

AtkinsRéalis



## EIA Screening Report

Mayo County Council

July 2025

# N59 CARROWREVAGH BRIDGE REHABILITATION WORKS



Bonneagar Iompair Éireann  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

# Notice

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# 1. Introduction

Mayo County Council (MCC) have appointed AtkinsRéalis to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report for the upgrade works on Carrowrevagh Bridge, Carrowkenedy, Co. Mayo (hereafter referred to as the proposed works). This report has been prepared to support MCC in their Section 177AE application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to the proposed works. The EIA screening report will be submitted as part of a planning application for the proposed works.

## 1.1 Location and Context

The proposed works are located along the N59 national road, at the border between the townlands of Carrowkenedy and Carrowrevagh in County Mayo. The location of the bridge and the surrounding river network, including the second-order stream (EPA name: ROOGHAUN\_32) over which the bridge crosses, is shown in Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2.



### Figure 1-1 – Location of proposed works

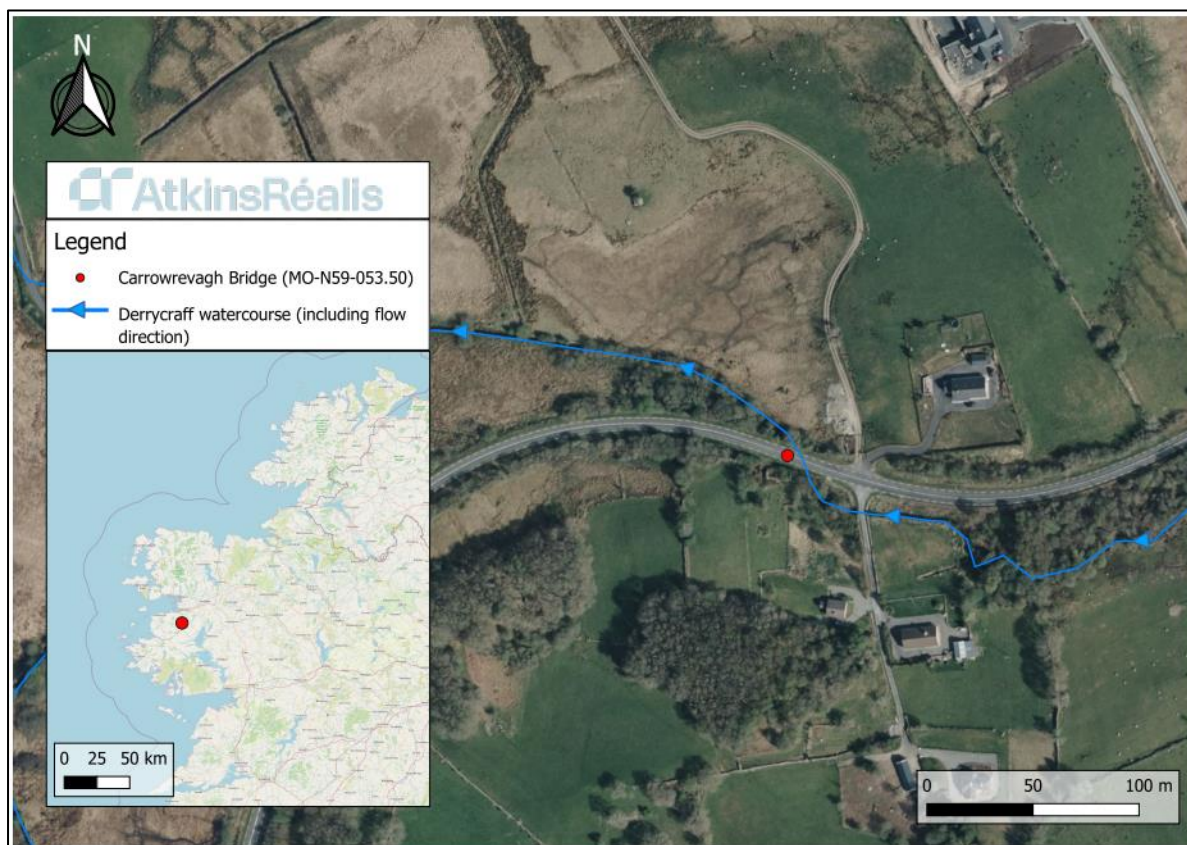


Figure 1-2 – The location of Carrowrevagh Bridge in Co. Mayo.

