIVED: 11/11/2025

Quality of information

The National Biodiversity Data Centre makes every effort to ensure the quality of the information available on this website and updates the information regularly. Before relying on the information on this site, however, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes. The National Biodiversity Data Centre cannot guarantee and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, currency or completeness of the information.

To assist the Centre in the provision of high quality information, should you identify an error in any of the information provided, please notify the Centre and every effort will be made to rectify the error.

RECEIVED: 11/11/2025

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Bird	Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Blue Tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Coal Tit (<i>Parus ater</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Great Tit (<i>Parus major</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Hooded Crow (<i>Corvus cornix</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Custom	Bird	Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
Custom	Bird	Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
Custom	Bird	Pied Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Bird	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Custom	Bird	Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Custom	Bird	Willow Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Bird	Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
Custom	Bird	Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	
Custom	Clubmoss	Lesser Clubmoss (<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Fern	Black Spleenwort (<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Fern	Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Fern	Hart's-tongue (<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Fern	Maidenhair Spleenwort (<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Black Bog-rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>)	2	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Black-bindweed (<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Blue Moor-grass (<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Bog Pimpernel (<i>Anagallis tenella</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Bottle Sedge (<i>Carex rostrata</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Flowering plant	Brookweed (<i>Samolus valerandi</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Brown Bent (<i>Agrostis vinealis</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Brown Sedge (<i>Carex disticha</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Bulbous Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Carnation Sedge (<i>Carex panicea</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Cat's-ear (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Celery-leaved Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Cirsium dissectum x palustre = C. x forsteri	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Cock's-foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Butterwort (<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>)	3	23/04/2020	Vascular plants: Online Atlas of Vascular Plants 2012 Onwards	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Dog-violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Fragrant-orchid (<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i> sens. lat. (= <i>nigra/debeauxii</i>))	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Milkwort (<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Mouse-ear (<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Common Twayblade (<i>Neottia ovata</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Creeping Bent (<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Crested Dog's-tail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>)	4	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Crested Hair-grass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Devil's-bit Scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	

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Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Flowering plant	Downy Oat-grass (<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Early Marsh-orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Fairy Flax (<i>Linum catharticum</i>)	4	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Flea Sedge (<i>Carex pulicaris</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Frog Orchid (<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Threatened Species: Near threatened
Custom	Flowering plant	Glaucous Sedge (<i>Carex flacca</i>)	4	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Grass-of-Parnassus (<i>Parnassia palustris</i>)	2	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Greater Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Green-ribbed Sedge (<i>Carex binervis</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Hairy Lady's-mantle (<i>Alchemilla filicaulis</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Hairy Sedge (<i>Carex hirta</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Hard Rush (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>)	2	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Harebell (<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Heath-grass (<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Himalayan Honeysuckle (<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Medium Impact Invasive Species
Custom	Flowering plant	Jointed Rush (<i>Juncus articulatus</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Least Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium natans</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Threatened Species: Near threatened
Custom	Flowering plant	Lesser Butterfly-orchid (<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>)	2	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Lesser Meadow-rue (<i>Thalictrum minus</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Lesser Spearwort (<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Lesser Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	

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Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Flowering plant	Lesser Tussock-sedge (<i>Carex diandra</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Lesser Water-parsnip (<i>Berula erecta</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Little Kneeling Eyebright (<i>Euphrasia confusa</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Lousewort (<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Marsh Arrowgrass (<i>Triglochin palustre</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Marsh Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla palustris</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Marsh Helleborine (<i>Epipactis palustris</i>)	2	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Marsh-bedstraw (<i>Galium palustre</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Meadow Thistle (<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Mountain Everlasting (<i>Antennaria dioica</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Mouse-ear-hawkweed (<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Pignut (<i>Conopodium majus</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Pink-sorrel (<i>Oxalis articulata</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Purple Moor-grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Quaking-grass (<i>Briza media</i>)	4	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)	4	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>)	4	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Round-leaved Sundew (<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Sea Plantain (<i>Plantago maritima</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Selfheal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Sharp-flowered Rush (<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Sheep's-fescue (<i>Festuca ovina</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Silverweed (<i>Potentilla anserina</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	

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Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Flowering plant	Slender St John's-wort (<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Smooth Meadow-grass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Soft-rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Spring-sedge (<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>)	1	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Star Sedge (<i>Carex echinata</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>)	5	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Unbranched Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium emersum</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Water Mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>)	3	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Wild Angelica (<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Wild Thyme (<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Flowering plant	Yellow-rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Flowering plant	Yorkshire-fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)	2	17/08/2010	Species Data from the National Vegetation Database	
Custom	Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Leiobunum blackwalli</i>	1	19/08/1984	Harvestmen (Opiliones) of Ireland	
Custom	Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Leiobunum rotundum</i>	1	19/08/1984	Harvestmen (Opiliones) of Ireland	
Custom	Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Nemastoma bimaculatum</i>	1	19/08/1984	Harvestmen (Opiliones) of Ireland	
Custom	Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Paroligolophus agrestis</i>	1	19/08/1984	Harvestmen (Opiliones) of Ireland	
Custom	Horsetail	Water Horsetail (<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>)	1	31/12/1986	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Anacaena limbata</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Cercyon convexiusculus</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Chaetarthria seminulum</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Data deficient
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Coelostoma orbiculare</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Enochrus coarctatus</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	

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Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Heterocerus flexuosus	1	27/09/1991	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Data deficient
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Hydroporus angustatus	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Hydroporus gyllenhalii	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Hygrotus inaequalis	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Laccobius colon	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Larger Noterus (Noterus clavicornis)	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Limnebius nitidus	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Endangered
Custom	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Ochthebius minimus	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - butterfly	Marsh Fritillary (Euphydryas aurinia)	13	31/12/2012	All Ireland Marsh Fritillary Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Threatened Species: Vulnerable
Custom	Insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	Limnephilus marmoratus	1	31/12/1910	Caddisflies (Trichoptera) of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Azure Damselfly (Coenagrion puella)	3	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Black-tailed Skimmer (Orthetrum cancellatum)	2	28/06/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Blue-tailed Damselfly (Ischnura elegans)	10	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Brown Hawker (Aeshna grandis)	4	15/08/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common Blue Damselfly (Enallagma cyathigerum)	8	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common Darter (Sympetrum striolatum)	5	15/08/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Darter Dragonfly (Sympetrum)	1	23/07/1981	Dragonfly Ireland	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Emperor Dragonfly (Anax imperator)	1	15/08/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Four-spotted Chaser (Libellula quadrimaculata)	5	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Hairy Dragonfly (Brachytron pratense)	7	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Irish Damselfly (Coenagrion lunulatum)	1	30/05/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	Threatened Species: Vulnerable

Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Large Red Damselfly (Pyrrhosoma nymphula)	6	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Variable Damselfly (Coenagrion pulchellum)	9	16/05/2024	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	
Custom	Insect - hymenopteran	Common Carder Bee (Bombus pascuorum)	3	27/06/2012	Bees of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - hymenopteran	Early Bumblebee (Bombus pratorum)	1	12/06/2005	Bees of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Burnet Companion (Euclidia glyphica)	2	10/06/1992	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Chequered Pearl (Evergestis pallidata)	1	08/07/1996	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Cinnabar (Tyria jacobaeae)	1	25/06/1983	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Fox Moth (Macrothylacia rubi)	1	01/10/2012	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Magpie Moth (Abraxas grossulariata)	1	23/07/1981	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth (Hemaris tityus)	1	09/06/1981	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Silver-ground Carpet (Xanthorhoe montanata)	1	10/06/1989	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - moth	Six-spot Burnet (Zygaena filipendulae)	1	08/07/1996	Moths Ireland	
Custom	Insect - orthopteran	Common Green Grasshopper (Omocestus viridulus)	2	30/06/1984	Grasshoppers, Crickets and Allied Insects (Orthoptera) of Ireland	
Custom	Insect - orthopteran	Common Ground-hopper (Tetrix undulata)	2	30/06/1984	Grasshoppers, Crickets and Allied Insects (Orthoptera) of Ireland	
Custom	Mollusc	Common Bithynia (Bithynia tentaculata)	1	31/12/1960	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	
Custom	Mollusc	Great Pond Snail (Lymnaea stagnalis)	1	31/12/1960	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	
Custom	Mollusc	Horny Orb Mussel (Sphaerium corneum)	1	31/12/1960	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	
Custom	Mollusc	Wandering Snail (Ampullaceana balthica)	1	31/12/1960	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	
Custom	Mollusc	Yellow Cellar Slug (Limacus flavus)	1	31/12/1960	All Ireland Non-Marine Molluscan Database	
Custom	Terrestrial mammal	Otter (Lutra lutra)	1	31/01/2013	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
Custom	Terrestrial mammal	Pygmy Shrew (Sorex minutus)	1	09/09/2015	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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Grid square	Species group	Species name	Record count	Date of last record	Title of dataset	Designation
G64K	Bird	House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
G64K	Bird	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
G64K	Bird	Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
G64K	Flowering plant	Frog Orchid (<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Threatened Species: Near threatened
G64K	Flowering plant	Least Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium natans</i>)	1	31/12/1999	BSBI tetrad data for Ireland	Threatened Species: Near threatened
G64K	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Chaetarthria seminulum</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Data deficient
G64K	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Heterocerus flexuosus</i>	1	27/09/1991	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Data deficient
G64K	Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Limnebius nitidus</i>	1	14/03/1993	Water Beetles of Ireland	Threatened Species: Endangered
G64K	Insect - butterfly	Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)	13	31/12/2012	All Ireland Marsh Fritillary Database	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Threatened Species: Vulnerable
G64K	Insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Irish Damselfly (<i>Coenagrion lunulatum</i>)	1	30/05/2023	Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	Threatened Species: Vulnerable
G64K	Terrestrial mammal	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	1	31/01/2013	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
G64K	Terrestrial mammal	Pygmy Shrew (<i>Sorex minutus</i>)	1	09/09/2015	Atlas of Mammals in Ireland 2010-2015	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

