

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Regarding a

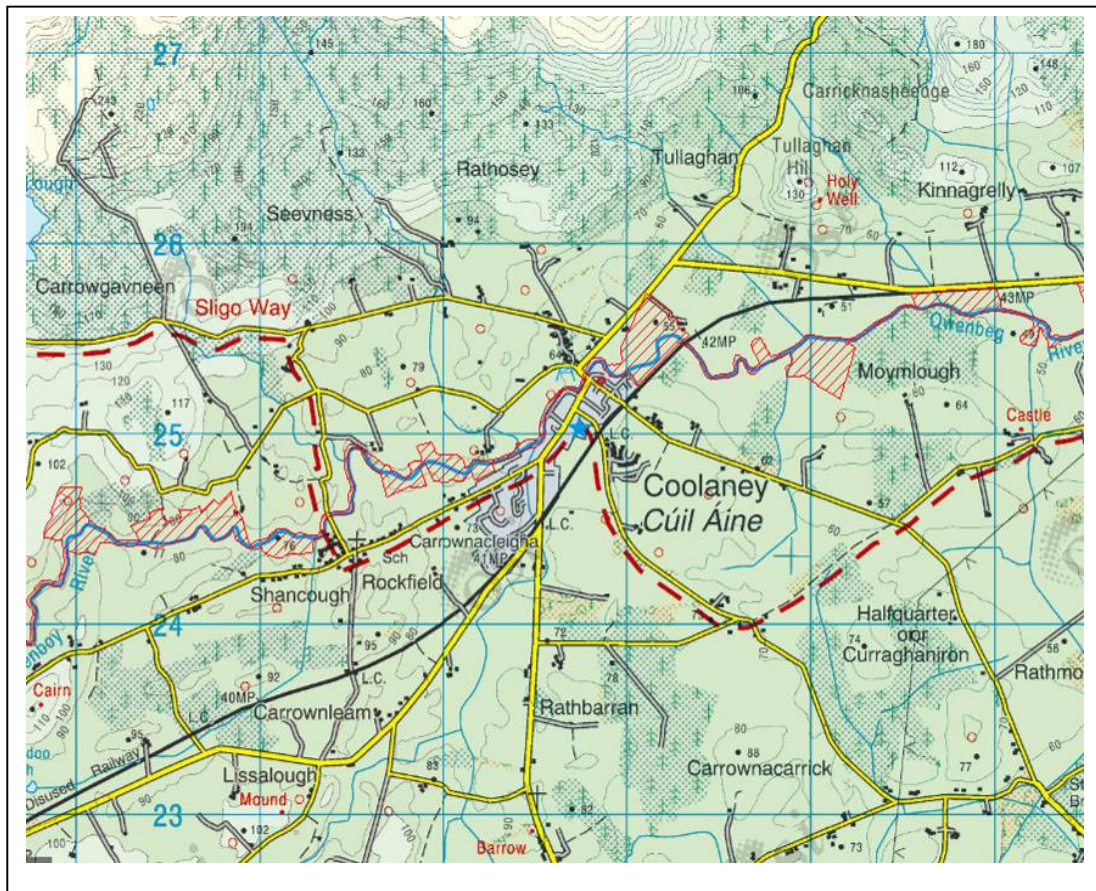
PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION

For the

Demolition of the Existing Residential Structures and replace with 4 New Residential Units

at

Green Road, Coolaney, Co. Sligo



**Client: Sligo County Council**  
**County Hall**  
**Riverside**  
**Sligo**  
**Co. Sligo**

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We wish to acknowledge the essential contribution of **National Parks and Wildlife** whose maps, site synopsis, features of interest, Natura 2000 forms, management plans and conservation objectives which have facilitated the creation of this report..

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## 1.0 THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### INTRODUCTION

There is a requirement, under Article 6(3) of the ED Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC), to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. The first step of the Appropriate Assessment process is to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, Appropriate Assessment is required. Article 6(3) states:

*'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.'*

A number of guidance documents on the appropriate assessment process were consulted during the preparation of this NIS. These are:

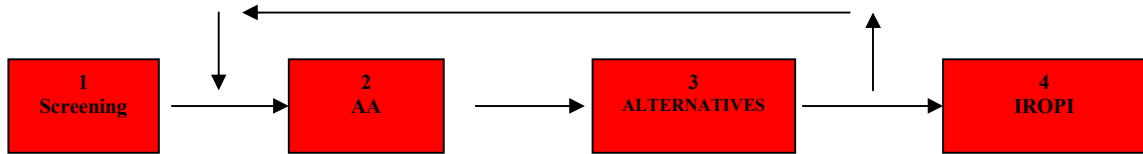
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (NPWS 2009, Revised February 2010);
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Nov. 2001 - published 2002); and
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (2000).
  - EU Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (2007);

Where it cannot be deduced or proven with certainty that a development or plan will not have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (s) then it is necessary and essential to carry out an appropriate assessment on the ramifications of the development on the Natura site(s) with respect to their features of interest conservation objectives. The guidance for Appropriate Assessment (NPWS, 2009, revised February 2010) states:

*"AA is an impact assessment process that fits within the decision-making framework and tests of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) and, for the purposes of this guidance, it comprises two main elements. Firstly a Natura Impact Statement - i.e. a statement of the likely and possible impacts of the plan or project on a Natura 2000 site (abbreviated in the following guidance to "NIS") must be prepared. This comprises a comprehensive ecological impact assessment of a plan or project; it examines the direct and indirect impacts that the plan or project might have on its own or in combination with other plans and projects, on one or more Natura 2000 sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives. Secondly, the competent authority carries out the AA, based on the NIS and any other information it may consider necessary. The AA process encompasses all of the processes covered by Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, i.e. the screening process, the NIS, the AA by the competent authority, and the record of decisions made by the competent authority at each stage of the process, up to the point at which Article 6(4) may come into play following a determination that a plan or project may adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site".*

## 1.1 STAGES

The European Commission's guidance promotes a four stage process, as set out in Box 1 below, to complete the Appropriate Assessment, and outlines the tests required at each stage. Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6.3 Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or a necessary precursor for Stage 4.



This screening report should include the requisite ecological impact assessment and testing required under the provisions of Article 6(3) by means of the first stage of Appropriate Assessment, the screening process (as set out in the EU Guidance documents).

EU guidance<sup>1</sup> states:

*"This stage examines the likely effects of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. This assessment comprises four steps:*

- 1. determining whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site;*
- 2. describing the project or plan and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site;*
- 3. identifying the potential effects on the Natura 2000 site;*
- 4. assessing the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 site".*

The screening report should also provide the information required for the Competent Authority to establish that Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) is not required .

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 3.1 of 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Nov. 2001)

## 1.2 Notes on the Author

The AA has been undertaken by Paul Neary B.Sc. (Env. Sc.) M.Sc (eco tox), whom has previously carried out Ecological surveys and damage assessments on the Kerry Mountains, Ox Mountains, Shores of Lough Conn and Lough Cullin under the auspices of NPWS, he has also been involved in formulating management plans for National Parks and lectured in ecology. A number of his Appropriate Assessment reports have been successfully defended by AN Bord Pleanála in High Court actions taken by objectors whom wished to have the Boards decisions overturned. He has also submitted a number of remedial NIS's directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 261A of the Planning and Development Act the findings of which have been ratified by the Bord. Paul Neary is also an environmentalist approved by NPWS / Duchas / Dept. of Agriculture for the carrying out of ecological assessments on NHA's, SAC's, SPA's, pNHA's and National Parks and the creation of management plans and frame work plans on the afore mentioned under the registration number PL321 (code 00805).

## 2.0 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT \_ STAGE 1 SCREENING MATRIX

In accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

<p><b>Planning Application Number</b></p>	<p><b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, PART 8 (ARTICLE 81) (AS AMENDED) AT THE GREEN ROAD, COOLANEY, CO. SLIGO</b></p>
<p><b>2.0.1 Development Type</b></p>	<p>The proposed project is orientated around the demolition of the 2 existing pyrite damaged bungalow units and construction of 4 new replacement dwelling units in a 2 storey terrace comprising of 2 X 2-bed houses and 2 X 1 bed apartments, and all associated site works including connection to existing services (water, electricity, sewer, storm sewer), Green Road, Coolaney.</p>
<p><b>2.0.2 Development Location</b></p>	<p>The proposed brown field urban site is located at the Green Road, Coolaney Town, Co. Sligo and is located 73M East South East of the Coolaney L16104 bridge over the Owenbeh River, North of the L16104 at grid references 560818, 825277.</p>
<p><b>2.0.3 Natura 2000 site(s) within impact Zone</b></p>	<p>Unshin River SAC: Site Code 001898</p>
<p><b>2.0.4 Qualifying interests of Natura 2000 site(s)</b></p>	<p><u>Unshin River SAC 001898:</u></p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</p> <p>Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p>

