

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Proposed demolition and replacement of dwellings and associated works at Gormley Villas, Bunninadden, Co. Sligo.



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STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd (“Woodrow”) was commissioned by Sligo County Council to collate information to inform a screening for Appropriate Assessment. This work assesses the potential for impacts upon European Sites as a result of the Proposed Development. The development, located approximately 7 km south-west of Ballymote town, comprises the demolition of 6no 1 Bed dwellings and the construction of a new development on the site following demolition (4no. 1 bed and 2no. 2bed dwellings).

A screening report is required in order to assess the potential for likely significant effects (LSEs) of the Proposed Development on any European Site within the Natura 2000 Network and the Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the sites. The term “likely significant effect”, hereafter “LSE”, is used where a plan or project is likely to have an adverse impact upon the integrity of a European Site or its conservation objectives. The precautionary principle should be employed where any uncertainty arises regarding the potential for adverse impacts upon the Qualifying Interests of a European Site. These effects are to be fully considered within the screening process.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report provides the information necessary to fulfil the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and Regulation 42 of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 in determining the potential impacts on European Sites resulting from the proposal.

1.2 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening

The European Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive) was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Habitats Regulations). Regulation 42(1) of the 2011 Regulations requires that *“a screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European Site”*. If, following the screening process, an LSE is predicted or cannot be ruled out, under Regulation 42(6), an Appropriate Assessment is required in order to determine the potential for impact on the integrity of a European Site. In the event of a negative assessment in terms of an adverse effect on site integrity, a proposal can only be consented in the absence of feasible alternatives and for ‘Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest’ (IROPI). In such cases, compensatory measures are required to ensure that the integrity of the European Site is maintained.

1.3 Structure / Layout of the Report

The sections, paragraphs and tables of this report relate in sequence to the process of assessing the potential impact of the project in the context of sequential requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

2 DESCRIPTION AND FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Location of the Application Site

The Proposed Development is situated in Bunnanadden, Co. Sligo, approximately 7 km south-west of Ballymote town (Figure 1). The site lies on a minor road, around 200m west of the R296 that runs through Bunnanadden.

The site lies just outside the main village and is surrounded by agricultural fields. There are no watercourses in the immediate vicinity of the site, with the Bunnanadden Stream the closest watercourse, being 310m to the north-west of the site.

Figure 1 shows the location of the site in the wider area, while Figure 2 shows the site in the context of Bunnanadden.

2.2 Description of the Proposed Development

The proposal is to demolish the existing 6no 1 Bed dwellings on the site (due to issues arising from Pyrite contamination of the structural blockwork) and construct a new development comprising 4no. 1 bed and 2no. 2bed dwellings.

The new dwellings will link into the combined sewer system that links to the existing Bunnanadden wastewater treatment plant, which was upgraded in 2013 and has a capacity of 400PE.

An attenuation system will form part of the development to control the surface water disposal to the combined sewer.

Figure 3 shows the proposed site layout, and Figure 4 shows the proposed services layout for the site.