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- The information contained in this spreadsheet can only be considered a guide to the conservation importance or value of a given area, as the available data is unlikely to be systematic or complete.
- Absence of records of threatened or protected species from an area does not imply that they are not present within the given area. Their absence may be due to lack of adequate surveys of the area.
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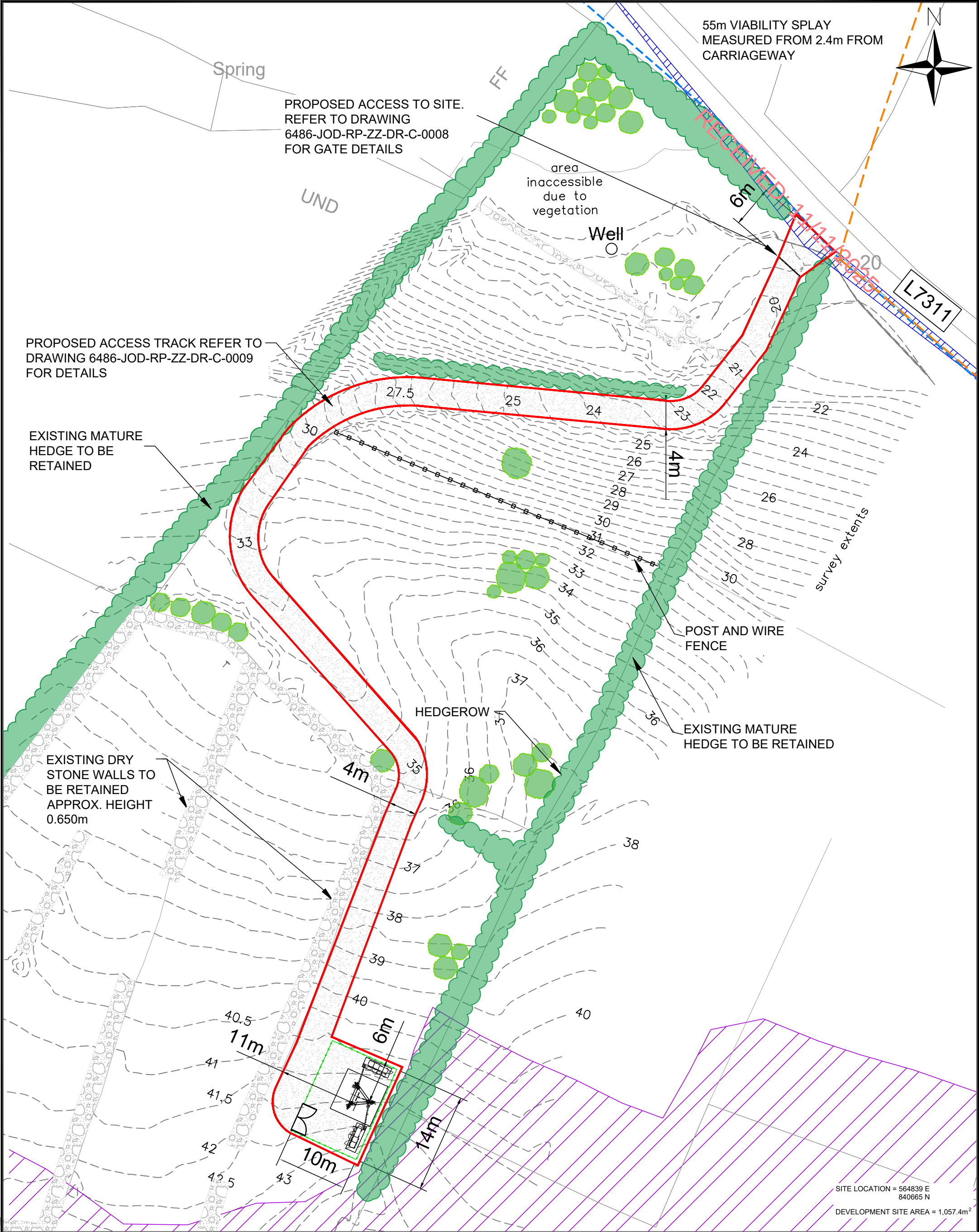
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APPENDIX II

Site Layout Plan



P.02	11/25	Issued for PLANNING	RM	CD	BC
Rev.	Date	Amendments	D	C	A

LEGEND

PLANNING BOUNDARY

EXISTING CONTOUR LINES

TELECOMS LINE

ESB LINE

PROPOSED GRAVEL FINISH

CUMMEEN STRAND/DRUMCLIFF BAY (SLIGO BAY) SAC

EXISTING STONE WALL
All existing stone walls to be retained

HEDGE

SITE NOTICE

SLIGHT LINES

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Client
Project
PROPOSED LATTICE
SUPPORT STRUCTURE AT
ROSSSES POINT (MSO031)

Title
SITE LAYOUT PLAN

Issue Details		Office Use Only	
Surveyed: JOD	Information	Drawing Number:	
Drawn: RM	Approval	6486-JOD-RP-ZZ-DR-C-0003	
Checked: EC	Tender		
Approved: BC	Construction	Job Ref.	Date.
Scale: 1:500 (A3)	Record	6486	August 2025
		Rev.	P.02

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ROSSES POINT, CO. SLIGO

Natura Impact Statement

November 2025

Hibernian Cellular
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**DOCUMENT APPROVAL**

PROJECT	Lattice Support Structure (MSO031) at Rosses Point	
CLIENT / JOB NO	Hibernian Cellular Networks Limited	6486
DOCUMENT TITLE	Natura Impact Statement	

Prepared by		Reviewed by		Approved by	
Document Final	Name Ryan Mitchell	Name Evan Concar	Name Breena Coyle		
Date November 2025	Signature 	Signature 	Signature 		

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6486/504/RM

TELECOMS COMMUNICATION MAST AT ROSSES POINT, CO. SLIGO**NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT****CONTENTS**

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 **Background**

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited (JOD) have been appointed by Hibernian Cellular Networks Ltd. (hereafter known as the Developer) to provide the information necessary in the form of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for a Telecommunications structure at Rosses Point, co. Sligo.

This Natura Impact Statement describes the results of an examination of the project, its potential to result in adverse impacts to European Sites, and the mitigation measures required to ensure that such effects are avoided. A screening for Appropriate Assessment is provided in above and merged into this document in advance of the Natura Impact Statement.

This Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in accordance with 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). This current project is not connected with or necessary for the management of any European Site.

1.1 **Regulatory Context**

Collectively, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are referred to as the Natura 2000 Sites. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended. The designation features of SACs are referred to as Qualifying Interests (QI) and include both species (excluding birds) and habitats. Similarly, Special Protection Areas (SPA's) are legislated in the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. The designation features of SPAs are referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) which comprise bird species as well as wetland bird habitats.

In general terms, SACs and SPAs are considered to be of exceptional importance in terms of rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species within the European Community.

Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Habitats Directive states 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. In the 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".

The statutory agency responsible for the European Sites is the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

1.1.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). In cases where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site then it shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the European Site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, screening must be carried out by the Competent Authority. Under Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended '*A screening for appropriate assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site*'. The Competent Authority's determination as to whether an Appropriate Assessment is required must be made on the basis of objective information and should be recorded. The Competent Authority may request information to be supplied to enable it to carry out screening. In cases where Appropriate Assessment is required, the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment Report (NIS) should allow the competent authority to determine if the Development would adversely affect any European Sites.

1.1.2 The Stages in an Appropriate Assessment

There are 4 stages in an Appropriate Assessment as outlined in the European Commission Guidance document (2001). The following is a brief summary of these steps:

Stage 1 – Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in- combination with other projects upon a European Site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant.

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, the impact of the project on the integrity of the European Site is considered, with respect to the conservation objectives of the site and to its structure and function.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions: Should the Appropriate Assessment determine that adverse impacts are likely upon the European Site, this stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid these adverse impacts.

Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the European Site will be necessary.

1.2 Background to Appropriate Assessment

As mentioned above, under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) has to be completed to examine whether it could or could not be ruled out, on the basis of objective information, that the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European Sites.

A screening for Appropriate Assessment was carried by Jennings O'Donovan which found that likely significant effects to European Sites Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA and Drumcliff Bay SPA could not be ruled out. This was concluded as there is an indirect hydrological connection between the site and Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC via surface water due to the presence of a series of drains onsite, which flow into an unnamed order 1 stream (Segment Code: 35_202_1) and which in turn flows into the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. There is potential for the telecommunication tower to be a collision risk obstacle which may impact bird species associated with Cummeen Strand SPA and Drumcliff Bay SPA. In addition, the site is located in a sensitive groundwater zone for SAC Habitats and Species, as a result it is considered that likely significant effects cannot be excluded at the screening stage. The AA screening report is merged in this document above (pages 1-54).

On the basis of this conclusion, it is concluded that Stage 2 - AA is required in order to assess the implications of the project for the two European Sites listed above. In accordance with Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, this document a NIS has been prepared in order to assist the competent authority in carrying out stages 1 and 2 of the AA process. This NIS provides an examination, analysis and evaluation of the likely impacts from the Project, both individually and in combination with other plans and projects, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the European Sites concerned. It also prescribes appropriate mitigation to ensure that the Project will not adversely affect the integrity of those sites identified as being at risk of likely significant effects. Finally, it provides complete, precise and definitive findings, which are capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites concerned.

1.3 Statement of Authority

This Screening for this AA Screening Report has been prepared by a qualified and accredited experts as follows: Ryan Mitchell BSc who is an Environmental Scientist and Ecologist at Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited. He has a Bachelor of Science in Animal Conservation and Biodiversity from Greenwich University. His ecological experience includes Phase 1 Habitat surveys, report writing, preparing chapters for Environmental Impact Assessments, Appropriate Assessments, Natura Impact Statements and Construction Environmental Management Plans. He experienced in mammal surveys and carries out Preliminary Bat Roost Survey Assessment Reports and Bat Activity surveys. More recently, he has obtained a license for freshwater pearl mussel monitoring (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) with NWPS on a certified training course Phase 1 & Phase 2.

In addition, he is an experienced entomologist his fieldwork experience includes working with/for Buglife NI, Natural History Museum London, Oxford University and National Museums Northern Ireland. His most recent fieldwork (2024) includes conducting Common Standards Monitoring of Invertebrates for NEIA in Northern Ireland on ASSI sites, Marsh Fritillary surveys in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. He has published 74 publications in peer reviewed journals on terrestrial invertebrates in Britain and Ireland such as added numerous species to the Irish list (20) and rediscovered a rare species of *Sphaeroceridae Minilimosina secundaria* (Duda, 1918) which was thought to be extinct in Britain.

This Screening for AA Screening Report has been reviewed by Mr. Evan Concar & Ms. Breena Coyle of Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited. Evan Concar, M.Sc., B.Sc. is an Environmental Scientist and Planner. He holds a first-class honours MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security from the University of Galway and a Bachelor (Hons.) of Arts Degree with Geography and Spanish, also from the University of Galway. He is experienced in report writing, EIA Report chapter writing, Planning Compliance, Planning and Environmental Reports, Feasibility Studies, Stakeholder Engagement, and assisting with Project Management.

Breena Coyle BA, MSc MRTPI HD Planning and Environmental Planning Law. Breena has over 15 years' experience in the private sector and has a thorough knowledge of the planning system. Breena holds a MSc in Environmental Planning from Queens University Belfast and a Bachelor of Arts in History & Geography from NUI Galway. She is a Member of the Irish Planning Institute and a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Since joining JOD, she has developed experience in a range of sectors through various projects and planning issues with a current focus within the environmental and renewable energy sector.

2. **METHODOLOGY**

This NIS has been prepared with reference to the following:

- Assessment of plans and projects significantly effecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2009, Revised February 2010)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2009, revised 2010)
- OPR Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, March 2021, Office of the Planning Regulator
- Methodological Guidance on Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Commission, 2021)
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. Office for Official

Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, (EC, 2000a)

- Methodological Guidance on Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Commission, 2021)
- Guidance on strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (Commission, 2021)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No.477 of 2011).
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission (EC, 2013).
- EU Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (EC, 2007)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018)
- Strict Protection of Animal Species, NPWS, 2021

The information provided in this NIS is also guided by European and Irish case law guiding the approach to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. The following European Court and Irish High Court rulings have been considered:

- C-127/02 Waddenzee v Staatssecretaris
- C-258/11 Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála
- C-512/12 Briels
- C-387/12 & C388/15 Orleans and others v Vlaams Gewest
- C-142/15 Moorbug
- C-323/17 People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte
- C-162/17 Grace and Sweetman
- C-883/18 Holohan and others v An Bord Pleanála
- IEHC 84 (2019) - Kelly v An Bord Pleanála

Relevant plans from national to local scales are critical to inform a robust assessment of in-combination impacts; these are listed below:

- National Biodiversity Action Plan, for the period 2023-2030
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027
- Sligo County Development Plan 2022-2028

2.1 Desk Studies and Consultation

Prior to the completion of this Natura Impact Statement, information on the Site and the area of the proposed works was collected and studied. Data sources used to complete a thorough examination of potential impacts are listed below:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maps - Information regarding water features, water quality, geology etc.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service - Maps of designated sites, information on habitats and species within these sites and information on protected plant or animal species; conservation

objectives, site synopses and standard data forms for relevant designated sites.

- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) – Information on protected plant and animal species within the study area.
- Sligo County Council - Information on planning history in the area.

2.2 Ecological Field Surveys

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was completed in accordance with the Heritage Councils Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (2010). The classification of habitats recorded during the field survey is based on the Heritage Council's A Guide to Habitats in Ireland.

2.3 Consultation

A consultation with Birdwatch Ireland Sligo branch was undertaken on 14th August 2025 via email communication to discuss the potential impacts on birds associated with Drumcliff Bay SPA and Cummeen Strand SPA which are within the zone of influence.

3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Site Location

The Site is located along the L7311 Rosses Lower, Rosses Point, Co Sligo approximately 6.5km north of Sligo Town (Grid Reference: X (ITM) 564839, Y (ITM) 840663). The Site can be accessed via local road L7311. The Site is located approximately 0.13km East of Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (Site Code: 000627) and 291m south of Drumcliff Bay SPA (Site Code: 004013). The location of the Development is shown in **Figure 3.1**.



3.2 Proposed Development

The development will consist of the erection of a 36m high lattice support structure carrying antennas and dishes together with associated ground-based equipment all enclosed in security fencing, upgrade of an existing access track and the provision of a new access track, proposed site access taken from an existing site access from the L-7311 and all ancillary site works. The Site dimensions comprise a 10 x 14 metre compound, internal site tracks, and an overall area of 1,057m². The proposed layout will comprise of the following elements:

- Perimeter fencing
- Telecoms equipment Containers
- Proposed Radio Antennas and Microwave Link Dishes
- 36 metre lattice telecoms support structure
- Internal site tracks
- The provision of white strobe obstacle lighting at the top of the structure
- The site will be accessed via L7311

The Site will be accessed using the existing agricultural lands where there is an existing access into the Site.