### 2.1 Description of the Project

<p><b>2.1.1 Location (Attach map)</b></p>	<p>The proposed brown field urban site is located at the Green Road, Coolaney Town, Co. Sligo and is located 73M East South East of the Coolaney L16104 bridge over the Owenbeg River, North of the L16104 at grid references 560818, 825277 (see attached location maps).</p>
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<p><b>2.1.2 Brief description of the Key components of the project</b></p>	<p>The proposed project is orientated around the demolition of the 2 existing pyrite damaged bungalow units and the construction of 4 new replacement dwelling units in a 2 storey terrace comprising of 2 X 2-bed houses and 2 X 1 bed apartments, and all associated site works including connection to existing services (water, electricity, sewer, storm sewer) at Green Road, Coolaney involving short duration light demolition and construction works in an urban environment on a street lit brown field urban site over a period of circa 12months. A C &amp; D plan has been compiled to accompany the proposed development with the resulting demolition material to be transported to a licensed site for appropriate disposal.</p>
<p><b>2.1.3 Distance of the project from Natura sites in potential Impact zone</b></p>	<p>The Unshin River SAC terrestrial section is located 35.8M North East of the proposed site with the aquatic section located 37.2M to the North East.</p>

<p><b>2.2 Description of the Natura Site(s) within the potential impact zone</b></p>	
<p><b>2.2.1 Name(s)</b></p>	<p>Unshin River SAC</p>
<p><b>2.2.2 Site Code(s)</b></p>	<p>Unshin River SAC: Site Code 001898</p>
<p><b>2.2.3.SiteDescription (Detailed ecological data can be Given in the appendices)</b></p>	<p><b>SITE NAME: Unshin River SAC</b>  <b>SITE CODE: 001898 (Sept 2019)</b></p> <p>The Unshin River has a spring-fed lake, Lough Arrow, as its source and flows north-westwards for some 24km to reach the sea at Ballysadare Bay. The river supports a rich aquatic and emergent flora and runs beside or through a wide variety of habitats. The site also includes the Ballysadare and Owenboy/Owenbeg rivers. The whole site is underlain by Carboniferous limestone.</p>
<p><b>2.2.4 Qualifying Interests of the Natura 2000 Site(s) (From NPWS)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Unshin River SAC 001898:</u></b></p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</p>



	<p><b>Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]</b></p> <p><b>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</b></p>																																				
<p><b>2.2.5 Other Notable Features of the Natura 2000 Site(s) (From Natura 2000 Data Form)</b></p>	<p><b>UNSHIN RIVER SAC ()</b></p> <p><b>QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE:</b></p> <p>The Unshin River is an excellent example of a pristine, unmanaged, undrained lowland limestone river and is extremely important as it represents one of only four remaining undrained limestone rivers in Ireland. Such rivers as this are otherwise almost unknown in Europe. It is unpolluted for almost its entire length and supports a species-rich, diverse aquatic flora, several important bird species, fish and several rare riverbank plant species, including <i>Poa palustris</i>. Of particular importance is the population of <i>Salmo salar</i>. The site is used by <i>Lutra lutra</i>. A good diversity of adjacent habitats is found along its length, including alluvial woodland.</p> <p><b>VULNERABILITY</b></p> <p><b>Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site</b></p> <p><b>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="715 994 1171 1236"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Negative Impacts</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Threats and pressures [code]</th> <th>Pollution (optional) [code]</th> <th>inside/outside [i o b]</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>B02</td> <td></td> <td>o</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>J02.10</td> <td></td> <td>i</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M</td> <td>A02.01</td> <td></td> <td>i</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>I01</td> <td></td> <td>i</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="715 1305 1171 1435"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Positive Impacts</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Activities, management [code]</th> <th>Pollution (optional) [code]</th> <th>inside/outside [i o b]</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>M</td> <td>A04.02.02</td> <td></td> <td>i</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Negative Impacts				Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]	L	B02		o	L	J02.10		i	M	A02.01		i	H	I01		i	Positive Impacts				Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]	M	A04.02.02		i
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<p><b>2.2.6 Conservation Objectives (From NPWS)</b></p>	<p><b>UNSHIN RIVER SAC 001898</b></p> <p><b>Version 8: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021</b></p> <p>The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to</p>																																				

maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition.

The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

#### Code / Description

3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation

6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*) (\* important orchid sites)\*

6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)\*

1106 Salmon *Salmo salar*

1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

\* denotes a priority habitat

[The Detailed Conservation Objectives and Supporting Documents are available for reference on the NPWS Web site](#)

**2.3 Assessment Criteria**

**2.3.1 Describe the individual Elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site**

**There are no activities that would have a significant direct impact on any of the Natura sites species or habitats. The following are a list of the main activities on site.**

- (1) General light demolition and construction activities**
- (2) Operation of light plant**
- (3) Landscaping**
- (4) Habitation and recreational areas**

**However given the urban location, the connection to all existing public services and the separation distance from the boundary of the Natura site to the boundary of the proposed development there potential is no potential for significant impacts either directly or indirectly.**

**2.3.2 Describe any likely direct, Indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site taking into account the following**

- (i) Size and scale;**
- (ii) Land-take;**
- (iii) Distance from the**
- (iv) Natura 2000 site or key Features of the site;**
- (v) Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);**
- (vi) Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);**
- (vii) Excavations requirements**
- (viii) Transportation requirements**
- (ix) Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc;**
- (x) Other**

**The location, scale and nature of the proposed urban development is such that it will not directly or indirectly impact on any of the annexed habitats or species of the Natura site considered nor will it contravene their conservation objectives or plans. The development location consists of non annexed habitat and is segregated from the Natura sites by a minimum of 37.8M in an urban street lit setting. The intervening land use consists of BL3 habitat. The proposed development does not require water abstraction or direct discharge to surface water, land or air and will connect to the existing sewer, storm water sewer, electricity and water mains. The existing UWWTS is designed for a p.e. of 2,500 with the current loading in the order of 1,185 therefore no changes to surface water quality (microbiologically, chemically, physically or quantitatively) are anticipated given that there are no direct discharges to or abstraction from surface water.**

**No Soil or sub soil is to be imported on to the site as a result of the proposed development.**

**Where aggregate for the purposes of fill is required it is to be sourced in a quarry that is registered under section 261/261A of the 2000 planning and development act or have a grant of planning under that act. The quarry would be free from Japanese knotweed to prevent introduction of these invasive species.**

**Construction and demolition waste would not be reused on site with all resulting small quantities of demolition material to be transported off site for disposal at a licensed facility.**

**No maintenance of heavy plant would occur on site with all preventative maintenance carried out prior to entry to the site.**

**Refuelling of heavy plant would only occur as necessary with no hydrocarbons for such purposes stored on site.**

**Excavated material shall not be stockpiled on site but should be landscaped and reseeded as soon as possible.**

	<p>All empty packaging shall be stored in appropriate containers for disposal as required.</p> <p>Batch concrete trucks are prohibited from the washing out of the drum on site (which is now industry standard).</p> <p>Where OFCH is utilised the tank shall be bunded to 110% of the volume of the tank and roofed. There shall be no outlet at the base of the bund. Alternatively double skinned tanks may be used.</p> <p>The restricted species as listed in appendix of this report shall not be utilised or introduced for the purposes of landscaping or any other purposes.</p> <p>A water tight container shall be provided for the storage of empty chemical containers which shall be removed off site and disposed of appropriately as required.</p> <p>Control of weeds within the site boundary shall be performed manually. Spot spraying of noxious weeds is permitted provided such activity conforms to the REPS / AEOS / GLAS specifications or any subsequent specification governing such an activity.</p> <p>Site preparation, construction and subsequent use / management is not required to be cognisant of the Inland fisheries Ireland guidance on “The protection of fisheries habitat during construction and development works at river sites” as no instream works are associated with the development with no streams, drain or rivers within 30M of the development site boundary.</p> <p>Storm water would only be discharged to the existing storm water sewer.</p> <p>No material would be removed from or deposited in the any Natura Site as a result of the proposed project.</p> <p>The proposed project would connect to the existing services (sewer, storm water, electricity) with no additional services required.</p> <p>The location is already street lit with no requirements for additional street lighting.</p> <p>The projected impact of the proposed project is considered neutral therefore will be no cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on any of the Natura site considered either alone or in combination with any other proposed project or plan.</p>
<p><b>2.3.3 Describe any likely changes to The Site arising as a result of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) Reduction in habitat area;</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Disturbance to Key species;</b></li> <li><b>(iii) Habitat or species density;</b></li> <li><b>(iv) Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc);</b></li> <li><b>(v) Climate change</b></li> </ul>	<p>The proposed development does not involve the reduction or fragmentation of habitat area associated with the Unshin River Natura site.</p> <p>There will be no disturbance to any key species associated with the Natura sites given the separation distances from, and the absence of, suitable on site habitat for those species.</p> <p>The urban brown field setting and &gt;30M separation distance of the proposed development site boundary from the boundary of the Natura sites dictates that light, noise and vibration from either construction or subsequent habitation would be detectable within the boundary of the Natura site and the proposed project would be absorbed into the back ground.</p> <p>The species for which the Natura site were designated are predominantly confined to the aquatic section or the immediate area surrounding the aquatic section e.g. the reclusive</p>

***Lutra lutra* generally are only found within 80M of suitable habitat and tend not to be present in urban areas of high anthropogenic activity.**

**Surface water quality will not be impacted as there will be no direct discharges to surface water as a result of the development.**