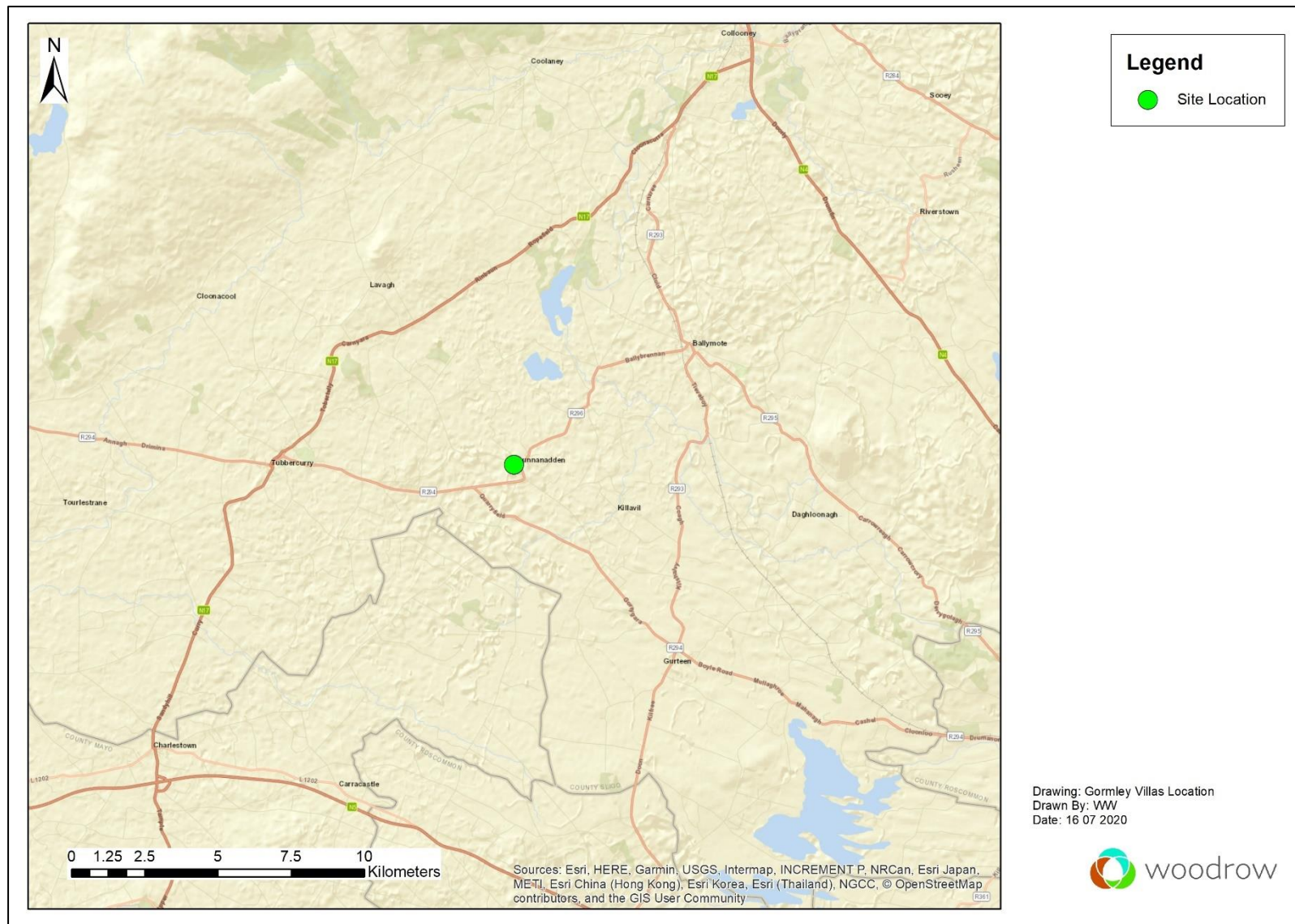


Figure 1: Location of the Application Site in the context of the wider area

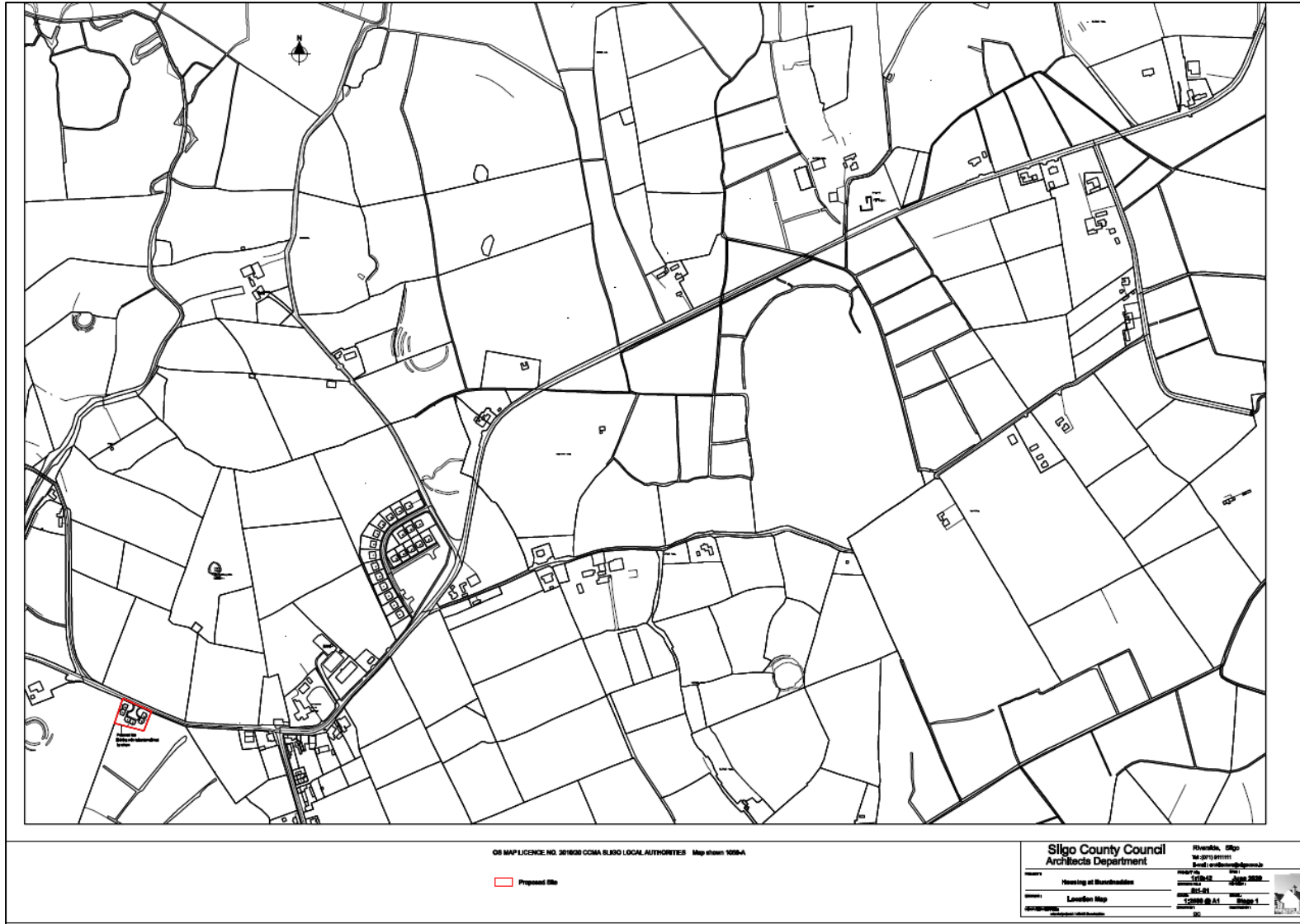


Figure 2: Location of the Application Site (bottom left, outlined in red) in the context of Bunnanadden



Figure 3: Proposed site plan

3 POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON EUROPEAN SITES

The following sections provide information on the European Designated Sites that exist within the same water catchment of the Proposed Development, and sites where there is the potential for disturbance to occur from the Proposed Development. The proposal is then assessed based on the location of these, their Qualifying Interests (QIs), and any source-pathway-receptor linkages that could result in damage to such sites as a result of the proposal. The conservation objectives of these sites are listed, and a conclusion is drawn on the Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon the Qualifying Interests of each European Site.

3.1 Zone of Influence

In some cases, a standard 15 km distance from a proposal is used as an initial possible Zone of Influence (Zoi) within which European Sites should be screened for likely impacts. However, in reality, potential impacts on sites are dependent on the nature of the impacts arising, the sensitivity of receptors, and the causal links and conduits, rather than on distance. In many cases, the potential Zoi is considerably less than 15 km (for example noise and airborne pollution), whereas the potential Zoi could be greater than 15 km if there is a direct surface water or ground water connection to a designated site.

The European Sites within 15km of this proposal are listed in **Error! Reference source not found.** and shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** **Error! Reference source not found.** also states whether these sites are considered to be within the Zone of Influence of the proposal.

Table 1 - European designated sites within the wider area and potential to fall within the Zone of Influence of the proposal (shown in grey)

European Site	Qualifying Interests	Distance from the proposed development	Potential for pathways to ecological receptors and consideration whether the site falls within the Zone of Influence
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)			
Turloughmore SAC (Site code: 000637)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	4.96 km	Site lies within the same aquifer as the proposal. Yes – This European Site falls within the Zone of Influence
Doocastle Turlough SAC (Site Code: 000492)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	3.20 km	Site lies within the same aquifer as the proposal. Yes – This European Site falls within the Zone of Influence
Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC (Site Code: 000636)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] 	2.25 km	Site is within the same catchment as the proposal. The only potential link is a downstream hydrological link from the Bunnanadden waste water treatment plant discharge location. Yes – This European Site falls within the Zone of Influence
River Moy SAC (Site Code: 002298)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alkaline fens [7230] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, 	11.89 km	Site not within the same catchment as the proposal. No potential connection (eg due to hydrological link or proximity). No - This European Site falls outside the Zone of Influence

Demolition of existing dwellings and construction of new dwellings, Gormley Villas, Bunnanadden, Co Sligo July 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] 		
Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC (Site Code: 001656)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii) [8120] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] 	10.27 km	No potential connection (eg due to hydrological link or proximity). No - This European Site falls outside the Zone of Influence
Unshin River SAC (Site Code: 001898)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] 	13.69 km	Site is within the same catchment as the proposal. The only potential link is a downstream hydrological link from the Bunnanadden waste water treatment plant discharge location. Yes – This European Site falls within the Zone of Influence
Flughany Bog SAC (Site Code: 000497)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] 	4.13 km	No potential connection (eg due to hydrological link or proximity). No - This European Site falls outside the Zone of Influence
Cloonakilla Lough SAC (Site Code: 001899)	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	5.26 km	No potential connection (eg due to hydrological link or proximity). No - This European Site falls outside the Zone of Influence
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Lough Gara SPA (IE0004048)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038] Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] 	12.97 km	No potential connection (eg due to hydrological link, proximity or potential to support QI species). No - This European Site falls outside the Zone of Influence

3.2 Potential for Significant Effect on European Sites within the potential Zone of Influence

Further information is provided here on the four designated areas listed in **Error! Reference source not found.** as potentially falling within the Zone of Influence.

The following sections provide information relation to each individual European site, to be taken account of in the screening matrix on potential impacts and significant effect. Within each section, the site's conservation objectives are laid out, the potential for the proposal to affect them is considered and a conclusion on potential for the proposal to have a significant effect on the features (and therefore the Natura site) is made.