The layout of the Site was designed using best practice principles to enhance the durability and function of the Site, while minimising its visual intrusion where possible. The structure height and compound size are the minimum necessary to ensure functionality for transmission and future requirements. The design and layout of the Site is in accordance with the guidance set out in '*Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures-Guidance for Local Authorities*'.

The Development is situated off the L7311 which is located to the north of the application site. Access to the Site will be via the existing access to the Site.

The installation of the telecommunication structure will be completed within a period of one no. working week.

Periodic maintenance may be required on the Development throughout its lifetime. In terms of traffic and transport impacts, traffic movements to and from the site will have an imperceptible impact on local traffic. The Development will only require approximately 3-4 site visits in any year for maintenance etc.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPEAN SITES CONSIDERED**

4.1 **Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC**

Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC is designated for a range of qualifying features which include terrestrial, freshwater and marine associated. The qualifying interests of this SAC are outlined in Table 5.1 and those qualifying features of interest that were identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the Project during the screening exercise are also identified in **Table 5.1**. The identification of features of interest of the SAC within the zone of influence of the Project are informed by the site-specific conservation objectives published for the SAC and particularly the distribution maps for these features. The Article 17 mapping datasets for these qualifying features of interest have also been reviewed to identify the presence or absence of these features of interest downstream from the Project site.

Table 5.1: Qualifying Features of Interest of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC 000627

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail Vertigo angustior [1014]	The nearest population of this QI is located at Strandhill 5km to the southwest. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the Project site. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Project site and this QI. All works will be contained within the Project site; works will not occur within the SAC. Considering this, and the size and scale of the Development, this QI is deemed to lie outside the zone of influence of the Project.
Sea Lamprey Petromyzon marinus [1095]	There is a terrestrial distance of 0.4km between the Project site and the nearest mapped location of this QI. There is an identified hydrological pathway connecting the Project site and this QI. This hydrological network is likely to have low fisheries value. However, it is possible Sea Lamprey could use the hydrological network. In view of this Sea Lamprey are considered to occur within the zone of influence of the Project.
River Lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis [1130]	There is a terrestrial distance of 0.4km between the project site and the nearest mapped location of this QI. There is an identified hydrological pathway connecting the Project site and this QI. This hydrological network is likely to have low fisheries value. However, it is possible River Lamprey could use the hydrological network. In view of this River Lamprey are considered to occur within the zone of influence of the project.

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Estuaries [1130]	There is a hydrological distance of 6.5km between the project site and the nearest mapped location of this QI. Given this is a different section of the bay located at Drumcliff North potentially connected via tidal movements. However, given the tenuous link and significant dilution factor; as well as the proximate distance and the size and scale of the Development, this QI is deemed to lie outside the zone of influence of the Project.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	There is a terrestrial distance of 2.7km between the Project site and the QI habitat associated with the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the Project site. There is an indirect hydrological pathway connecting the Project site and this QI. Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this QI is deemed to lie within the zone of influence of the Project.

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Harbour Seal [1365]	There is a terrestrial distance of 2.7km between the Project site and the QI habitat associated with the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the Project site. There is an indirect hydrological pathway connecting the Project site. However, given the tenuous link and significant dilution factor; as well as the proximate distance and the size and scale of the Development, this QI is deemed to lie outside the zone of influence of the Project.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	There is a terrestrial distance of 2.7km between the Project site and the QI habitat associated with the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the Project site. There is an indirect hydrological pathway connecting the Project site and this QI. However, this habitat is terrestrial in nature and are not dependent freshwater processes and associated water quality. Considering this, and the size and scale of the Development, this QI is deemed not within the zone of influence of the Project

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	There is a terrestrial distance of 2.1km between the project site and the QI habitat associated with the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the project site. There is no hydrological pathway connecting the project site and this QI. Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this QI is not deemed to lie within the zone of influence of the project
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* [2130]	There is a terrestrial distance of 2.7km between the project site and the QI habitat associated with the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the project site. There is an indirect hydrological pathway connecting the project site and this QI. However this habitat is terrestrial in nature and are not dependent freshwater processes and associated water quality. Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this QI is deemed not within the zone of influence of the project
<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	There is a terrestrial distance of 0.4km between the project site and this Qualifying interest. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the project site. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the project site and this QI. All works will be contained within the project site; works will not occur within the SAC. Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this QI is deemed to lie outside the zone of influence of the project.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)	There is a terrestrial distance of 0.7km between the project site and this Qualifying interest. No examples of this habitat occur within the vicinity of the project site. There are no hydrological pathways connecting the project site and this QI. All works will be contained within the project site; works will not occur within the SAC. Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this QI is deemed to lie outside the zone of influence of the project.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*	The site is located within an area with a direct hydrological link through the ground water to the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. Given no available data on the depth of the water table within the site. Considering this, and the size and

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
	scale of the development, this is risk lies within the zone of influence of the project.

Following on from **Table 5.1** above the following qualifying features of interest of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC have been identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project:

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* [1095]
- River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* [1130]
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)

4.2 Drumcliff Bay SPA

Drumcliff Bay SPA is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species:

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

Drumcliff Bay SPA is of high ornithological importance for both wintering and breeding birds. It supports nationally important populations of eleven wintering waterfowl species. The site has a range of breeding waterfowl species, notably nationally important populations of Sanderling and Bar-tailed Godwit. The project site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the special conservation interest bird species listed above. However, due to proximity there is a flightpath connectivity between the project site and Drumcliff SPA that support the QI bird species listed above. As such these wetland and waterbird species and their associated wetland habitats are considered to lie within the zone of influence of the project.

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	There is a terrestrial distance of 0.3km between the project site and the nearest mapped location of this QI. There is a potential pathway via flight lines connecting the project site and this QI during the operation period. In view of this Sanderling and Bar-tailed Godwit are considered to occur within the zone of influence of the project.

Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The site is located within an area with a direct hydrological link through the ground water to the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. Given we do not know the depth of the water table at the site Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this is risk lies within the zone of influence of the project.
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Following on from **Table 5.1** above the following qualifying features of interest of the Drumcliff Bay SPA have been identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project:

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

4.3 Cumeen Strand SPA

Drumcliff Bay SPA is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species:

Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

[A130] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]

Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

Drumcliff Bay SPA is of high ornithological importance for both wintering and breeding birds. It supports nationally important populations of eleven wintering waterfowl species. The site has a range of breeding waterfowl species, notably nationally important populations of Sanderling and Bar-tailed Godwit. The project site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the special conservation interest bird species listed above. However, due to proximity there is a flightpath connectivity between the project site and Drumcliff SPA that support the QI bird species listed above. As such these wetland and waterbird species and their associated wetland habitats are considered to lie within the zone of influence of the project.

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	There is a terrestrial distance of 1.0km between the project site and the mobility of the QIs. There is a potential pathway via flight lines connecting the project site and the QI during the operation period. In view of these all three QI interest species are considered to occur within the zone of influence of the project.

Qualifying feature of interest	Within/Outside the zone of influence of the project
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The site is located within an area with a direct hydrological link through the ground water to the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC. Given we do not know the depth of the water table at the site Considering this, and the size and scale of the development, this is risk lies within the zone of influence of the project.

Following on from **Table 5.1** above the following qualifying features of interest of 5.3 Cummeen Strand SPA have been identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project:

Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

5. **EXAMINATION OF IMPACTS**

5.1 **Surface Water Quality**

The potential indirect effects that could arise as a result of the proposed development relate to the emission of contaminating substances from activities associated with the proposed development to the receiving aquatic environment. The potential contaminants that could be released to the surrounding drainage network (in the absence of appropriate safeguards) are suspended solids, hydrocarbons and cement and cement-based products. The drainage network could potentially support Sea Lamprey and River Lamprey.

Notwithstanding this, the emission of contaminants such as those listed above, will have the potential to perturb water quality and contribute to a diminution in the condition of water quality. Whilst any release of contaminants to the surrounding drainage network is likely to be attenuated with the network, given the natural treatment emergent vegetation provides along the terrestrial drainage network occurring to the west of the project. Site. Any release of pollutants to this network will be undesirable. As such, mitigation measures are set out in Section 7 below that will eliminate the potential for the project to result in the release of contaminants to this network.

5.2 **Ground water quality**

The site is situated within an area with ground water vulnerability the proposed development has potential direct effects that could arise as a result of the proposed development relate to the emission of contaminating substances from activities associated with the proposed development to the receiving aquatic environment. The water table depth is unknown on site and there is potential contaminants that could be released to the ground water table (in the absence of appropriate safeguards) are suspended solids, hydrocarbons and cement and cement-based products without any migration measures in place.