**There will be no climate change either micro or otherwise as a result of the project.**

**The proposed development area is currently subject to continual anthropogenic activity with the project located on an existing street lit brown field urban site. Consequently there will be no disturbance of any species above that already experienced in the area i.e. the proposed activity would be easily assimilated / absorbed into the background by the urban setting with no cumulative impact.**

**The only habitats that would be impacted are BL3 and GA2 none of which are annexed habitat types.**

**The species for which the Natura sites were designated would not inhabit or expand their range in a manner that would encompass the proposed urban development site.**

<p><b>2.3.4 Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) Interference with the Key relationships that define the structure of the site.</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site.</b></li> </ul>	<p>The proposed project will not alter, interfere or impact on any of the key relationships that define either the function of or the structure of the Natura sites either directly or indirectly due to the separation distance. There will be no fragmentation or disturbance of any designated habitat or species, either directly or indirectly, there will be no land take, fragmentation or material deposited in or removed from any Natura sites as a result of the proposed project.</p>
<p><b>2.3.5 Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) Loss</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Fragmentation</b></li> <li><b>(iii) Disruption</b></li> <li><b>(iv) Disturbance</b></li> <li><b>(v) Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.)</b></li> </ul>	<p>There will be no loss, fragmentation, disruption or disturbance of the Natura site or their annexed species either directly or indirectly, associated with the proposed project. No changes to surface water quality (microbiologically, chemically, physically or quantitatively) are anticipated given that there are no direct discharges to or abstraction from surface.</p> <p>The proposed street lit brown field urban development site is sufficiently removed from the Natura site such that there will be no impact either directly or indirectly with respect to disturbance for example ppv of a hydraulic roller at 25M is only 1.5mms which truck on rough surfaces only produce a ppv of &lt;2mm/s at 20M.</p> <p>There will be no activities associated with the development that would give rise to significant fugitive dust which would occur predominantly during the demolition and construction phases of the proposed development. Any such dust would be described as inert and harmless in the chemical context and would not contain any of the harmful compounds as described and listed in Atmospheric Emissions by T.A. Luft, (1986), section 2.3.</p> <p>During construction the noise source would be external in nature and as the dimensions are small compared to the location, in respect to the designated natura site, then as the sound energy is radiating it will spread over an area that is proportional to the square of the distance. As this is an inverse square law then the sound level will decline by 6dB for each doubling of distance and will not have a deleterious effect on the designated site either during demolition, construction or subsequent habitation. It can be projected that noise levels at the periphery of the Natura Sites would not be elevated above existing background either during demolition, construction or subsequent use. Typical values in the vicinity of the development post construction would be in the order of 55 -65 dB with the existing L16104 RTN remaining the dominant source of sound.</p> <p>Light is not of consideration as the proposed development is in an urban setting which is already street lit with no additional street lighting requirements.</p>

<p><b>2.3.6 Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.</b></p>	<p>No significant impacts are predicted given the limited scale, separation distance &gt;30 and short duration of the demolition, construction and phase of the proposed project which will connect to all the existing services (water, waste water, electricity, storm water). Subsequent use is not anticipated to produce any significant impacts either directly or indirectly. Although the site boundary is 35.8M from the proposed development site boundary this is extended to 56.6M from the actual footprint of the proposed C&amp; D works ( 65.6M from the aquatic section) with the intervening lands consisting of BL3 habitat.</p>
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<p><b>2.4 Screening Conclusion and Statement</b></p>	
<p><b>Screening Conclusion</b></p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment is not required as there would be no significant impacts either directly or indirectly on the identified Natura sites with respect to annexed habitat and / or annexed species either during demolition, construction or subsequent habitation.</p> <p>No specific mitigation measures or compensation measures are required to ensure that there are no direct or indirect impacts on the Natura sites habitats or species.</p>
<p><b>Completed by</b></p>	<p>Paul Neary B.Sc. (Hns. Env. Sc.), M.Sc (eco. Tox)</p>
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p>10/04/2021</p>

**3.0 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT \_ STAGE 1 SCREENING MATRIX  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX (FONSE)**

In accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

<p><b>3.0.1 Planning Application Number</b></p>	<p><b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, PART 8 (ARTICLE 81) (AS AMENDED)</b></p>
<p><b>3.0.2 Development Type</b></p>	<p>The proposed project is orientated around the demolition of the 2 existing pyrite damaged bungalow units and construction of 4 new replacement dwelling units in a 2 storey terrace comprising of 2 X 2-bed houses and 2 X 1 bed apartments, and all associated site works including connection to existing services (water, electricity, sewer, storm sewer), Green Road, Coolaney.</p>
<p><b>3.0.3 Development Location</b></p>	<p>The proposed brown field urban site is located at the Green Road, Coolaney Town, Co. Sligo and is located 73M East South East of the Coolaney L16104 bridge over the Owenbeg River, North of the L16104 at grid references 560818, 825277 (see attached location maps).</p>
<p><b>3.0.4 Natura 2000 site(s) within impact Zone</b></p>	<p>Unshin River SAC: Site Code 001898</p>
<p><b>3.0.5 Qualifying interests of Natura 2000 site(s)</b></p>	<p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>



<b>3.1 Name of project or plan</b>	<b>COOLANEY - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, PART 8 (ARTICLE 81) (AS AMENDED)</b>
<b>3.1.1 Name and Location of Natura 2000 Site</b>	<b>The Unshin River SAC terrestrial section is located 35.8M North East of the proposed site boundary with the aquatic section located 37.2M to the North East which places the the area of the proposed C&amp;D activity 56.6M from the aquatic section.</b>
<b>3.1.2 Description of the project or plan</b>	<b>The proposed project is orientated around the demolition of the 2 existing pyrite damaged bungalow units and the construction of 4 new replacement dwelling units in a 2 storey terrace comprising of 2 X 2-bed houses and 2 X 1 bed apartments, and all associated site works including connection to existing services (water, electricity, sewer, storm sewer) at Green Road, Coolaney involving short duration light demolition and construction works in an urban environment on a street lit brown field urban site over a period of circa 12months. A C &amp; D plan has been compiled to accompany the proposed development with the resulting demolition material to be transported to a licensed site for appropriate disposal.</b>
<b>3.1.3 Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>3.1.4 Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details) ?</b>	<b>There are no other projects or plans that in combination with the proposed project could impact on the Natura sites considered. The proposed plan is project to have a neutral impact given that there are no discharges to air, soil or water associated with the demolition, construction or subsequent use that could impact the Natura Sites; and given the separation distance , which is &gt;35.8M, all other potential impacts are negated by virtue of that separation distance. The urban street lit setting of the proposed development site is of consideration.</b> <b>Other plans and projects considered are;</b> <b>Directive - Birds Directive</b> <b>Directive - Habitats Directive</b> <b>Directive - Drinking Waters Directive</b> <b>Directive - Major Accidents and Emergencies Directive</b> <b>Directive - Environmental Impact Assessment Directive</b> <b>Directive - Sewage Sludge Directive</b> <b>Directive - Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive</b> <b>Directive - Plant Protection Products Directive</b> <b>Directive - Nitrates Directive</b>

	<p><b>Directive - Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Cost recovery for water use</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Promotion of efficient and sustainable water use</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Protection of drinking water sources</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Control of abstraction and impoundment</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Control of point source discharges</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Control of diffuse source discharges</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Authorisation of discharges to groundwaters</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Control of priority substances</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Controls on physical modifications to surface waters</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Controls on other activities impacting on water status</b></p> <p><b>Other Stipulated Measure - Prevention or reduction of the impact of accidental pollution incidents</b></p> <p><b>On-site waste water treatment systems</b></p> <p><b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel sub-basin plan</b></p> <p><b>Shellfish Pollution Reduction Plan</b></p> <p>Where the projected impact is considered neutral then no cumulative impacts are possible irrespective of the impacts attributed to any other plan or project, as those impacts would not be increased or exacerbated by the project considered.</p>
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<b>4.0 The assessment of significant effects</b>	
<b>4.0.1 Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site.</b>	<p>A desk top study in conjunction with on site survey (ecological, hydrological) was carried out on site. From this it was determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the Natura site either directly or indirectly, alone or in combination with other projects. The project impact is considered neutral. The development site is already the location of residential units which will be replaced due to pyrite damage which is a consideration.</p>
<b>4.0.2 Explain why these effects are not considered significant.</b>	<p>The effects are not considered significant as all potential indirect effects are negated by virtue of the separation distance between the area of demolition and construction and the SAC which exceeds 35.8M which is extended 65.6M to the aquatic section.</p> <p>The demolition and construction phase of the project is of extremely short duration and lacks the scale to have a direct or indirect, significant or insignificant impact on the Natura site and is located in an existing street lit urban setting on a brown field site which is already the location of existing residential units that it is proposed to replace due to the structural defects.</p>