3.2.1 Turloughmore Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 000637)

Turloughmore SAC, at its nearest point, lies just under 5km to the north-west of the proposal. The NPWS Site Synopsis describes the site as follows:

Turloughmore occupies a hollow in the drift-covered ridges north-east of Tobercurry in Co. Sligo. It is less calcareous than most turloughs and is also relatively free-draining, resulting in the fact that there are no long-lasting pools left when groundwater levels subside. The reason for this seems to be the sandy glacial drift which fills the basin. This is derived from the acidic rocks to the north, rather than the limestones to the south-east. The drift gives a smooth outline to the turlough and there is only a single small outcrop of rock. A raised bog encroaches from the east, which creates an unusual zonation on this side. Pasture, some of which floods at times of very high water levels, surrounds the remainder of the turlough.

Conservation Objectives

Conservation objectives for the site are:

- 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:
 - *Turloughs [3180]* (* - denotes priority habitat)*

Potential for Significant Effect

As detailed in section 3.1, Turloughmore SAC falls within the Zone of Influence of the proposal as a result of being within the same aquifer as the turlough, therefore resulting on theoretical potential for connectivity via groundwater. The location of the proposal and Turloughmore SAC, in the context of groundwater aquifers is shown in Figure 6.

As detailed in section 2.2, the proposal comprises the demolition of the existing 6no 1 Bed dwellings on the site (due to issues arising from Pyrite contamination of the structural blockwork) and construction of a new development comprising 4no. 1 bed and 2no. 2bed dwellings, with the new dwellings linked into the combined sewer system that links to the existing Bunnanadden wastewater treatment plant, which was upgraded in 2013 and has a capacity of 400PE. In addition, an attenuation system will form part of the development to control the surface water disposal to the combined sewer.

The proposal is therefore limited in extent and will not result in any ongoing groundwater impacts, since effluents link into the existing combined sewer system.

Taking account of the above limited size and nature of the proposal and its link into the existing combined sewer system, and the distance of 4.96km from the proposal to the European Site, means that there is not considered to be any potential for significant effect on this European Site.

3.2.2 Doocastle Turlough Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 000492)

Doocastle Turlough SAC, at its nearest point, lies just over 3km to the south-west of the proposal. The NPWS Site Synopsis describes the site as follows:

Doocastle turlough occurs on the county boundary between Mayo and Sligo, southeast of Tobercurry. Its basin is orientated along a north-west/south-east axis on gently undulating fluvioglacial deposits, with little exposed rock visible. The turlough is marl-free and in this regard resembles the nearby Turloughmore and Moylough, as well as Castleplunket and Carrowreagh in Roscommon.

Conservation Objectives

Conservation objectives for the site are:

- 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:
 - *Turloughs [3180]* (* - denotes priority habitat)*

Potential for Significant Effect

As with Turloughmore SAC and as detailed in section 3.1, Doocastle Turlough SAC falls within the Zone of Influence of the proposal as a result of being within the same aquifer as the turlough, therefore resulting on theoretical potential for connectivity via groundwater. The location of the proposal and Doocastle Turlough SAC, in the context of groundwater aquifers is shown in Figure 6.

As detailed in section 2.2, the proposal comprises the demolition of the existing 6no 1 Bed dwellings on the site (due to issues arising from Pyrite contamination of the structural blockwork) and construction of a new development comprising 4no. 1 bed and 2no. 2bed dwellings, with the new dwellings linked into the combined sewer system that links to the existing Bunnanadden wastewater treatment plant, which was upgraded in 2013 and has a capacity of 400PE. In addition, an attenuation system will form part of the development to control the surface water disposal to the combined sewer.

The proposal is therefore limited in extent and will not result in any ongoing groundwater impacts, since effluents link into the existing combined sewer system.

Taking account of the above limited size and nature of the proposal and its link into the existing combined sewer system, and the distance of 3.2km from the proposal to the European Site, means that there is not considered to be any potential for significant effect on this European Site.