## 1.2 Description of Existing Structure

Carrowrevagh Bridge is a single span masonry arch structure extended to the north by a reinforced concrete slab carrying the N59 National Secondary Road over the ROOGHAUN\_32 watercourse. The masonry arch is formed of random rubble limestone masonry and has a span of 1.7m and a width out to out of 7.5m. The reinforced concrete slab measures 3.8m wide with a square span of 1.85m and a skew span of 1.92m. The overall width out to out of the structure is 11.2m. The bridge is carrying a 5.5m wide single carriageway with raised concrete rubbing strips located at both elevations of the structure. The rubbing strips on both sides of the structure measure 2.6m (north) and 1.8m (south) respectively. The parapets are of 450mm thick masonry construction to the south and 250mm thick concrete construction to the north and have a height of 600mm and 300mm respectively. Figure 1-3 shows existing site layout.

## 1.3 Description of Proposed Works

The proposed works to Carrowrevagh Bridge comprise rehabilitation works to the existing bridge structure. The works include the reinstatement of original bed levels at the upstream elevation of the structure, increasing the height of the existing parapets using masonry construction, waterproofing the existing concrete deck slab, masonry repairs and repointing to the masonry arch section of the structure, localised concrete repairs to the deck slab soffit, the installation of rock armour to the northeast embankment downstream of the structure, and the installation of safety barriers on both verges over the structure and on approaches.





## 1.4 Purpose of this Report

This report has been prepared to support the planning application on behalf of MCC in relation to Carrowrevagh Bridge Rehabilitation Works. The purpose of this report is to determine whether the project requires the preparation of an EIAR. The proposed works have been screened to generate a summarised overview of the potential impacts on the receiving environment, and in the context of relevant statutory requirements.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has also been prepared for the proposed works (AtkinsRéalis, 2025). The proposed works has been assessed with regards to the likely significant effects of the works on the Natura 2000 sites in its Zone of Influence. The NIS Report concluded that:

*“Given the prescription of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 7 of this NIS, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed project will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, give rise to any impacts which would constitute adverse effects on the Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC or any other Natura 2000 site, in view of their conservation objectives. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the authors of this report that An Coimisiún Pleanála, as the competent authority in this case, may determine that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, provided that the mitigation prescribed in this NIS is fully and properly implemented”*





## 2. Receiving Environment

The proposed works are located along the N59 ca. 9km south of Westport, County Mayo. The existing bridge structure carries the N59 National Primary Road over the Rooghaun 32 stream (EPA, 2025).

### 2.1 Hydrology

The proposed works are located within the Erriff-Clew Bay Water Framework Directive (WFD) Catchment area (catchment ID: 32) and the Erriff\_SC\_010 WFD sub-catchment. The proposed works cross 1no. watercourse; Rooghaun 32 (EPA code: IE\_WE\_32D020150), Figure 2-1, which is classified by the EPA (2025) as being of 'good' WFD status for the 2016-2021 monitoring period and is reported as 'not at risk' of failing to meet relevant EFD objectives by 2027.

The proposed works is within the Clifden Castlebar Groundwater Body (EPA code: IE\_WE\_G\_0017) which is classified by the EPA (2025) as having a 'good' water quality status and as 'not at risk' for failing to meet relevant WFD objectives by 2027.