	<p>None of the species for which the Natura site was designated are present on site nor would they populate the site given the lack of suitable habitat and the existing high level of anthropogenic activity in a street lit urban setting and distance to suitable habitat.</p> <p>There is no undesignated annexed habitat present on the proposed urban brown field development site.</p> <p>The species for which the Natura site was designated would not expand their range to encompass the development site as they are predominantly aquatic or confined to the areas adjacent to the River.</p> <p>The demolition and construction phase of the project is of short duration (less than 12months) with the completed project to be connected to all the existing services.</p> <p>All potential impacts can be accurately predicted from published data.</p>
<p><b>4.0.3 List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or email address.</b></p>	<p>As part of the process Sligo County Council would consult NPWS. To avoid duplication consultation with NPWS will be through that process.</p>
<p><b>4.0.4 Response to consultation.</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

**5.0 Data collected to carry out the assessment.**

Who carried out the Assessment?	Source of Data	Level of assessment completed.	Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed.
<p><b>Paul Neary Environmental Consultants</b></p>	<p><b>National Parks and Wild Life</b></p> <p><b>Geological Survey of Ireland</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Protection Agency</b></p> <p><b>Water frame Work Directive (water matters web site)</b></p> <p><b>National Bio diversity Centre</b></p> <p><b>Heritage Council</b></p> <p><b>Department of the Environment</b></p>	<p><b>Consultation Site Synopsis Birds and Habitats Regulations 49 &amp; 50. Threat Response Plans for Lutra Lutra Threat Response Plans for Vesper bats All Ireland Species action plan Bats All Ireland Species action Plan – Red Squirrel All Ireland Species Action Plan – Irish Lady’s Tresses, pollan, hare, corncrake. National Biodiversity Plan The Status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland.</b></p> <p><b>Bedrock Data. Aquifer Vulnerability. Soil and Sub soils Data. Aquifer potential. Source protection, karst and ground water well data.</b></p> <p><b>Water Quality Data. Air Quality Data.</b></p> <p><b>Status and objectives for ground water and surface water</b></p> <p><b>Data on species in area</b></p> <p><b>Data on species in area</b></p> <p><b>Circular NPW 1/10 &amp; PSSP 2/10 Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland</b></p>	<p><b>Paul Neary Stonehall Foxford Co. Mayo</b></p>

	<p><b>Department of Agriculture</b></p> <p><b>Inland Fisheries</b></p> <p><b>Freshwater Life – R. Fitter R. Manuel</b></p> <p><b>Biology of Fresh Waters -PS Maitland</b></p> <p><b>Dept. of the Environment, 1994</b></p> <p><b>Planning Policy Guidance: Nature Conservation</b></p> <p><b>Collins Field Guide to Freshwater Life, R. Fitter, R. Manuel.</b></p> <p><b>Domino Guide to Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland, Marjorie Blamey, Richard Fitter, Alastair Fitter.</b></p> <p><b>Collins Nature Guides to Wild Flowers of Britain and Europe, W. Lippert &amp; D. Podlech.</b></p> <p><b>Waterfowl Ecology M Owen &amp; J M Black</b></p> <p><b>Kingfisher Concise Field Guide to Animal &amp; Plants of Britain &amp; Europe, Michael Chinery</b></p> <p><b>The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland,</b></p>	<p><b>– Guidance for Planning Authorities.</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Plan – Nutrient management plans.</b></p> <p><b>Wild Salmon Management</b></p>	
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	<p><b>NPWS, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2008.</b></p> <p><b>European Commission. 2007b. Interpretation manual of European Union habitats. EUR27. European Commission, DG Environment.</b></p> <p><b>EPA. 2002. Guidelines on information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. EPA, Wexford.</b></p> <p><b>Biology of Fresh Waters, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, P S Maitland.</b></p> <p><b>Treweek, J. 1999 Ecological Impact Assessment Blackwell Science Ltd. Oxford</b></p> <p><b>EPA. 2003. Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements). EPA, Wexford.</b></p> <p><b>National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Conservation status in Ireland of habitats and species listed in the European Council directive on the</b></p>		
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	<p><b>conservation of habitats, flora and fauna 92/43/EEC.</b></p> <p><b>National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</b></p> <p><b>NPWS 2009 Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities Revised February 2010 Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government</b></p> <p><b>Southall, B.L., Bowles, A.E. Ellison, W.T., Finneran, J.J. Gentry, R.L. Greene, C.R., Kastak, D., Ketten,</b></p>		
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## **6.0 Overall Conclusions:**

**Appropriate Assessment is not required as there would be no significant or insignificant impacts either directly or indirectly on the identified Natura sites with respect to annexed habitat and / or annexed species either during demolition, construction or subsequent habitation.**

**The site is located in a street urban setting with no direct links to the Natura site with existing residential units present that it is proposed to replace due to structural defects..**

**On completion the project will be connected to all the existing services – sewer, storm water, water , electricity.**

**The species for which the SAC was designated are predominantly aquatic any would not expand there range to encompass the proposed development site.**

**The demolition and construction phase of the project lacks the scale and magnitude to impact the Natura site aquatic section which is at a minimum of 65.6M from the area of construction across existing BL3 habitat.**

**No specific mitigation measures or compensation measures are required to ensure that there are no direct or indirect impacts on the Natura sites habitats or species.**

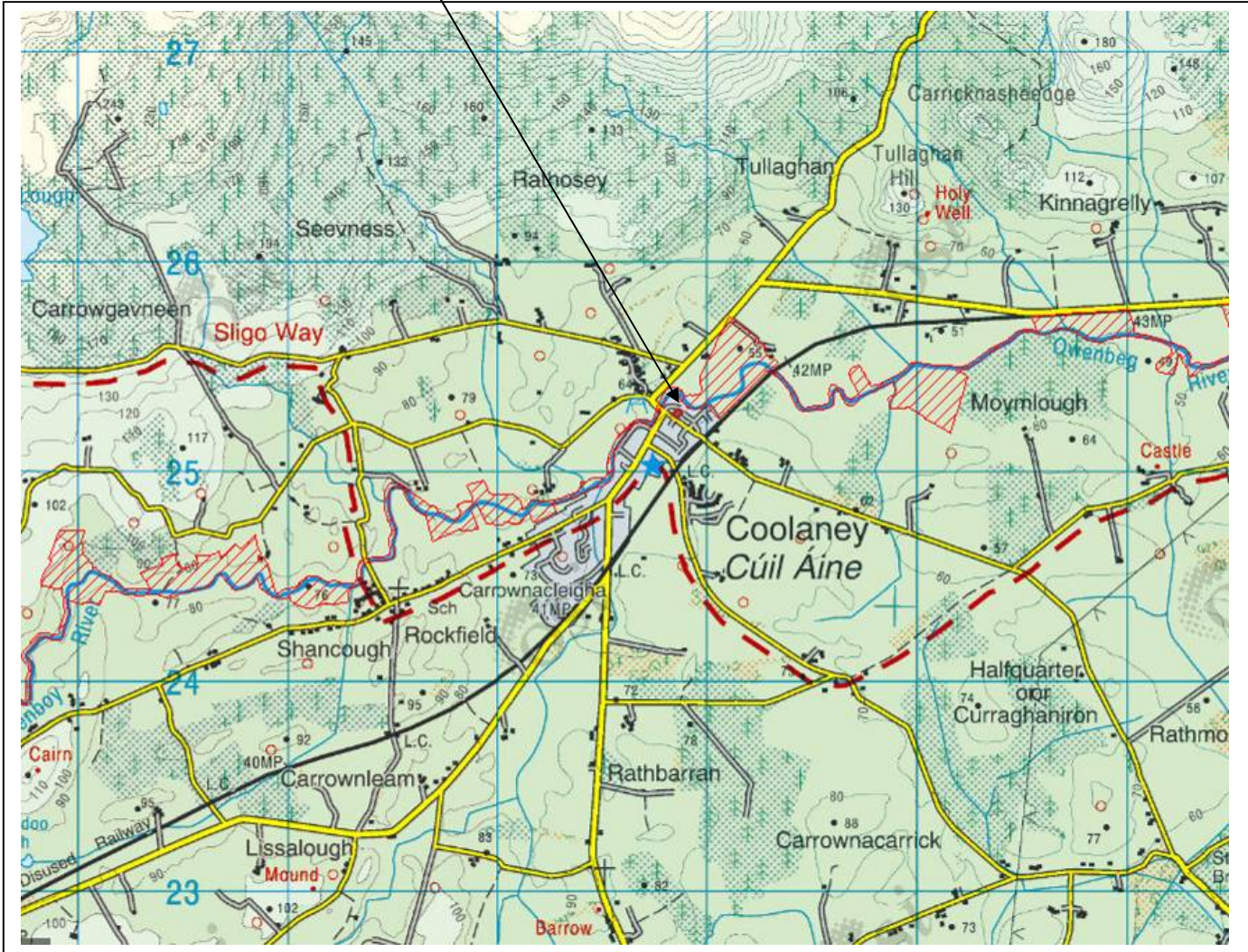
**Appendices: Attach Relevant Ecological data as required to support findings of stage 1 screening matrix.**



## **APPENDIX 1**

**MAP: 1 Development Location**

**SITE**



SITE



## **APPENDIX 2**

**ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REGARDING A**

**PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION**

**FOR THE**

Demolition of the Existing Residential Structures and replace with 4 New Residential Units

At the

Green Road, Coolaney, Co. Sligo



**Client: Sligo County Council**  
**County Hall**  
**Riverside**  
**Sligo**  
**Co. Sligo**

**Paul Neary B.Sc. (Hns. Env. Sc.) M.Sc. (Eco. Tox)**  
**Environmental Consultant**  
**Stonehall**  
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**Tel: 00353 87 2352811**  
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**1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION AND DESK TOP STUDY**

**1.2 PLOT HISTORY AND CURRENT LAND USE**

**1.3 ECOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**1.3.1 Ecological survey**

**1.3.2 Botany**

**1.3.3 Fauna**

**1.3.4 Avian Species**

**1.3.5 Amphibians**

**1.3.6 Entomology**

**Appendix 1: Habitat Map**

## **1.1 Site Description and desk top study**

The proposed brown field urban site is located at the Green Road, Coolaney Town, Co. Sligo and is located 73M East South East of the Coolaney L16104 bridge over the Owenbeg River, North of the L16104 at grid references 560818, 825277 (see attached location maps).