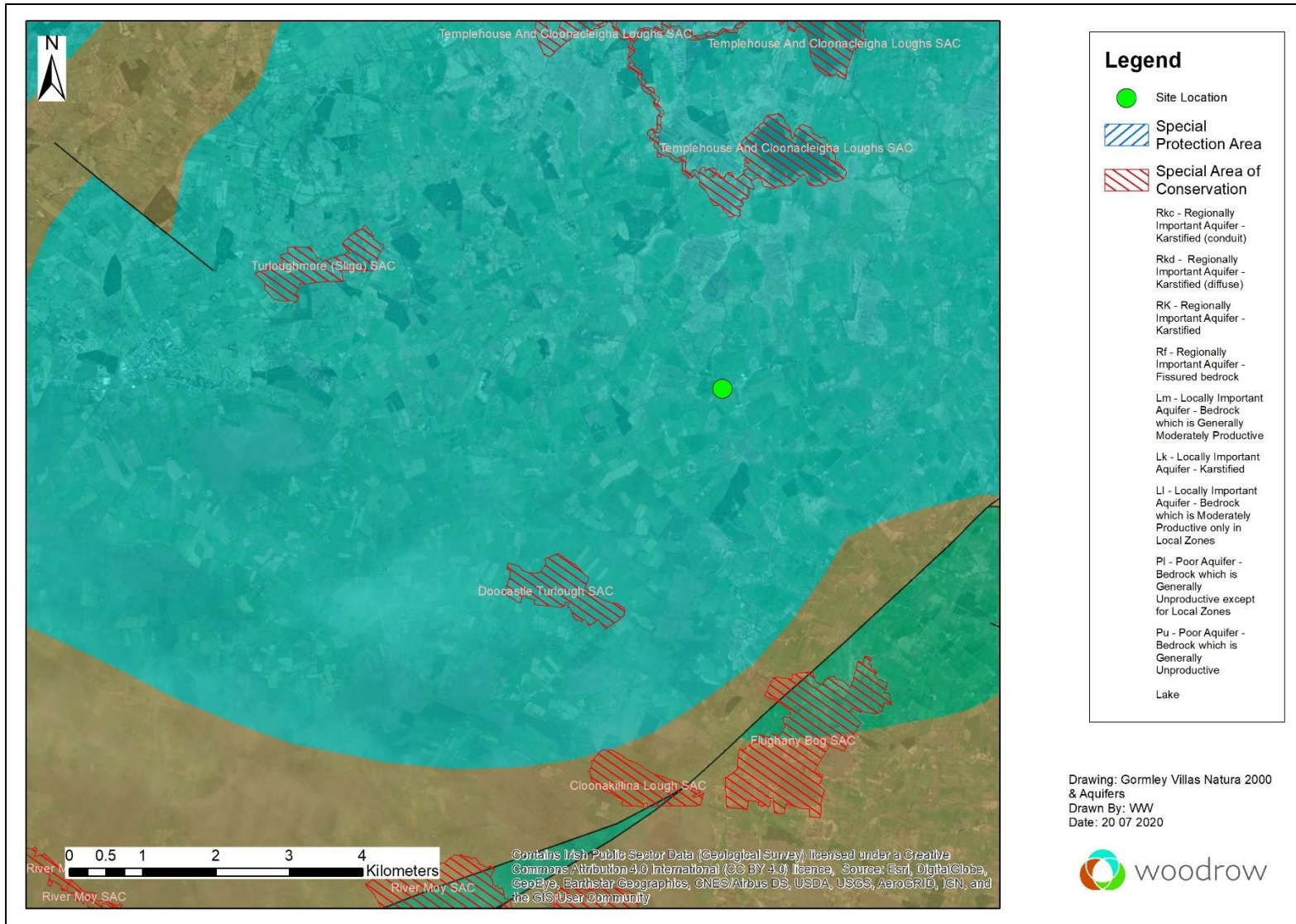


Figure 6: Application Site in the context of Groundwater aquifers and European Sites

3.3 Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000636)

Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC, at its nearest point, lies 2.25 km to the north-east of the proposal. The NPWS Site Synopsis described the site as follows:

This site is located approximately 5km north-west of Ballymote, County Sligo. It comprises 3 shallow, hard water lakes - Templehouse Lough, Cloonacleigha Lough and Killawee Lough which are interconnected by the Owenmore River. The lakes are situated on Carboniferous limestone, but are surrounded by low, peat-covered hills.

Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs support a wide diversity of wetland communities including floating and submerged aquatic habitats, tall fen vegetation, carr and wet woodland. Other habitats within the site are mixed woodland, lowland wet grassland, raised bog and cutaway bog.

Conservation objectives

Conservation objectives for the site are:

- 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:
 - *Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]*
 - *Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]*

Potential for Significant Effect

As detailed in section 3.1, Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC falls within the Zone of Influence of the proposal as a result of being within the same catchment, and having a hydrological link from the Bunnanadden waste water treatment plant (WWTP) discharge location. The location of the proposal and the hydrological link from the WWTP to the SAC is shown in Figure 7.

The distance from the WWTP to the SAC by watercourse is 2.7km. It is considered that the QI *Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]* has the potential to occur from this point on. However, the distance between the WWTP and the QI *Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]* is 11.05km (where the river flows into Templehouse Lake).

The Bunnanadden WWTP was upgraded in 2013 and has a capacity of 400PE. The current load on the WWTP is within its designed capacity. The proposal is to demolish dwellings with a capacity of 6 people and replace them with dwellings with a capacity of 8 people. The increase in loading on the WWTP as a result of the proposal is therefore 2 PE.

Taking account of this and the WWTP capacity, there is not considered to be any potential for significant effect on this European Site.

3.4 Unshin River Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001898)

Unshin River SAC, at its nearest point, lies 13.69 km to the north of the proposal. The NPWS Site Synopsis described the site as follows:

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.