Notwithstanding this, the emission of contaminants such as those listed above, will have the potential to perturb water quality and contribute to a diminution in the condition of water quality. Any release of pollutants to this network will be undesirable. As such, mitigation measures are set out in Section 7 below that will eliminate the potential for the project to result in the release of contaminants to this network.

5.3 Collision risk to special conservation interest & Wetland bird species

Man-made structures such as buildings, towers and mast have been identified as having potential to result in negative impacts to bird populations through collision mortality. The risk posed by man-made structures to birds as a result of bird collision are well documented with the first publications identifying collision mortality in the late 1800's (Coues, 1876; Merriam, 1885). Banks (1979) and Drewitt & Langston (2008) provided estimates of collision mortality from communication towers in North America ranging from 0.94 to 50 million birds annually.

Arnold & Zink (2011) found that vulnerability to collision with buildings and towers varied over more than four orders of magnitude among species. Species that migrated long distances or at night, were much more likely to be killed by collisions than year-round residents or diurnal migrants.

A number of factors are important to consider when examining the risk of bird collision with man-made structures. These factors are: Building height: Arnold & Zink (2011) note that telecommunication masts that are greater than 150m in height pose a risk to birds while masts at lower heights do not present a significant collision risk. Kerlinger (2000a; 2000b) and Newton (2007) provided evidence indicating that towers lower than 60m to 150m pose a low collision risk to migrating birds, while Crawford & Engstrom (2001) indicated that the lowering of a tower height from 308m to 90m greatly reduced the number of fatalities associated with the tower.

Given that the lattice support structure will be 36m in height it is considered to be low in height and will inherently pose a low risk of collision to birds. It is also noted that the lattice support structure will be installed in an area that is surrounded by mature treelines and woodland, in excess of 25m. The presence of mature trees and woodland will require any birds flying in the area to fly at heights in excess of 25m, thereby further reducing the likelihood for any collision.

Lighting: Some research (Powelsland, 2009; Ogden, 1996) suggests that lit structures can be attractive to night-flying birds, especially during low visibility conditions. Gauthreaux & Belser (1999) found that white strobe lights are less attractive to birds than steady or flashing red lights. Gehring et al. (2009) also found significantly less bird mortality under high communications tower of between 116 – 146m in height with red or white flashing obstruction lights compared with non-flashing/steady-burning lights.

Presence of guy wires: Longcore, Rich & Gauthreaux (2008) found that most towers that result in large bird mortality have guy wires.

Structure location: Structures placed on migratory flight paths have been shown to present the greatest risk of collision to birds (Arnold & Zink, 2011). Bird migratory flight paths tend to fly along a broad front or topographical features, such as mountain passes or river valleys.

A consultation with Birdwatch Ireland Sligo branch discussed the proposed development on 14th August 2025 via email communication.

A summary of their comments includes the following:

- A negative impact would be the availability of the structure as a perch/lookout point for corvids. Ireland's corvid population is disproportionally large because we have lost the raptors that should keep them in check (very noticeable if you travel in Europe), and the corvid predation pressure on nesting passerines will be exacerbated by providing them such a well-placed vantage point.
- The other possible issue is the flight path of waders between Drumcliff Bay and Sligo harbour, ideally, a survey should be carried out in winter season to see if this route is used by waders and wildfowl. My guess is that they will mainly fly around by the coast. Whoopers are more likely to take the direct route, though usually at a greater height.
- They noted that a flock of 5,000 + Barnacle Geese fly out in a great circle around Drumcliffe Bay when they are disturbed, mainly by the rescue helicopter and private planes, from feeding at the Ballygilgan reserve or from the nearby fields at Finned. My concern/ suggestion would be that no strong lights be positioned on the north side of the masts. Because of air traffic the masts will, probably of necessity, have to have some flashing lights.
- Overall, the telecommunication mast should have minimal impact

The overall consensus is the Development will have minimal impact on the SPA qualifying species; however, the following recommendations were proposed the installation of bird deterrents to reduce the congregation of corvids in the local area and utilising the mast as a look out spot. No strong lights to be positioned on the north side of the mast a standard red fixed low intensity at the top is envisioned for the development.

Based on the above review of potential risks posed by man-made structures such as masts to bird species and in light of the following:

- The consultation with Birdwatch Ireland - Sligo Branch
- the relatively low height of the proposed communication mast of 36m compared to those that have been identified as representing a risk to bird (i.e >60m in height);
- the static nature of the proposed mast and its lattice structure which do not require guy wires
- the location of the mast outside of any surrounding SPAs and in an flat landscape at a remote distance from broad fronts or topographical features typically relied upon by migrating birds

- the findings of previous Eirgrid studies in Central Ireland that found an absence of collision between birds and power line infrastructure.

It is concluded that the proposed mast will not pose a risk to special conservation interest bird species or wetland birds such that the populations of such species supported by the Drumcliff SPA or the Cummeen Strand SPA and associated conservation objectives will be undermined.

RECEIVED: 11/11/2025

6. EXAMINATION OF CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

6.1 Site-Specific Conservation Objectives

Site-specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been published by the NPWS for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (NPWS, 2024). The SSCO for the qualifying features of interest of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, occurring within the zone of influence of the project are outlined in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1: Site-Specific Conservation Objectives for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA and Drumcliff Bay SPA Qualifying Species occurring within the Zone of Influence of the Project

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Habitat area	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.	The project will not result in the loss of any Mudflat habitats	None required
	Community extent	Maintain the extent of the Zostera-dominated community and the Mytilidae-dominated community complex, subject to natural processes.	The project is not located adjacent to or in the vicinity of any watercourses and will not undermine the target of this attribute. Notwithstanding this, as noted in Section 5.1 above the project could, in the absence of mitigation could impact this QI, the significance of an effect on the above listed Qualifying Interests of the SAC and by contaminants, derived from activities associated with the Project, entering the estuarine system would depend on the type of pollutant, as well as the magnitude and duration of a pollution event. Aquatic invertebrate communities and aquatic macrophytes can be affected by sediment loading which reduces the biotic diversity. Suspended solids often hold nutrients such as phosphorus that can result in eutrophication and reduced oxygen levels, which can affect aquatic communities.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
	Community structure: Zostera densit	Typical species present, in good condition, and demonstrating typical abundances and distribution	The project is not located adjacent to or in the vicinity of any watercourses and will not undermine the target of this attribute. Notwithstanding this, as noted in Section 5.1 above the project could, in the absence of mitigation could impact this QI. The significance of an effect on the above listed Qualifying Interests of the SAC and by contaminants, derived from activities associated with the Project, entering the estuarine system would depend on the type of pollutant, as well as the magnitude and duration of a pollution event. Aquatic invertebrate communities and aquatic macrophytes can be affected by sediment loading which reduces the biotic diversity. Suspended solids often hold nutrients such as phosphorus that can result in eutrophication and reduced oxygen levels, which can affect aquatic communities.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
	Community structure: Mytilus edulis density	Conserve the high quality of the Mytilidae-dominated community complex, subject to natural processes	The project is not located adjacent to or in the vicinity of any watercourses and will not undermine the target of this attribute. Notwithstanding this, as noted in Section 5.1 above the project could, in the absence of mitigation could impact this QI. The significance of an effect on the above listed Qualifying Interests of the SAC and by contaminants, derived from activities associated with the Project, entering the estuarine system would depend on the type of pollutant, as well as the magnitude and duration of a pollution event. Aquatic invertebrate communities and aquatic macrophytes can be affected by sediment loading which reduces both the biotic diversity. Suspended solids often hold nutrients such as phosphorus that can result in eutrophication	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
			and reduced oxygen levels, which can affect aquatic communities.	
	Community distribution	Maintain maximum depth of vegetation, subject to natural processes	The project is not located adjacent to or in the vicinity of any watercourses and will not undermine the target of this attribute. Notwithstanding this, as noted in Section 5.1 above the project could, in the absence of mitigation could impact this QI. The significance of an effect on the above listed Qualifying Interests of the SAC and by contaminants, derived from activities associated with the Project, entering the estuarine system would depend on the type of pollutant, as well as the magnitude and duration of a pollution event .Aquatic invertebrate communities and aquatic macrophytes can be affected by sediment loading which reduces both the biotic diversity. Suspended solids often hold nutrients such as phosphorus that can result in eutrophication and reduced oxygen levels, which can affect aquatic communities.	None required