The proposed project is orientated around the demolition of the 2 existing pyrite damaged bungalow units and the construction of 4 new replacement dwelling units in a 2 storey terrace comprising of 2 X 2-bed houses and 2 X 1 bed apartments, and all associated site works including connection to existing services (water, electricity, sewer, storm sewer) at Green Road, Coolaney involving short duration light demolition and construction works in an urban environment on a street lit brown field urban site over a period of circa 12months. A C & D plan has been compiled to accompany the proposed development with the resulting demolition material to be transported to a licensed site for appropriate disposal.

The proposed site is located in a catchment which includes all streams entering tidal water in Sligo Bay and between Lenadon Point and Aughrus Point, Co. Donegal. The catchment has a surface area of 1,866km<sup>2</sup>. The largest urban centre is Sligo. The other main urban centers are Ballymote, Collooney, Ballysadare and Manorhamilton. The total population is approximately 59,184 with a population density of 32 people per km<sup>2</sup>. A small part of this catchment, 109km<sup>2</sup> is located within Northern Ireland. The statistics presented here refers only to the part of catchment located within The Republic. More specifically the site is located in the Owenbeg Sc 030 sub basin.

The underlying geology is DS (dinantian sandstone) which contains a locally important aquifer (L) of Low (L) vulnerability and a groundwater protection response R1. The principle soil group on site are "Made" ground which is in line with the urban setting – the GSI classify it as AminDW (acid mineral deep well drained grey / brown podzolics. The sub soil is a combination of Urban" and TNSSs - till derived chiefly from namurian sand stone and shales. The site is not located within a designated or proposed Natura site nor is it contiguous to one. The terrestrial section of the Unshin River SAC (site code 001898) is located 35.8 to the North East of the development site boundary with the actual construction area 65.6M from the aquatic section. The on site habitat is described as amenity grassland (GA2) and buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3). The urban street lit setting dictates that the surrounding land use consists of roads (L16104), amenity grassland and dwellings. The noise levels at the site are dominated by RTN from the adjacent L16104 road and urban area.

There is no existing qualitative or quantitative data for ground water in the immediate area of the proposed development but it is classified as "Good" by the NRBMP / WFD with an objective of "Protect" and considered "not at risk".

The North East flowing Order 5 Owenbeg River is located 56.6M North East of the site boundary. There is an EPA monitoring station down stream of the proposed site (RS35O010400). The Q values at this location were 4-5 in 2003, 4 in 2006, 4 in 2012 , 4 in 2015, and 4 in 2018 giving a Q Legend of "Good" and a linear Q value of 4. The Coolaney UWWTP D0392 discharges tertiary treated effluent to the Owenbeg order 5 river and has a design capacity of 2,500 with the current loading in the magnitude of p.e. 1.185.

Monitoring of the water quality yielded a result of 0.018mg/L for Ammonia (total as N) which is far from the IQG of 0.40mg/L. Ortho P is on a down wartd trajectory with a concentration of 0.005mg/L with is also far from the IQG of 0.025mg/L.

The Near surface nitrate susceptibility of the soils / sub soil is classified as 4 (pip) by the EPA with the near surface P susceptibility classified as 4 and sub surface nitrate susceptibility classified as 5.

The EPA has not assessed the relative risk to ground water from N, MRP and pathogens at this specific location which would be anticipated as there are no discharges to ground water to consider given the urban setting. The air quality in the area is described as very good (zone D) which translates to the following, SO<sub>2</sub> 0-49µgM<sup>-3</sup> (1hr average), NO<sub>2</sub> 0-36 µgM<sup>-3</sup> (1hr average), O<sub>3</sub> 0-39 µgM<sup>-3</sup> (1hr average) and PM<sub>10</sub> 0-19 µgM<sup>-3</sup> (24hr average).

## **1.2 Plot History and Current Land Use:**

The plot is currently considered disused residential buildings and disused amenity grassland. It is located in a street lit urban serviced street setting with continual anthropogenic activity and noise dominated by the RTN form the L16104 and the urban area.

## **1.3 ECOLOGICAL SURVEY**

(see maps)

### **1.3.1 Ecological survey :**

The habitat on site is classified as;

- (1) Amenity Grassland (GA2)
- (2) Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)

### **1.3.2 Botany**

Given the urban setting no meaningful botanical species are present.

### **1.3.3 Fauna.**

There was no direct or indirect evidence of any mammalian species present in the location of the proposed development. This was anticipated given the continual anthropogenic activity in an urban setting.

With respect to the potential for bat species the existing dwellings are new modern uninhabited structures with the roofs , windows, doors and render intact in an urban street lit environment which is not conducive to population by the species. The structures are not of sufficient vintage to permit population by large roosts of bat species and as they are structurally compromised are not viable long term options for roost options (deterioration will accelerate and eventually the structures will become damp and collapse). The dwellings are currently uninhabited\_however there was no evidence of insect remains or bat droppings on the external perimeter of the structure. The roof is entirely intact with no large, or small, voids or openings and the concrete barges, render, flashing, reveals, architrave and sills are all intact and in good condition with no substantial voids present. A grant of planning permission last for a 5 year period during which the development may occur,



and can be extended for a further 5 years on application to the relevant Local Authority. As bat species are highly mobile their current apparent absence does not preclude members of the species from utilising the existing structure at a future date should it deteriorate. Therefore any grant of planning should contain a condition where by the structure is resurveyed for bats prior to works commencing where the commencement of such works occurs outside a period 12 months from the last Bat Survey.

#### **1.3.4 Avian species.**

No annexed avian species were recorded in the location of the proposed development nor would any be anticipated. given the urban setting. Avian species would not nest, roost or forage at this location due to its urban setting, continual anthropogenic activity and potential for predation by domesticated feline and canines. The proposed demolition phase is anticipated to occur during late autumn / winter and as such is outside the nesting period.

#### **1.3.5 Amphibians.**

No Amphibian species were noted nor is there any suitable on site habitat suitable to support any populations of such species.

#### **1.3.6 Entomology.**






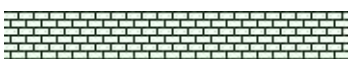
No invertebrate species of note were recorded.

Paul Neary B.Sc., M.Sc.  
\*\*PL321 (code 00805)