Conservation objectives

Conservation objectives for the site are:

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

Potential for Significant Effect

As detailed in section 3.1, the Unshin River SAC falls within the Zone of Influence of the proposal as a result of being within the same catchment, and having a hydrological link from the Bunnanadden waste water treatment plant (WWTP) discharge location. The location of the proposal and the hydrological link from the WWTP to the SAC is shown in Figure 8.

The distance of the SAC from the proposal is 13.69km. However, the distance from the WWTP to the SAC by watercourse is well in excess of 25.85 km. QI features that may be affected by water quality impacts are Atlantic salmon (1106) and Otter (1355).

The Bunnanadden WWTP was upgraded in 2013 and has a capacity of 400PE. The current load on the WWTP is within its designed capacity. The proposal is to demolish dwellings with a capacity of 6 people and replace them with dwellings with a capacity of 8 people. The increase in loading on the WWTP as a result of the proposal is therefore 2 PE.

Taking account of this and the WWTP capacity, there is not considered to be any potential for significant effect on this European Site.

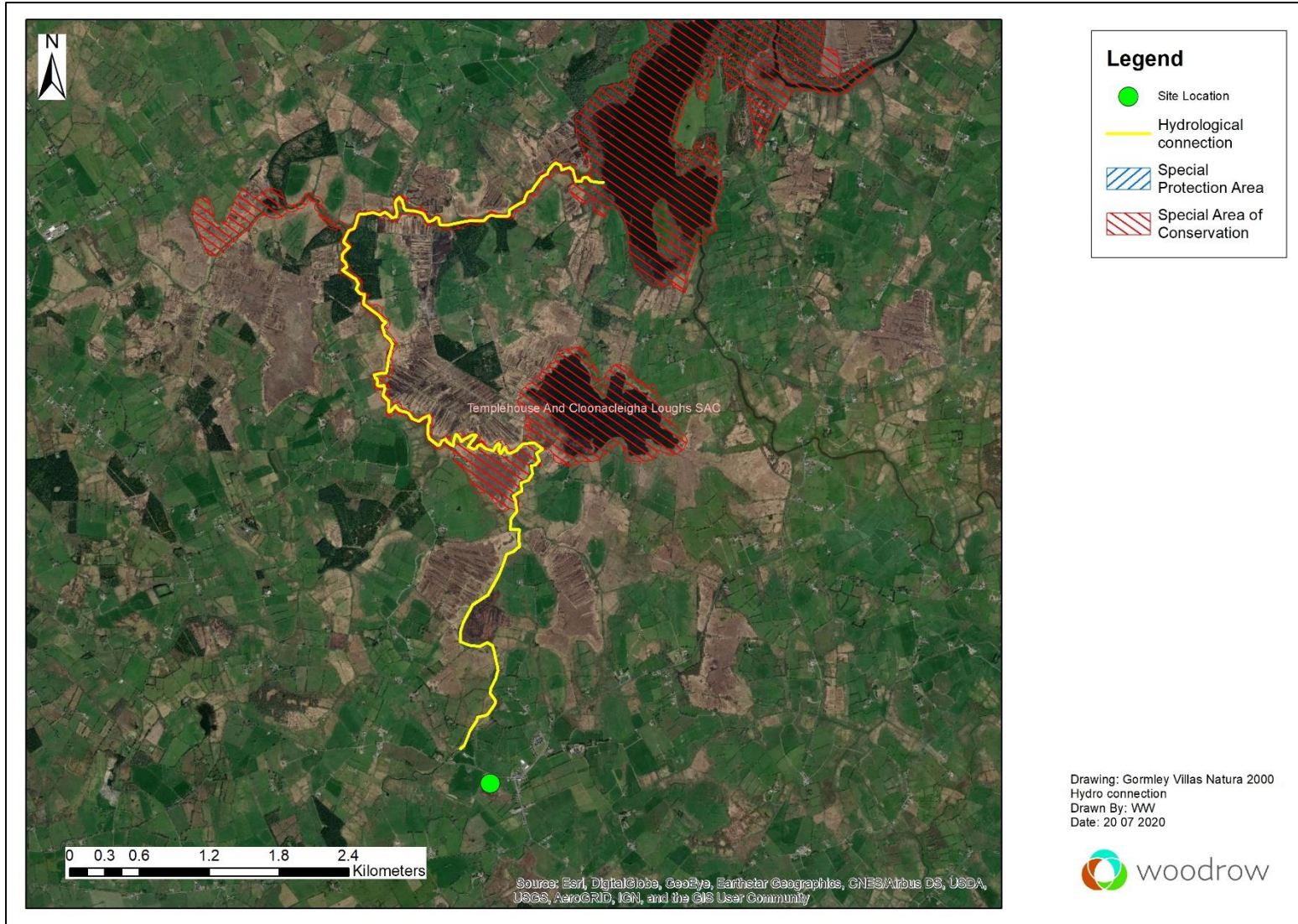


Figure 7: Application Site in the context of surface water connection between the Bunnanadden WWTP and European Sites.