Figure 2-1 - Watercourses within vicinity of proposed works

### 2.2 Ecology

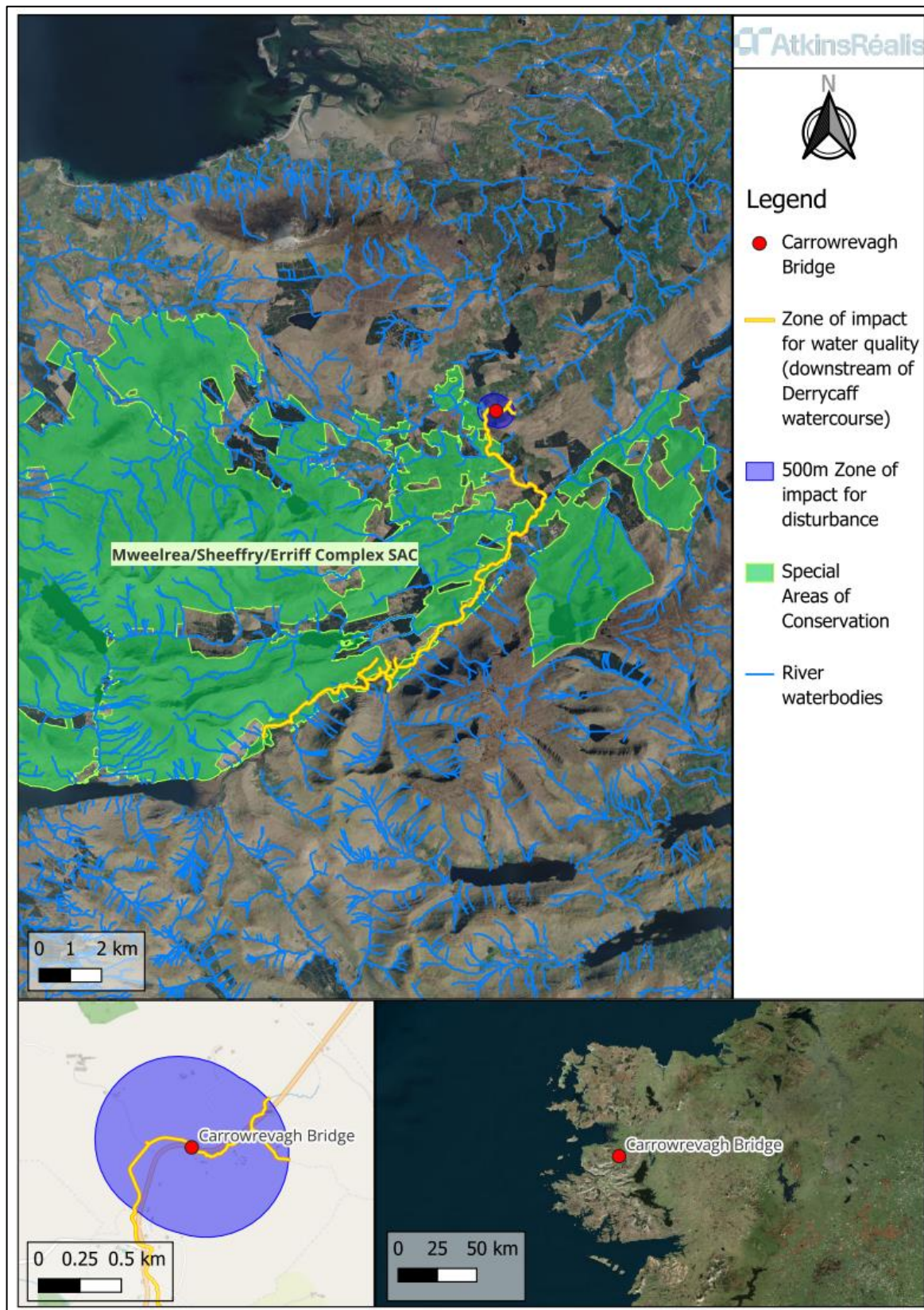
There is 1no. European Sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed works (Figure 2-2) listed as follows:

- Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex Special Area of Conservation (site code: 001932) located ca. 0.3km west with the following qualifying interests;
  - Coastal lagoons [1150]
  - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]
  - Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) [1330]

- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150]
- Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170]
- Humid dune slacks [2190]
- Machairs (\* in Ireland) [21A0]
- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]
- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
- *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
- Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]
- Blanket bogs (\* if active bog) [7130]
- Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]
- Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220]
- Alkaline fens [7230]
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladanii*) [8110]
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
- *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]
- *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
- *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]
- *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Petalwort) [1395]
- *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad) [1833]

There is 1no. Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and 4no. proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) located within the ZOI (Figure 2-2) of the proposed works. The closest are Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC pNHA (site code: 001932) located ca. 0.3km west of the proposed works and Lough Greeney Bog NHA (site code: 002455) located ca. 4.8km north of the proposed works. There are no wetland areas in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works (WSI, 2025). There are 2no. wetlands located within 1km of the Site. Moher Lough (WSI code: MIW\_MA435) is located ca. 0.8km north of the Site and is classified as '*F Rating: Unknown value, survey required*'. Carrowevagh Lough (WSI site code: MIW\_MA432) is located ca. 0.9km north of the proposed works and is classified by WSI (2025) as '*C+ Rating: County*' and described as consisting '*of a small area of lowland blanket bog with some sections having been cutover*'.





**Figure 2-2 - Zone of Influence of the proposed works at Carrowrevagh Bridge.**

The NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2025) states:



*“Given the prescription of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 7 of this NIS, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed project will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, give rise to any impacts which would constitute adverse effects on the Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC or any other Natura 2000 site, in view of their conservation objectives. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the authors of this report that An Coimisiún Pleanála, as the competent authority in this case, may determine that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, provided that the mitigation prescribed in this NIS is fully and properly implemented”*

## 2.3 Hydrogeology

According to Geological Survey Ireland (GSI, 2025) mapping, there are no groundwater wells and springs within 10km of the proposed works

There are no Groundwater Drinking Water Source Protection Areas or Group Scheme Drinking Water Protection Areas within 30km of the proposed works (GSI, 2025).