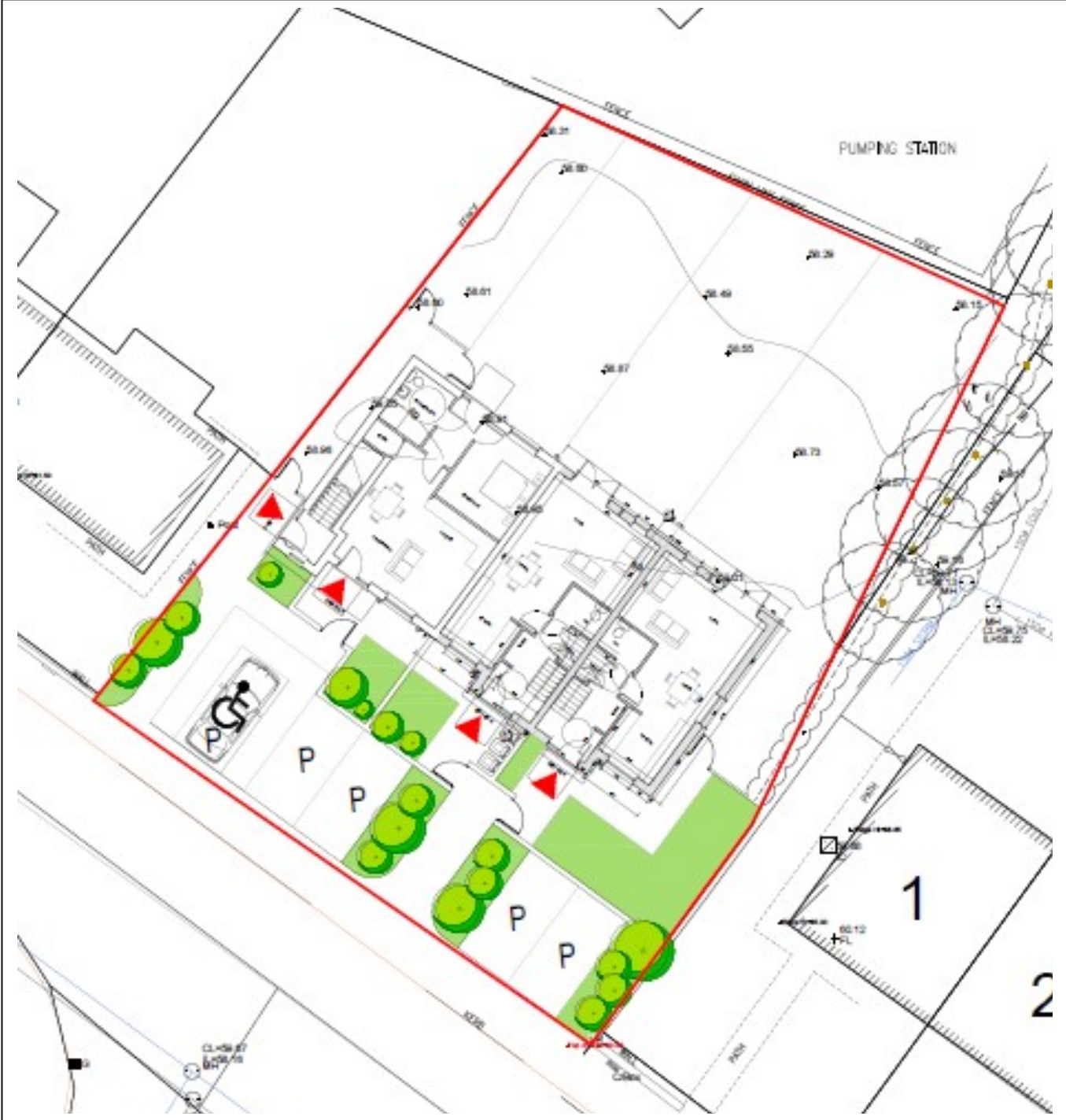
\*\* These codes indicate that Paul Neary is an approved environmentalist by NPWS / Duchas / Dept. of Agriculture for the carrying out of ecological assessments on NHA's, SAC's, SPA's, pNHA's and National Parks and the creation of management plans and frame work plans on the afore mentioned.

# HABITAT MAP



- Disturbed Ground (recolonising) (ED3)** 
- Ornamental / Non native shrubs (WS3)** 
- Amenity grassland (GA2 - disused)** 
- Drainage ditches (FW4)** 
- Hedgerows (WL1)** 
- Buildings and Artificial surfaces (BL3)** 

Site layout of proposed project:



**Existing Site of Proposed Development**



## **APPENDIX 3**

## SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: UNSHIN RIVER SAC: Version Rev 6: date 11/02/2016

SITE CODE: 001898

The Unshin River runs from Lough Arrow north to Ballysadare Bay, Co. Sligo. The river is largely undrained and unaltered along much of its course. The marginal vegetation associated with the river is also included in the site, along with other semi-natural habitats adjacent to the river (included in order to enhance its protection). Many of these habitat types are interesting and of conservation value in their own right. Other watercourses included within the site are the Owenboy/ Owenbeg and a number of smaller tributaries. The Unshin River flows across a number of geological boundaries between sandstone, shales and limestone. This results in unusual physico-chemical qualities which in turn are reflected in the rich and varied plant and animal populations.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3260] Floating River Vegetation

[6210] Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland\*

[6410] *Molinia* Meadows

[91E0] Alluvial Forests\*

[1106] Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)

[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

The Unshin River supports an excellent example of floating river vegetation. The diversity of aquatic macrophytes is exceptional, and to a certain extent the unusual combinations and richness of species can be accounted for by the good quality water being discharged from Lough Arrow upstream. The lake also imparts a stabilising influence on the flow regime and provides a source of lacustrine species – for example, Long-stalked Pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*). Plant species present which indicate base-rich conditions include Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*), Blunt-fruited Water-starwort (*Callitriche obtusangula*), Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus circinatus*) and the internationally rare River Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fluviatilis*). Species such as Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*), normally associated with more acidic peat pools, also occur. Fen and floating mire communities are represented by Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*), Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) and Water Avens (*Geum rivale*). A rare and unusual alga, *Nostoc parmelioides*, is also present.

There are a number of areas of woodland, many of which flood, included within the site. These wet alluvial woodlands are found on water-logged soils and species such as Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), willows (*Salix* spp.), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and birch (*Betula* spp.) are common. Occasionally, Lime (*Tilia* sp.) and Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) are found also. The ground flora is diverse in places, and species such as Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bottle Sedge (*C. rostrata*), Common

Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Hart's-tongue (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and Lady-fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) are all found. A number of non-native shrub species, some of which are invasive, are found: Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). The non-native herbs Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) and Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) have also been recorded.

Areas of grassland, ascribable to the E.U. Habitats Directive Annex I types: Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland and *Molinia* Meadows, have been reported at Cloonmacduff, according to the Irish Semi-natural Grasslands Survey, 2010. There are also extensive wetlands within this site, and one area contains the Red Data Book plant Swamp Meadow-grass (*Poa palustris*). The Unshin and its tributaries form a very important system for Atlantic Salmon, a species that is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The Owenboy/Owenbeg river is the principle spawning and nursery tributary for the system's salmon fishery. The Unshin and its tributaries is the most important salmon producing river in Co. Sligo. The system also supports a good population of Trout. The Annex II species Otter has been recorded in and near this site.

Two notable bird species which occur along the river are Whooper Swan, which feeds in the wet grasslands that flank the river, and Kingfisher. Both are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The trophic status of the river increases downstream indicating that some enrichment is taking place. However, the quality of the Unshin River and particularly its aquatic macrophyte communities, make it rare in both an Irish and European context, and it is considered one of the most pristine rivers in the country.

## **APPENDIX 4**



### THIRD SCHEDULE

#### Non-native species subject to restrictions under *Regulations 49 and 50*

##### Part 1: PLANTS

First column	Second column	Third column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
American skunk-cabbage	<i>Lysichiton tneiticum</i>	Throughout the State
A red alga	<i>Gratouopia doryphora</i>	Throughout the State
Brazilian giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	Throughout the State
Broad-leaved rush	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	Throughout the State
Cape pondweed	<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Throughout the State
Cord-grasses	<i>Spartina</i> (all species and hybrids)	Throughout the State
Curly waterweed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Throughout the State
Dwarf eel-grass	<i>Zostera japonia</i>	Throughout the State
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Throughout the State
Floating pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ratmculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Fringed water-lily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Throughout the State
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Throughout the State
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Throughout the State
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glanduUfera</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Throughout the State
Hottentot -fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Throughout the State
Japanese knotweed	<i>Pallopia japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Large-flowered waterweed	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Throughout the State
Mile-a-minute weed	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Throughout the State
New Zealand pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Throughout the State
Parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum uquaticum</i>	Throughout the State
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponlicum</i>	Throughout the State
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Throughout the State
Sea-buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Throughout the State
Spanish bluebell	<i>flyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Throughout the State
Three-cornered leek	<i>Alliwn triquetrum</i>	Throughout the State
Wakame	<i>Unduria pirmatifida</i>	Throughout the State
Water chestnut	<i>Trupa nrtans</i>	Throughout the State
Water fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Throughout the State
Water-primrose	<i>Ludwigia</i> (all species)	Throughout the State
Waterweeds	<i>Elodea</i> (all species)	Throughout the State
Wire weed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Throughout the State

##### Part 2: ANIMALS

A: animals to which Regulations 49 and 50 apply throughout the State or in particular places or categories of places.

First column	Second column	Third Column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
A colonial sea squirt	<i>Didemnum spp.</i>	Throughout the State
A colonial sea squirt	<i>Perophora japonica</i>	Throughout the State
All freshwater crayfish species except the white-clawed crayfish	<i>All freshwater crayfish species except Austropotamobius palipes</i>	Throughout the State
American bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Throughout the State
American mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Throughout the State
American oyster drill	<i>Urosalpinx dnerea</i>	Throughout the State
Asian oyster drill	<i>Ceratoslonia inornatum</i>	Throughout the State
Asian rapa whelk	<i>Rapana venosa</i>	Throughout the State
Asian river clam	<i>Corbicula fluminea</i>	Throughout the State
Bay barnacle	<i>Balanus improvisus</i>	Throughout the State
Black rat	<i>Rattus reams</i>	Offshore islands only
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Throughout the State
Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Offshore islands only
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Throughout the State
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Throughout the State
Chinese mitten crab	<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Chinese water deer	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>	Throughout the State
Chub	<i>Leuciscus cephalus</i>	Throughout the State
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Throughout the State
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Throughout the State
Dace	<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	Throughout the State
Freshwater shrimp	<i>Dikero gammarus villosus</i>	Throughout the State
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Offshore islands only
Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Throughout the State
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Throughout the State
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Offshore islands only
Irish stoat	<i>Mustela erminea hibernica</i>	Offshore islands only
Japanese skeleton shrimp	<i>Caprella mutica</i>	Throughout the State
Muntjac deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Throughout the State
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Throughout the State
Quagga Mussel	<i>Dreissena rostriformis</i>	Throughout the State
Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Throughout the State
Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Throughout the State
Ruddy duck	<i>Oxyru jamaicensis</i>	Throughout the State

First column	Second column	Third Column
Siberian chipmunk	<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>	Throughout the State
Slipper limpet	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	Throughout the State
Stalked sea squirt	<i>Styela clava</i>	Throughout the State
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Throughout the State
Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Throughout the State
Zebra mussel	<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>	Throughout the State

B: animals to which specified provisions of Regulations 49 and 50 apply.