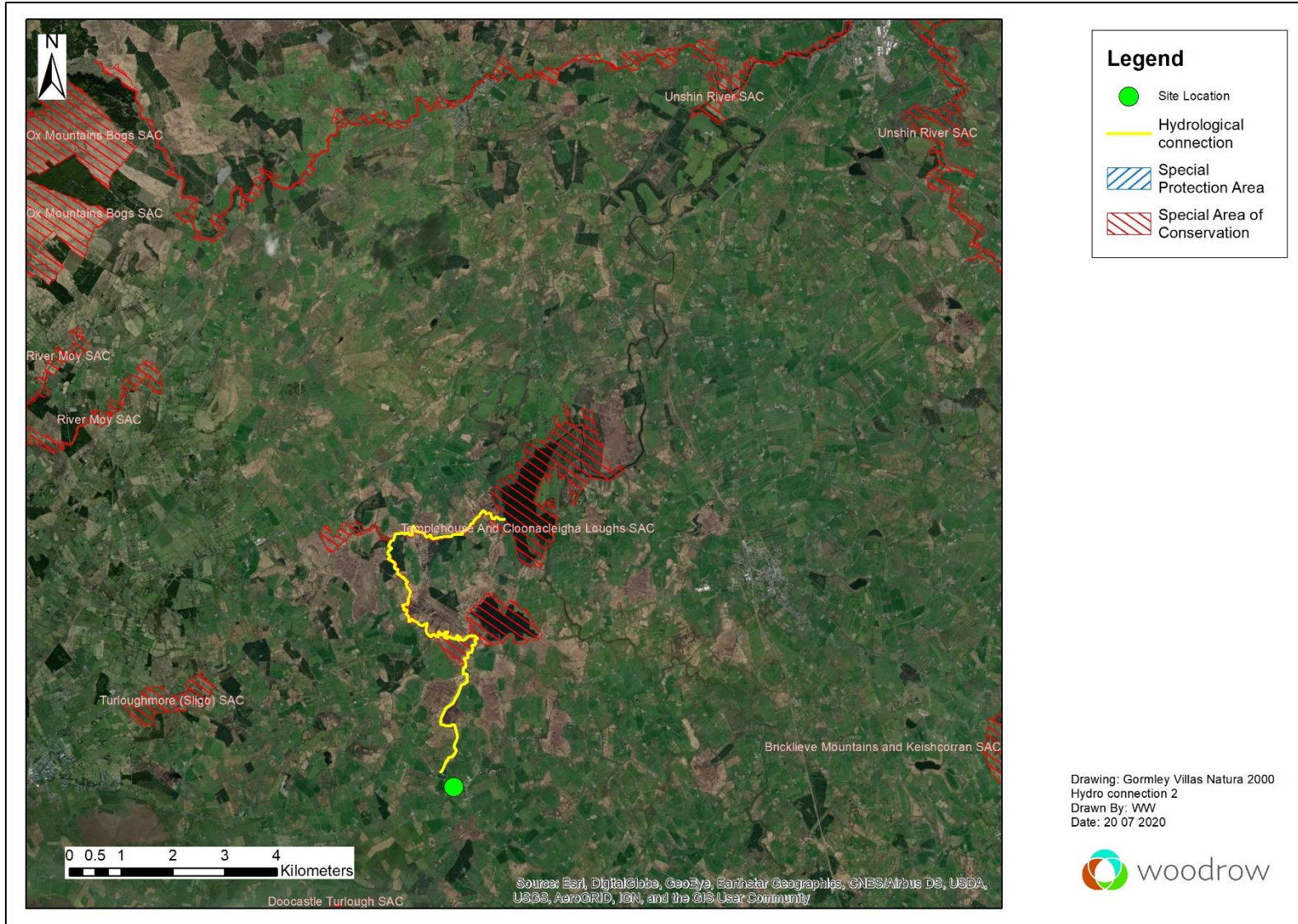


Figure 8: Application Site in the context of surface water connection between the Bunnanadden WWTP and wider European Sites.

4 CONSIDERATION OF 'IN-COMBINATION' IMPACTS

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 28 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, state that any plan or projects that may, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, significantly affect a Natura 2000 site should be the subject of an Appropriate Assessment. The assessment of in-combination impacts is therefore an important part of the screening process.

4.3 Potential 'in-combination' Effects

Cumulative effects are those which result from multiple projects and which may, in combination, have a significant effect on a designated site. This may happen through repeated impacts on a particular ecological feature, even if these are individually small in scale, or may result in one impact being compounded by another, such that the overall result is a significant effect on ecological features. Therefore, as part of the screening process, other relevant projects and plans in the region must also be considered.