GSI (2025) has classified the groundwater vulnerability beneath the proposed works as ‘Moderate’. The proposed works are within the Clifden Castlebar Groundwater Body (EPA code: IE\_WE\_G\_0017) which is classified by the EPA (2025) as having a ‘good’ water quality status and as ‘not at risk’ for failing to meet relevant WFD objectives by 2027. Should groundwater be encountered during excavations, the following measures will be implemented:

- Any groundwater temporarily dewatered during the excavation works will be stored in a contained area and treated off-site, if necessary;
- The Contractor will be required to provide a Site-specific dewatering plan, clearly setting out proposed excavation methodology, estimated dewatering rates, details of proposed treatment system, and discharge location;
- The time period that excavations are left uncovered will be reduced in so far as reasonably practical with impermeable coverings being used to cover excavations over night or in times of heavy rainfall during working hours. These coverings will be secured at night to prevent mammals becoming trapped; and,
- Excavations will not be carried out during or following times of prolonged rainfall.

## 2.4 Geology

Soils beneath the general vicinity of the proposed works are till derived from Lower Palaeozoic sandstones. (GSI, 2025).

The bedrock geology underlining the site comprises mudrock, sandstone and tuff of the Sheeffry Formation (GSI, 2025). There are no karst features within the project site, with the closest such site being a swallow hole located ca. 9.3km north). There are no recorded landslide events in the vicinity of the site (GSI, 2025).

The site is located ca. 7.0km southeast of the Croagh Patrick Deer Complex Geological Heritage Area (site code: MO036) and is described as ‘deformed quartzite conglomerate, serpentine, supposed sheeted dykes within dismembered ophiolite; fuchsite’.

The GSI provides a methodology for aquifer classification based on resource value (regionally important, locally important and poor) and vulnerability (extreme, high, moderate or low). Resource value refers to the scale and production potential of the aquifer whilst vulnerability refers to the ease with which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities (vulnerability classification primarily based on the permeability and thickness of subsoils).

According to the GSI (2025) the underlying Sheeffry formation at the proposed works is classified as a Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones. Groundwater vulnerability underlying the Proposed Scheme has been classified by GSI (2025) as ‘moderate’.



According to the GSI (2025), there are no Geological Heritage Areas within the vicinity of the proposed works. The closest is Srahlea Bridge (Party Mountains) (GSI code: IGH7) located ca. 3.9km south of the Site and described as ‘ridges and sand/gravel pits at the northeast end of the Erriff Valley’.

There are no karst features within the vicinity of the proposed works, the closest is an enclosed depression located ca. 11.3km northeast of the proposed works.

## 2.5 Flood Risk

The site has been assessed in accordance with the “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” Guidelines. As part of the sequential test, the OPW flood hazard maps have been consulted, as have the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Maps (CFRAM) produced by the OPW.

There has been no flooding risk or historic flood events identified within the vicinity of the proposed works.

## 2.6 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

According to the National Monuments Service (NMS, 2025), there are no National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) features within the vicinity of the proposed works and 3no. Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) features (Figure 2-3) within 200m of the Site as follows;

- MA097-018 – House, located ca. 170m northeast of the proposed works
- MA097-014002 – Penitential Station, located ca. 185m south of the proposed works; and,
- MA-97-014006 – Bullaun Stone, located ca. 200m south of the proposed works

According to the Mayo County Development Plan (2022-2028), there are no Architectural Conservation Areas within the vicinity of the proposed works.