First column	Second column	Third Column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	Throughout the State
Sika deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	Throughout the State

### Part 3: VECTOR MATERIALS

First column	Second column	Third Column
Vector material	Species referred to	Geographical application
Blue mussel ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) seed for aquaculture taken from places (including places outside the State) where there are established populations of the slipper limpet ( <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> ) or from places within 50 km. of such places	Mussel ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) Slipper limpet ( <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> )	Throughout the State
Soil or spoil taken from places infested with Japanese knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ), giant knotweed ( <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i> ) or their hybrid Bohemian knotweed ( <i>Fallopia x bohémica</i> )	Japanese knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ) Giant knotweed ( <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i> ) Bohemian knotweed ( <i>Fallopia x bohémica</i> )	Throughout the State

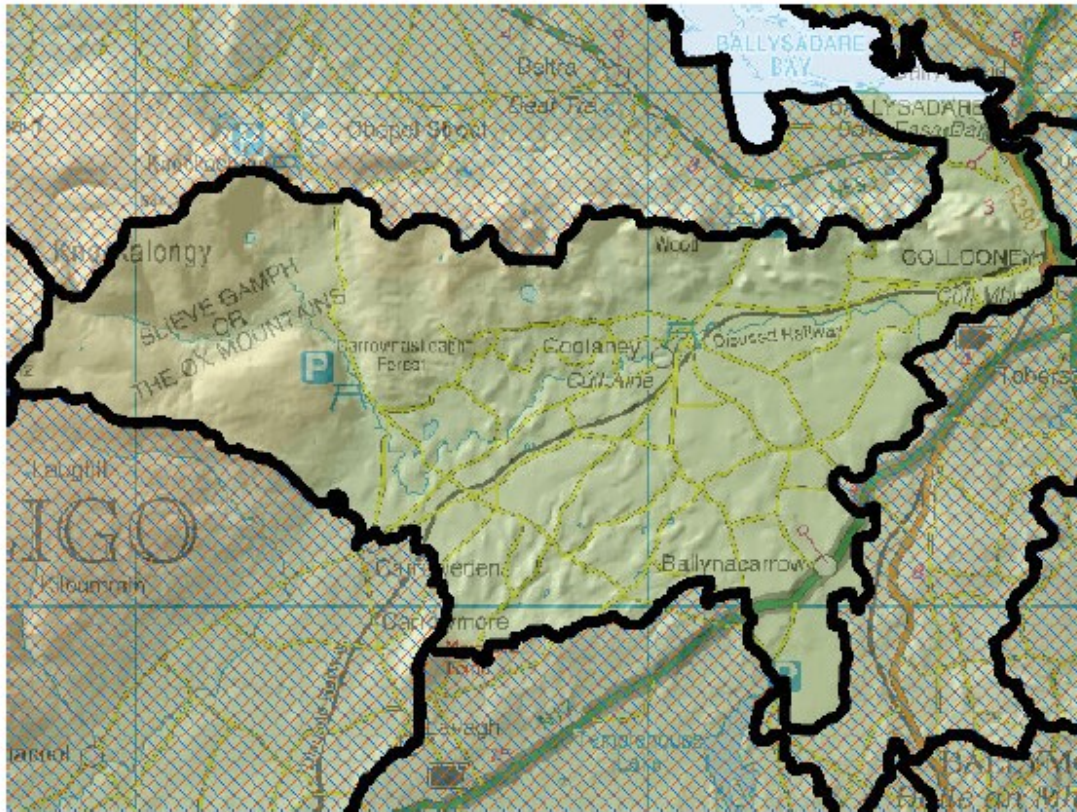
## **APPENDIX 5**

## WFD Cycle 2

Catchment Sligo Bay & Drowse

Subcatchment Owenmore[Sligo]\_SC\_040

Code 35\_4



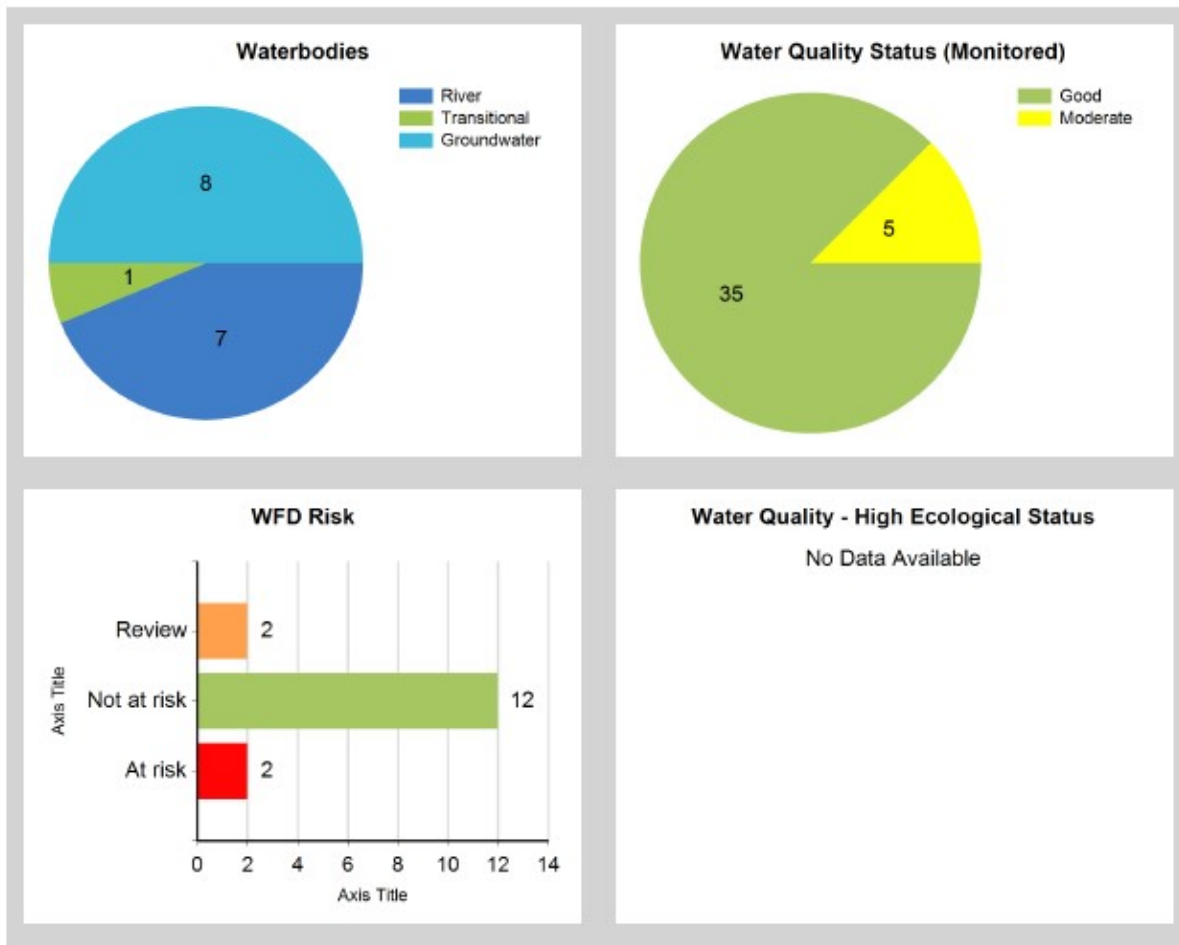
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Generated on: 15 Jan 2019

## Assessment Purpose

This assessment has been produced as part of the national characterisation programme undertaken for the second cycle of Water Framework Directive river basin management planning. It has been led by the EPA, with input from Local Authorities and other public bodies, and with support from RPS consultants.