In this instance, the only potential cumulative effects on European Sites relate to those that would exacerbate any changes in water quality, notably in the form of new dwellings or industries that have the potential to result in increased surface water effluent discharge loading in the catchment. However, the connection of the proposal to the Bunnanadden WWTP, which was upgraded in 2013, means that there is considered to be capacity within the system to avoid the potential for 'in-combination' water quality effects while the WWTP is operating within capacity. The potential for 'in-combination' effects as a result of the WWTP discharge will have been assessed as part of the assessment process for the WWTP prior to upgrade.

5 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – SCREENING MATRIX

Table 2 below, provides an analysis of the potential for the Proposed Development to result in a likely significant effects (LSE) on designated sites. The Significance of Impact Matrix uses a number of specific terms to conclude on the potential for LSE (with explanations of the terms given following the table).

Table 2: Significance of Impact Matrix for European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development

European Site	Qualifying Interests within the Zone of Influence	Potential Effect	Potential for Likely or Possible Significant Effect?
Turloughmore SAC (Site code: 000637)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	<p>Groundwater water quality impacts (proposal is within same groundwater aquifer as this European Site).</p> <p>Proposal connects to upgraded (in 2013) Bunnanadden WWTP, operating within capacity. There is no potential for significant impact on groundwater.</p>	No potential for Likely Significant Effect
Doocastle Turlough SAC (Site Code: 000492)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turloughs [3180] 	<p>Groundwater water quality impacts (proposal is within same groundwater aquifer as this European Site).</p> <p>Proposal connects to upgraded (in 2013) Bunnanadden WWTP, operating within capacity. There is no potential for significant impact on groundwater.</p>	No potential for Likely Significant Effect
Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC (Site Code: 000636)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] 	<p>Surface water impacts on Bunnanadden Stream, flowing into SAC, some 2.7 km downstream.</p> <p>The proposal will only result in a 2 person increase at the site. The proposal links into the combined sewer system that connects to the to the existing Bunnanadden wastewater treatment plant, which was upgrade in 2013 and is operating within capacity. There is no other potential for hydrological link to the European Site.</p>	No potential for Likely Significant Effect
Unshin River SAC (Site Code: 001898)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] 	<p>Surface water impacts on Bunnanadden Stream, flowing into SAC, some 25.85 km downstream.</p> <p>The proposal will only result in a 2 person increase at the site. The proposal links into the combined sewer system that connects to the to the existing Bunnanadden wastewater treatment plant, which was upgrade in 2013 and is operating within capacity. There is no other potential for hydrological link to the European Site.</p>	No potential for Likely Significant Effect

Explanation of terms used in Significance of Effect Matrix: Likely Significant Effect – Where a plan or project is likely to undermine any of the site’s conservation objectives; Possible Significant Effect – Where a plan or project has an indicated potential to undermine any of the site’s conservation objectives, but where doubt exists concerning the risk of a significant effect in the current context. Nevertheless, where doubt exists regarding the risk of a significant effect, use of the precautionary principle requires this effect to be considered appropriately within the Article 6 assessment process.

6 CONCLUSIONS OF SCREENING

The decision to be made is whether the proposed development poses the risk of likely significant effects (LSEs) to the designated sites discussed above, and as such requires further assessment. Any mitigation measures required expressly for the protection of designated sites may not be considered at the screening stage.

According to the Dept. of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2009), the Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Screening Exercise can result in one of three outcomes:

- An Appropriate Assessment is not required where screening, followed by consultation and agreement with the NPWS, establishes that the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.
- An Appropriate Assessment is not required where screening establishes that there is no potential for likely significant effects.
- Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain; the plan or project must either proceed to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) or be rejected.

The Proposed Development does not lie within any European Sites, nor is it necessary for the management of such sites. The proposal falls within the Zone of Influence of 4 European Sites, namely Turloughmore SAC, Doocastle Turlough SAC, Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC and Unshin River SAC. The first two of these are groundwater dependent SACs and fall within the same groundwater body as the proposal. The second two sites are downstream and within the same surface water catchment.

Although these sites fall within the Zone of Influence of the proposal, there are factors which negate the likelihood of any perceptible impacts upon the designated sites as a result of the Proposed Development. These are:

- The connection of the proposed works to a combined sewer system that links to the Bunnanadden WWTP
- The fact that Bunnanadden WWTP is within capacity
- The very limited nature of the proposed works
- The distance between the Proposed Development and the designated sites

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment has identified the particular types of effect that have potential for adverse impact on the integrity of a number of European designated sites. The screening has identified that, on the basis of best scientific knowledge, there will be no significant effects on any European designated sites as a result of the Proposed Development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. There is therefore no requirement to progress to an Appropriate Assessment in this instance.

7 REFERENCES

DoEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities

NPWS (2013) Site Synopsis for Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC [000637]. Version date 10.09.2013 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) Site Synopsis for Doocastle Turlough SAC [000492]. Version date 26.08.2013 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC [000637]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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