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
	Hydrological regime: water level fluctuations	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal fine sand with <i>Peringia ulvae</i> and <i>Pygospio elegans</i> community complex; Estuarine mixed	The project is not located adjacent to or in the vicinity of any watercourses and will not undermine the target of this attribute. Notwithstanding this, as noted in Section 5.1 above the project could, in the absence of mitigation could impact this QI. The significance of an effect on the above listed Qualifying Interests of the SAC and by contaminants, derived from activities associated with the Project, entering the estuarine system would depend on the type of pollutant, as well as the magnitude and duration of a pollution event. Aquatic invertebrate communities and aquatic macrophytes can be	None required

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
		sediment to sandy mud with Hediste diversicolor and oligochaetes community complex; Fine sand with crustaceans and Scololepis (Scololepis) squamata community complex; Fine sand with Angulus spp. And Nephtys spp. community complex	affected by sediment loading which reduces both the biotic diversity. Suspended solids often hold nutrients such as phosphorus that can result in eutrophication and reduced oxygen levels, which can affect aquatic communities.	
Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095]	Distribution: extent of anadromy	No barriers for migratory life stages of lamprey moving from freshwater to marine habitats and vice versa	No Physical barriers will be put in place in any water courses which could impact the migratory life stages of lamprey moving from fresh water to marine habitats and vice versa.	None required
River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099]	Distribution: extent of anadromy	No barriers for migratory life stages of lamprey moving from freshwater to marine habitats and vice versa	No Physical barriers will be put in place in any water courses which could impact the migratory life stages of lamprey moving from fresh water to marine habitats and vice versa.	None required

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
Petrifying springs with tufa formation	Habitat area	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Due to this habitat no occurring onsite the project will not result in the loss of this habitat.	None required
	Habitat distribution	No decline.	Due to this habitat no occurring onsite the project will not result in the loss of this habitat.	None required
	Hydrological regime: height of water table; water flow	Maintain appropriate hydrological regimes	A precautionary approach has been undertaken. However, due to the scale of the works and terrestrial distance from this qualifying interest it is highly unlikely the water table will be affected by the development.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9
	Water quality	Maintain oligotrophic and calcareous conditions	A precautionary approach has been undertaken as the ground water hydrology has not been established. However, due to the scale of the works and terrestrial distance from this qualifying interest it is highly unlikely the unlikely will be affected by the development. As noted in Section 5.1 above, the project could, in the absence of appropriate safeguards, result in the emission of contaminants to the ground water network. Measures are set out in Section 7 that aim to avoid any pollutant emissions.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9
	Vegetation composition:	Maintain typical species	A precautionary approach has been undertaken as the ground water hydrology has not been	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
	typical species		established. However, due to the scale of the works and terrestrial distance from this qualifying interest it is highly unlikely the vegetation composition will be affected by the development. As noted in Section 5.1 above, the project could, in the absence of appropriate safeguards, result in the emission of contaminants to the ground water network. Measures are set out in Section 7 that aim to avoid any pollutant emissions.	
Drumcliff Bay SPA				
Sanderling Calidris alba	Population trend	Long term population trend stable or increasing	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above, the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9
	Distribution	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above, the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute. However, on a precautionary basis, due to corvids potentially being drawn to the site via the mast structure, Bird	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
			Spikes will be added to the telecoms mast to reduce them congregating.	
Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica	Population trend	Long term population trend stable or increasing	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above, the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute.	None Required
	Distribution	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	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute. However, on a precautionary basis due to corvids potentially being drawn to the site via the mast structure Bird Spikes will be added to the telecoms mast to reduce them congregating.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9
Wetlands	Habitat area	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 1843 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The project site is not representative of an ecologically important site for special conservation interest bird species or wetland birds outside of the SPA. The project site is not relied upon by special conservation interest bird species or wetland birds of the SPAs and the provision of the project will not result in any changes to the availability of such areas outside of the SPA.	None Required

Cummeen Strand SPA				
Brent Goose Branta bernicla hrota	Population trend	Long term population trend stable or increasing	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute.	None Required

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
	Distribution	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9
Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus	Population trend	Long term population trend stable or increasing	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute.	None Required
	Distribution	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute. However, on a precautionary basis due to corvids potentially being drawn to the site via the mast structure Bird Spikes will be added to the telecoms mast to reduce them congregating.	Mitigation measures provided in Section 9
Redshank Tringa totanus	Percentage change		In view of the examination set out in Section 5.3 above the project will not have the potential to undermine the targets for this attribute.	
Wetlands	Habitat area	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than 1732 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.	The project site is not representative of an ecologically important site for special conservation interest bird species or wetland birds outside of the SPA. The project site is not relied upon by special conservation interest bird species or wetland birds	None Required

Qualifying Feature	Attribute	Target	Assessment	Mitigation Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,				
			of the SPAs and the provision of the project will not result in any changes to the availability of such areas outside of the SPA.	

6.2 Spread of Non-Native Invasive Plant Species

No Third Schedule invasive plant species were recorded within or along the perimeter of the site boundary.

6.3 In-Combination Effects

The potential exists for the project to overlap with other construction projects within the surrounding area. A five-year search timeframe was assessed; Retention, refused and withdrawn planning applications were excluded. **Table 7.1** shows the planning applications in close proximity to the Project (circa 2000m).

Table 7.1: Planning applications in close proximity to the Project.

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Planning Status
2022			
22308	Development consisting of elevation changes to existing dwelling house	10/11/2022	PERMISSION
2271	Development consisting of extension to the existing dwelling, alterations to existing openings and all associated site works	20/04/2022	PERMISSION
22339	Development consisting of the following: to extend and renovate my existing derelict dwelling house with elevational amendments to all facades. proposed new sewerage treatment system and detached domestic garage together with all associated site development works	27/01/2023	PERMISSION
22339	development consisting of the following: to extend and renovate my existing derelict dwelling house with elevational amendments to all facades. Proposed new sewerage treatment system and detached domestic garage together with all associated site development works	23/02/2023	PERMISSION
22395	Development consisting of demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a detached domestic dwelling and all associated site works and services	06/04/2023	PERMISSION
2023			
2360060	Development consisting of the demolition of an existing two storey dwelling and replacement with a new two storey dwelling	28/09/2023	PERMISSION
2360277	Development of a two storey dwelling and attached domestic carport with roof terrace over, along with new vehicular entrance and connection	01/12/2023	PERMISSION

	to public services and all ancillary site development works.		
2360004	Development consisting of construction of a single storey detached domestic dwelling; a waste water treatment system; and all associated site works	19/05/2023	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Planning Status
2360216	The Owner of the facility at Cregg Village is experiencing very high electrical energy usage on site. The facility has now become fully occupied and active in its capacity as temporary accommodation for refugees fleeing the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. To alleviate the high energy usage, costs and associated carbon footprint, the owner of the facility is looking to obtain planning permission to supply and install a new 600kWp Ground mounted, The proposed ground mounted PV system shall be installed over two (2) number Phases. Phase 1 shall consist of 300kW of ground mounted solar PV being installed to meet the facilities current on site electrical demand. It is envisaged that Phase 2 will progress at a later date in tandem with the facilities planned electrification of their heating system over the coming Five (5) years. The 300kW installed under Phase 2 will be designed to meet the electrical input power required to satisfy the thermal loadings of future heat pump systems. The primary purpose for both phase 1 & phase 2 PV arrays will be for on site self consumption to meet the existing on site electricity usage, in instances where there is over production in summer months, the PV array will export any excess energy to the national grid under the Clean Export Guarantee (CEG). New in ground ducting shall be installed on site to reticulate DC and AC cabling back to the facilities Main Distribution Board at the boiler plant room. The proposed location for the solar PV array is not currently in use and consists of overgrown scrub, which will be cleared as required to accommodate each phase. The array will be south facing and located on unused lands to the south of the facility. To the East of the proposed array there is also a Zone of Archaeological Notification to recorded monument RMP SL008-128 Ringfort Rath located on the lands of the neighboring school "St. Cecilia's N.S.". As per our archeological survey, the new solar PV array will have zero impact on this site and natural screening of the abundant vegetation and mature trees around the monument will screen it from the proposed development. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study was carried out on the	19/08/2023	INCOMPLETED APPLICATION