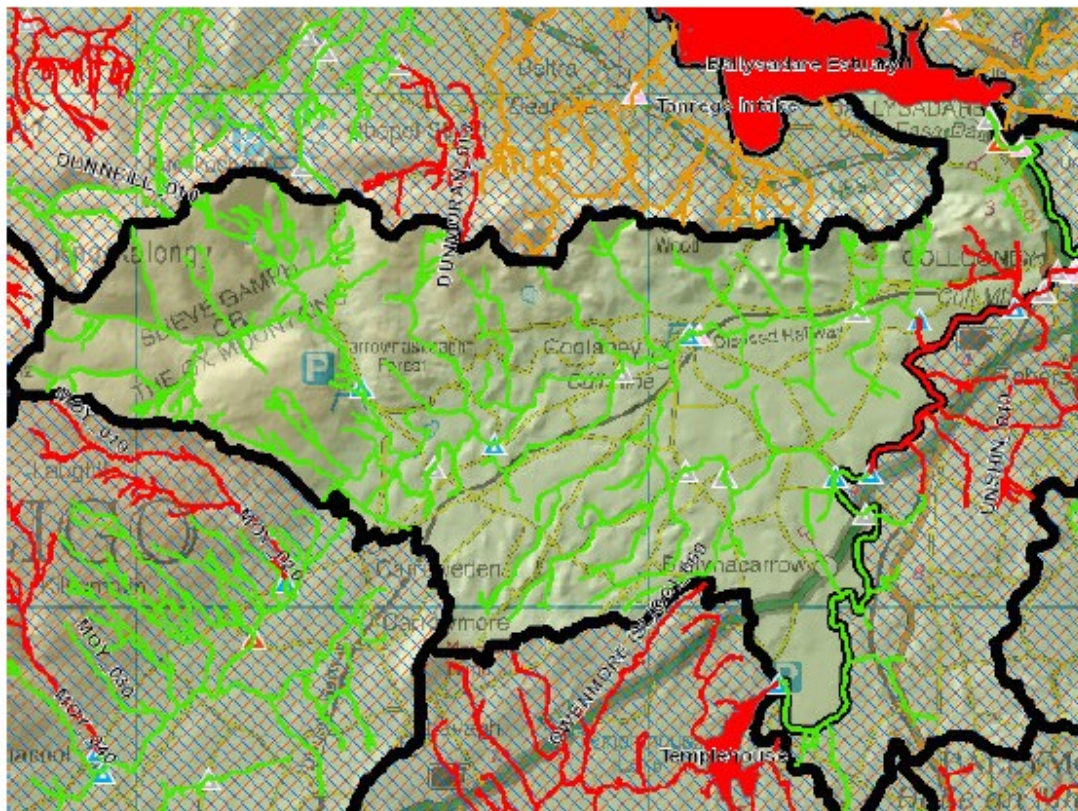
The characterisation assessments are automatically generated from the information stored in the WFD Application. They are based on information available to the end of 2015 but may be subject to change until the final 2018-21 river basin management plan is published. Users should ensure that they have the most up to date information by downloading the latest assessment before use.



## Evaluation of Priority Subcatchment Issues

Ecological status is generally Good throughout the subcatchment and six of the seven RWBs are Not at Risk. The only exception is Owenmore (Sligo)\_D80, where ecological status is Moderate and baseline concentrations of ammonia exceeded the EQS at the monitoring station downstream of a wastewater treatment works. Two Storm Water Overflows (SWOs) are due to be upgraded. A local catchment assessment will determine if the water quality has improved as a result of these works.

## Map Subcatchment Risk Map

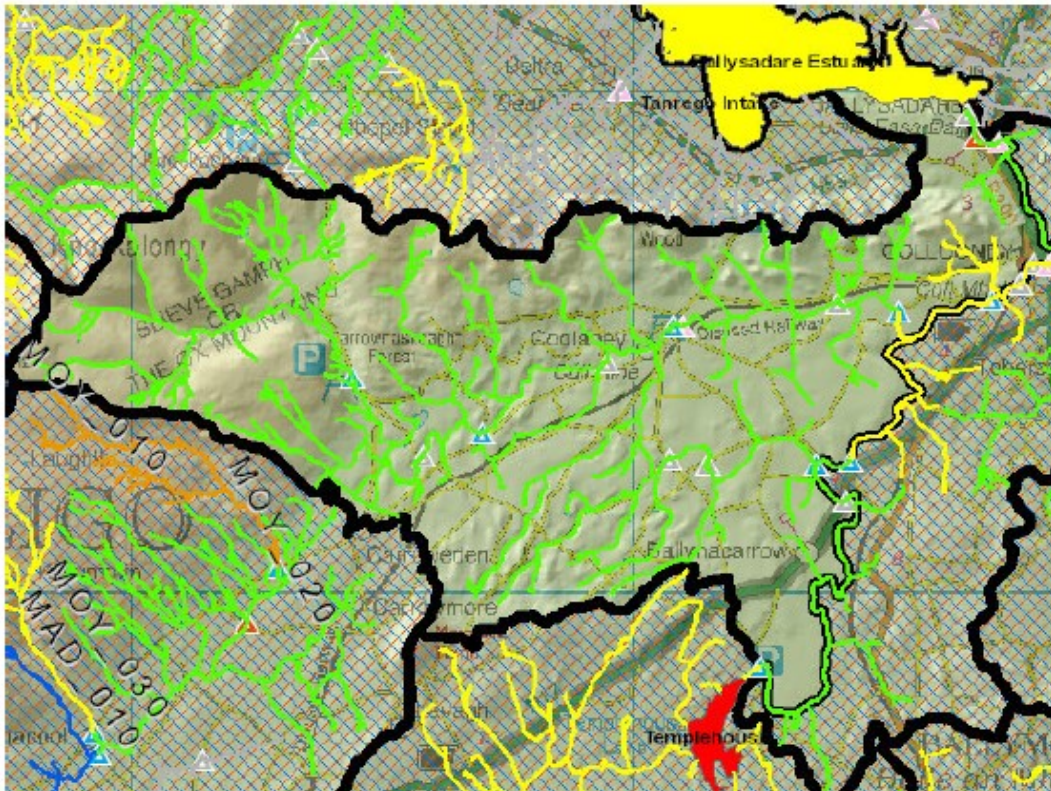


## River And Lake Waterbodies: WFD Risk

The following river and lake waterbodies are in the subcatchment.

Code	Name	Type	WFD Risk	Significant Pressure
IE_WE_35O060900	OWENMORE (SLIGO)_080	River	At risk	Yes
IE_WE_35B050100	BALLYSODARE_010	River	Not at risk	Yes

## Map Subcatchment Water Quality Status Map





## River And Lake Waterbodies: Water Quality Status

The water quality status of river and lake waterbodies in the subcatchment is as follows.

Code	Name	Type	2007-09	2010-12	2010-15
IE_WE_35B050100	BALLYSODARE_010	River	Good	Good	Good
IE_WE_35K021000	KILLORAN LOUGH STREAM_010	River	Good	Good	Good
IE_WE_35O010030	OWENBEG (COOLANEY)_010	River	Good	Good	Good
IE_WE_35O010070	OWENBEG (COOLANEY)_020	River	Good	Good	Good
IE_WE_35O010400	OWENBEG (COOLANEY)_030	River	Good	Good	Good
IE_WE_35O060610	OWENMORE (SLIGO)_070	River	Good	Good	Good
IE_WE_35O060900	OWENMORE (SLIGO)_080	River	Good	Moderate	Moderate

## Potentially Dependent Transitional and Coastal Waterbodies

The Transitional and Coastal waterbodies listed below intersect spatially with river and lake waterbodies in the subcatchment ...

Code	Name	Type	Local Authority	WFD Risk
IE_WE_460_0300	Ballysadare Estuary	Transitional	Sligo County Council	At risk

## Potentially Dependent Groundwater Waterbodies

The groundwaters listed below intersect spatially with river and lake waterbodies in the subcatchment ...

Code	Name	Type	Local Authority	WFD Risk
IE_WE_G_0032	Kilkelly Charlestown	Groundwater	Mayo County Council	Not at risk
IE_WE_G_0033	Swinford	Groundwater	Mayo County Council	Not at risk
IE_WE_G_0034	Foxford	Groundwater	Mayo County Council	Not at risk
IE_WE_G_0037	Ballymote	Groundwater	Sligo County Council	Not at risk
IE_WE_G_0038	Lavagh-Ballintougher	Groundwater	Sligo County Council	Not at risk
IE_WE_G_0039	Ballygawley	Groundwater	Sligo County Council	Not at risk
IE_WE_G_0040	Carrowmore West	Groundwater	Sligo County Council	Review
IE_WE_G_0048	Collooney	Groundwater	Sligo County Council	Review

## Protected Areas intersecting River and Lake Waterbodies

The Protected Areas listed below intersect spatially with river and lake waterbodies in the subcatchment ...

Code	Name	Type	Waterbody Name	Association Type
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## Pressures

Below is a list of all significant pressures identified in the subcatchment.

Code	Name	WFD Risk	Pressure Category	Pressure Sub Category
IE_WE_35O060900	OWENMORE (SLIGO)_080	At risk	Urban Waste Water	Agglomeration PE of 2,001 to 10,000
IE_WE_480_0300	Ballysadare Estuary	At risk	Agriculture	Agriculture
IE_WE_480_0300	Ballysadare Estuary	At risk	Urban Waste Water	Agglomeration PE of 2,001 to 10,000
IE_WE_G_0040	Carrowmore West	Review	Anthropogenic Pressures	Unknown
IE_WE_G_0048	Collooney	Review	Anthropogenic Pressures	Unknown

## Further Characterisation Actions

The following further characterisation actions have been identified. These are necessary to help understand more fully issues in the subcatchment and their likely cause.

Code	Name	Action	Responsible Organisation
IE_WE_35O060900	OWENMORE (SLIGO)_080	IA1 Provision of Information	Environmental Protection Agency

## **APPENDIX 6**

**The Conservation Objectives used in the generation of this report are**

**UNSHIN RIVER SAC 001898 Version 8 Version Date: 23/03/2021**

**The Detailed Conservation Objectives and Supporting Documents are available for reference on the NPWS**

**Web site**