	proposal. Based on the landscape and visual impact judgements provided throughout the LVIA, the proposed Ground Mounted Solar Array is not considered to give rise to any significant residual impacts. Instead, landscape impacts are not considered to exceed 'Moderate-slight'		
2360191	Provision of an off-licence sales area as part of an existing shop premises including all associated works	20/09/2023	PERMISSION
2360137	the erection of 22 no. single story glamping pods, and 1 no. storage building, with associated landscaping, site works and services	12/03/2024	PERMISSION
2024			
2460314	To install a proprietary treatment system and polishing filter in lieu of the connection to public sewer which was previously granted under planning ref:18469	13/11/2024	WITHDRAWN
2460016	The development of a single storey extension to the front (southwest side) of the existing single storey house including alterations to the existing front facade and roof, a patio and all associated site development works	11/03/2024	PERMISSION
2460259	(1) internal & external alterations to existing detached dwelling house; (2) split level single storey extension to rear; (3) and all associated site works	01/08/2024	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Planning Status
2460004	The development will consist of the demolition of an existing entrance porch to the front, a single storey lean-to conservatory to the west elevation, and single storey outbuildings to the rear. it also consists of alterations externally to the rear return height and roof, to existing windows to front and both sides and internally to the layout.	26/03/2024	PERMISSION
2460004	The development will consist of the demolition of an existing entrance porch to the front, a single storey lean-to conservatory to the west elevation, and single storey outbuildings to the rear. it also consists of alterations externally to the rear return height and roof, to existing windows to front and both sides and internally to the layout. The new construction consists of a single storey	26/03/2024	PERMISSION
2460185	The proposed development consists of the construction of a 2 story domestic dwelling with new residential entrance, detached garage and shed, wastewater treatment system with polishing filter and all associated site works	30/05/2025	PERMISSION

2460205	Retention of the following changes to existing house; (a) 'sunroom' extension to existing house, (b) 'detached garage' (with granny flat), (c) changes made to 'site boundary lines'	24/09/2024	PERMISSION
2460464	The development will consist of: (1) alterations to an existing dwelling house including modifications to the existing windows, provision of new windows and rooflights, alterations to the existing garage door to create a new door opening (2) extensions to the front and rear of an existing dwelling house (3) a new external staircase and terraced area (4) and all associated site works.	10/02/2025	PERMISSION
2460016	The development of a single storey extension to the front (southwest side) of the existing single storey house including alterations to the existing front facade and roof, a patio and all associated site development works	11/03/2024	PERMISSION
2460318	To install a proprietary treatment system and polishing filter in lieu of the connection to public sewer which was previously granted under planning ref:18469	24/10/2024	INCOMPLETED APPLICATION
2460071	Description: To demolish the existing porch and boiler house, to construct a new extension (community space) to the western side of the existing church building, to construct new window openings to the rear of the existing sacristy, to widen the existing site entrance and relocate the car park, to provide new landscaped public realm and planting, and all associated site works including new retaining wall for same, along with new connection to public wastewater, and new on site surface water soakaway. The proposed development will provide accessible entry and circulation at ground level to the church and new community space, and it will provide access at mezzanine level to the church gallery, plant room and storage	30/07/2024	PERMISSION
2025			
2560247	To upgrade existing septic tank by installing a proprietary treatment system and polishing filter in lieu of the connection to public sewer which was previously granted under planning ref: 16496	06/08/2025	PERMISSION
2560135	Extension and renovation to include new windows, external insulated render on ground floor walls, charred cladding to first floor, removal of 3 dormers and alteration to south facing roof including new natural slates as well as removal and replacement of existing conservatory and carport with associated siteworks.	27/05/2025	PERMISSION

Application Number	Description	Decision Date	Planning Status
2560217	We, barry and laura anne o'boyle, intend to apply to sligo county council for planning permission for the construction of a part single-storey/part two-storey house, provision of a domestic shed and all associated site works at rosses upper, rosses point, county sligo	17/07/2025	PERMISSION
2560242	Permission for retention of sunroom extension constructed to the side of existing dwelling house, permission for retention of domestic shed constructed on site and all associated works	28/07/2025	RETENTION
2560185	1. decommission of existing septic tank and 2. construction of a new effluent treatment system with percolation area, 3. demolition of existing domestic garage, 4. all associated site works	20/06/2025	PERMISSION
2560185	1. decommission of existing septic tank and 2. construction of a new effluent treatment system with percolation area, 3. demolition of existing domestic garage, 4. all associated site works	20/06/2025	PERMISSION
2560242	Permission for retention of sunroom extension constructed to the side of existing dwelling house, permission for retention of domestic shed constructed on site and all associated works	28/07/2025	RETENTION
2560118	Proposed construction of a single storey detached domestic garage to the side of existing dwelling house, proposed revised site curtilage and all associated landscaping and site works	19/05/2025	PERMISSION
2560079	Permission for retention of bay window and porch constructed to the front of existing dwelling house and all associated works	16/04/2025	RETENTION
2560135	Extension and renovation to include new windows, external insulated render on ground floor walls, charred cladding to first floor, removal of 3 dormers and alteration to south facing roof including new natural slates as well as removal and replacement of existing conservatory and carport with associated siteworks.	27/05/2025	PERMISSION

7. **MITIGATION MEASURES**

In order to protect the overall integrity of the cummeen strand/drumcliff bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Drumcliff bay SPA, and Cummeen Strand SPA a number of mitigation measures will be implemented. The primary parties responsible for the implementation of these measures include the applicants, the project manager and the construction contractors.

7.1 **Mitigation by Design**

- Bird Spikes will be installed on the Telecommunications Structure to deter the congregation of corvids

7.2 Construction Phase Mitigation

- All site personnel will be made aware of their environmental responsibilities at the site.
- All topsoil removed will be scrapped over and covered with plastic and surrounded by a silt fence to avoid run-off.
- When foundations are being dug all material will be stored on-site in a suitable location away from any surface water drainage.
- Requirements for contractors will include contingency plans to deal with spillages, should they occur.
- Land disturbance will be kept to minimum and disturbed areas will be stabilised as soon as possible.
- Soil excavation should be undertaken during dry periods. .
- An Environmental Manager will also be appointed who will have responsibility for ensuring attenuation measures are appropriately maintained.
- A double-edged silt fencing will be erected along the edge of the existing drain during the construction period.

7.3 Measures for Dewatering of Excavations & foundation installations (If Required)

After initial site investigation work has been undertake and dewatering is required on site for the excavations of the foundation of the Telecommunications Structure. The following measures will be put in place to avoid pollutants hitting the ground water:

- Groundwater or rainfall runoff collected in excavations will be discharged via settlement ponds or filter strips prior to entry to the receiving water environment.
- Any settlement lagoons or filter strips associated with dewatering will be regularly inspected,
- particularly after periods of heavy rainfall and prior to periods of forecast heavy rainfall.
- Maintenance (to clear blockages or remove silt) will be carried out in periods of dry weather where practicable.

Construction methodology for the foundation if ground water is encountered.

- Includes installation of an impermeable liner as part of the turbine base construction detail, to be placed at formation level before commencing work to construct the Base within the excavation. The liner will cause a break in the pollution pathway for any accidental spills from
- mechanical plant and from cementitious material used in the concrete base pour.
- After installation of the liner there is no pathway and no risk to the groundwater resource.

7.4 Measures to avoid the release of Silts & Fines

The construction phase of the project will adhere to best practice guidance, particularly the CIRIA guidance document C532 Control of water pollution from construction sites.

During site works key requirements for control of pollution risk will include measures that will be put in place for the safe storage of potentially polluting materials and the collection, filtration and treatment of surface water runoff prior to runoff from the site. These measures will include features outlined in the following bullet points:

- Silts & Fines – a continuous silt fence will be installed along the southern and western boundary of the site so that surface water running off to the west and south are treated prior to discharge to the drain. The silt fence will be installed as per the silt fence specifications detailed in Section 18.6.12 of the CIRIA guidance document “Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects, Technical Guidance (C648)”. The geotextile/fabric membrane will be buried in a trench (measuring 100mm X 100mm) to ensure that water does not flow under the silt fence barrier. The purpose of this membrane will be to prevent any sediment discharge from draining north towards the drainage ditch.
- Silt & Fines – A buffer distance of 5m will be implemented between the footprint of the mast foundation and the drainage ditch to the south of the project. The buffer strip will remain vegetated and managed as a grassland buffer strip. This grassland buffer strip will retard surface water runoff flows north to the drainage ditch and will attenuation silt and fines within the vegetation.
- Silt & Fines: Maintenance – maintenance of the silt fence will be undertaken throughout the duration of site works which will be for a period of 1no. working week. Site management will be required to monitor the integrity of the silt fence on a daily basis and where required will make all necessary repairs and replacements to the silt fence such that its integrity and effectiveness to entrain silt and fines is sustained throughout the duration of the project.

7.5 Release of Cement-Based Pollutants

The following control measures will be required to be implemented to avoid the release of cement- based pollutants:

- No batching of wet-cement products will occur on site. Ready-mixed supply of wet concrete products and where possible, emplacement of pre-cast elements, will take place;
- Where possible, pre-cast elements for culverts and concrete works will be used;
- No washing out of any plant used in concrete transport or concreting operations will be allowed on-site;
- Where concrete is delivered on site, only the chute need be cleaned, using the smallest volume of water possible. No discharge of cement contaminated waters to the construction phase drainage system or directly to any drain will be allowed. Chute cleaning water is to be tanked and removed from the site to a suitable, non-polluting, discharge location;

- Use weather forecasting to plan dry days for pouring concrete;
- Ensure pour site is free of standing water, and plastic covers will be ready in case of sudden rainfall event.
- Disposal of raw or uncured waste concrete will be controlled to ensure that watercourses or other sensitive areas will not be impacted
- No cement will be required for works associated with horizontal directional drilling under watercourses and no cement will be stored in the vicinity of watercourses during such works.

7.6 Release of Other Pollutants

All precautions will be taken to avoid spillages of diesel, oil or other polluting substances during the construction phase. The Contractor is obliged to implement the following measures to prevent contamination of watercourses:

- No refuelling of construction vehicles or plant will take place within 50m of the existing drain.
- Undertaking refuelling of plant, equipment and vehicles will only be undertaken on impermeable surfaces.
- No maintenance of construction vehicles or plan will take place within the site.
- All fuels, lubricants and hydraulic fluids shall be kept in secure bunded areas at least 50m from any watercourse or excavation. The bunded area shall accommodate 110% of the total capacity of the containers within it. Containers shall be properly secured to prevent unauthorised access and misuse. An effective spillage procedure shall be put in place with all staff properly briefed. Any waste oils or hydraulic fluids shall be collected, stored in appropriate containers and disposed of offsite in an appropriate manner.
- The plant and machinery used will be regularly inspected for leaks and fitness for purpose.
- Spill kits will be readily available to deal with accidental spillage at all times.
- A segregated waste storage will be available at the site during the construction phase.
- Waste will be removed regularly from the site.
- Any accidental spills of fluids required on site during the construction phase will be cleaned up immediately and waste material stored in a suitable container before being removed from site and appropriately disposed of. All plant and machinery will be fully stocked with spill kits, hydrocarbon absorbent packs and absorbent material and operators will be fully trained in the use of this equipment.
- An inventory of any necessary chemicals, e.g. paints, on site will be kept. It will include:
 - Procedures for storage of all materials listed
 - Location details of all materials listed
 - Volume and description of all substances stored on-site
 - Waste disposal records, including copies of all Waste Transfer Notes (WTN) detailing disposal routes and waste carriers used.
- Surplus excavated soil will be removed from the site as it is being excavated.
- Any subsoil or topsoil retained onsite for re-use will be covered with heavy gauge polythene to prevent mobilization during heavy rain.

A silt fence or sandbags will surround any stored material to prevent silt laden waters running off the stockpiles and entering adjacent terrestrial areas. Stockpiles shall be at least 20m from drains.

7.7 Emergency Response Planning

In the event of an environmental emergency, a procedure for Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response will be developed prior to commencement of construction. The procedures will be implemented by the Contractor in order to minimise the potential for environmental emergency incident to occur. An environmental emergency at the site may include;

- Discovery of a fire within the site boundary
- Uncontained spillage / leakage / loss of containment action
- Discharge concentration of potential pollutants in excess of environmental trigger levels

The general required emergency response actions will be posted at strategic locations, such as the site entrance, canteen and near the entrances to buildings.

As an example of emergency response actions required, in the event of a spillage, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. **IF SAFE (USE PPE)**, stop the source of the spill and raise the alarm to alert people working in the vicinity of any potential dangers.
2. **IF SAFE (USE PPE)**, contain the spill using the absorbent spills material provided. Do not spread or flush away the spill.
3. Cover or bund off any vulnerable areas where appropriate.
4. If possible, clean up as much as possible using the absorbent spills materials.
5. Do not hose the spillage down or use any detergents.
6. Contain any used absorbent material so that further contamination is limited.
7. Notify the Environmental Officer/ECOW so that used absorbent material can be disposed of using a licensed waste contractor.

An accident investigation will be performed in accordance with procedures, and an incident report will be logged.

7.8 Measures to deter Corvids

The consultation with Birdwatch Ireland Sligo branch outlined the congregation of corvids could be an issue for birds associated with the Drumcliff Bay SPA and Cumeen Strand SPA. While the scale of the risk is not quantified, it is likely to be medium to low risk due to the proximity of the structure to the SPA sites (300m – 1km).

The installation of bird spikes on potential perches on the telecommunication structure will be used to deter corvids utilising this structure as a look out point. These will be installed in accordance with literature such as A practical guide to the most effective management of urban birds by taking the greatest

advantage of their natural behaviour.

7.9 Evaluation of Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures and environmental safeguards outlined above for the construction phase of the project are taken from established best practice guidelines that have been successfully implemented for a wide range of sites that have operated as waste permit facilities. These measures have undergone extensive and rigorous monitoring for their effectiveness at development sites where they have previously been applied to ensure adverse environmental impacts are avoided.

The best practice guidance that have informed the mitigation measures and environmental safeguards proposed in this NIS and that will be adhered to throughout the construction and operation of the proposed development include:

- The Good Practice Guidance notes proposed by EA/SEPA/EHS:
- PPG 1: Understanding your environmental responsibilities - good environmental practices.
- GPP 2: Above ground oil storage tanks
- PPG 3: Use and design of oil separators in surface water drainage systems.
- GPP 4: Treatment and disposal of wastewater where there is no connection to the public foul sewer.
- GPP 5: Works and maintenance in or near water
- PPG 6: Working at construction and demolition sites.
- PPG 7: Safe storage - The safe operation of refuelling facilities
- GPP 8: Safe storage and disposal of used oils.
- GPP 8: Safe storage and disposal of used oils.
- GPP 8: Safe storage and disposal of used oils.
- GPP 19: Vehicles: Service and Repair
- GPP 21: Pollution incident response planning
- GPP 22: Dealing with spills.
- GPP 26 Safe storage - drums and intermediate bulk containers
- PPG 27: Installation, decommissioning and removal of underground storage tanks
- CIRIA Environmental Good Practice on Site.
- CIRIA Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites. Technical Guidance C648.
- CIRIA SuDS Manual Technical Guidance C697.
- Development on Unstable Land. Department of Environment (DOE), UK.

8. **CONCLUSION**

This Natura Impact Statement presents an analysis of the potential for the project to result in adverse impacts to the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA and Drumcliff Bay SPA. An evaluation of the potential impact of discharges of waters via surface and ground water pathways during the site works and the potential for the proposed mast to function as a collision risk to special conservation interest bird species and wetland birds of the above 2 SPAs has been completed.

During the evaluation of potential impacts associated with the discharge of surface drainage waters it was found that the risk of significant impacts to features of European Sites as a result of such discharges will be limited and low. Notwithstanding this a range of mitigation measures have been set out in Section 9 of this Natura Impact Statement to further ensure that the potential for the release of contaminated surface water to the receiving drainage network in the vicinity of the project site is eliminated. These measures are representative of best practice measures employed at construction sites and the effectiveness of these measures are set out in the various guidance documents referenced in Section 7.7.

Mitigation measures will be in place to ensure that no silt or pollutants enters site drains that lead to conservation sites. Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined, the construction of this development would not be deemed to have a significant impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. No significant effects are likely on Natura 2000 sites, alone in combination with other plans and projects based on the implementation of standard construction phase mitigation measures.

Following an analysis, consultation and evaluation of the relevant information and in light of best scientific knowledge, in particular, the nature of the proposed telecommunications structure, characteristics of the qualifying and special conservation interests, the potential link between the Proposed Development and the identified Natura 2000 sites 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 on the following European sites: Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA and Drumcliff Bay SPA.

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