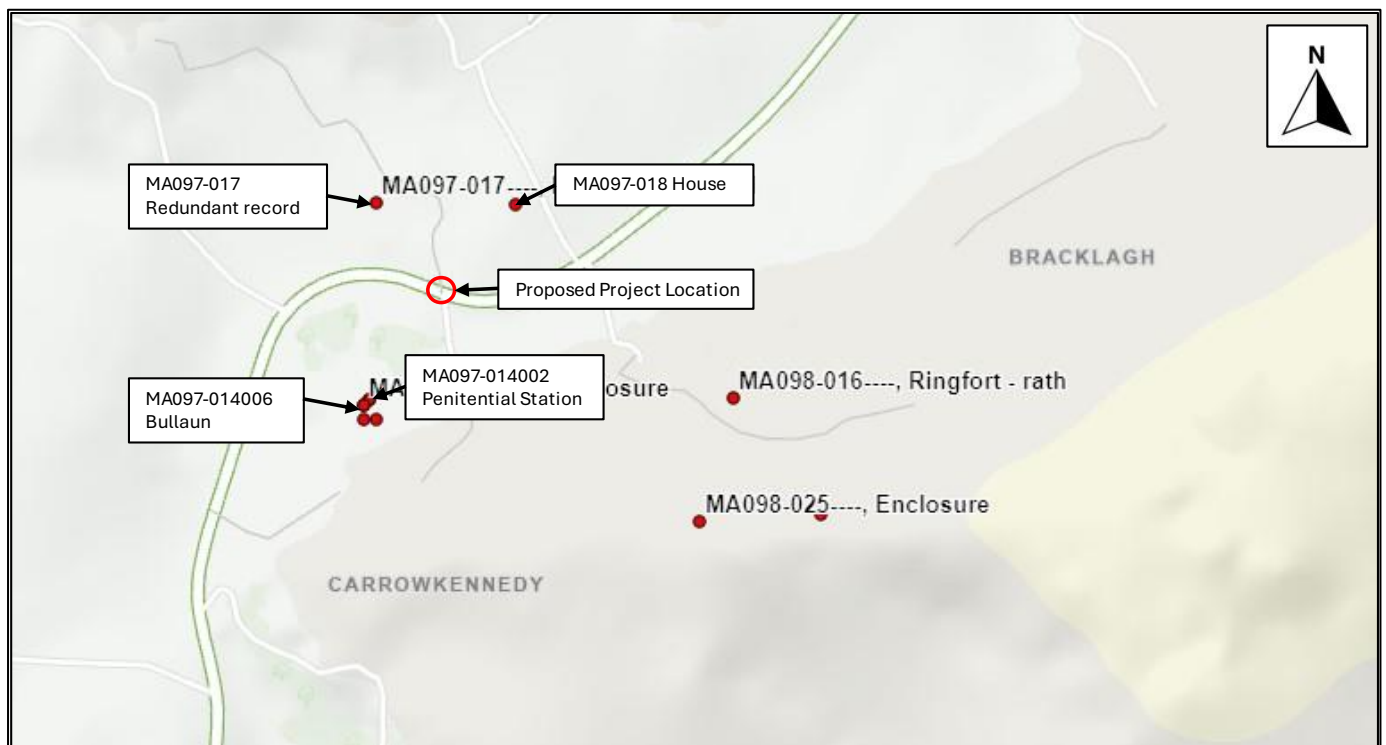


Figure 2-3 - Map of Cultural Heritage Features (Historic Environment Viewer, 2025)

## 2.7 Air Quality and Climate

Dust arising from excavation and import of soil to the Proposed Site, along with vehicle movement as well as emissions from demolition and construction vehicles and plant will contribute to reduced air quality. Some activities including infilling of soil, excavations, stockpiling and movement of materials, and construction vehicle movements may all contribute to generating ambient dust. Ambient Air Quality is reported as 'Good' by EPA (2025), with the closest monitoring station; Castlebar (Station Code: MO1) located ca. 22.8km northeast of the proposed works site.

## 2.8 Landscape and Visual

According to the Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo<sup>1</sup> (MCC, 2022) the proposed works lies within the landscape character type South West Mountain Moorlands which is described as '*smooth topography, limited shelter vegetation, often steep slopes and prominent ridge lines*'.

There are no scenic views located within the vicinity of the proposed works. The N59 from Westport to the southern boundary with County Galway is classified by MCC (2022) as a scenic route.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mayo.ie/getmedia/4cd62382-6d76-4169-8fb4-7401144fb54d/Landscape-Appraisal-of-County-Mayo-with-cover.pdf>





## 3. Description of the Proposed Project

### 3.1 Nature and Extent of the Proposed Project

The proposed works to Carrowrevagh Bridge comprise rehabilitation works to the existing bridge structure. The works include the reinstatement of original bed levels at the upstream elevation of the structure, increasing the height of the existing parapets using masonry construction, waterproofing the existing concrete deck slab, masonry repairs and repointing to the masonry arch section of the structure, localised concrete repairs to the deck slab soffit, the installation of rock armour to the northeast embankment downstream of the structure, and the installation of safety barriers on both verges over the structure and on approaches.

The proposed site layout plan is shown in Figure 3-1 and cross-sections and elevations in Figure 3-2.

Works are comprehensively described in Section 3.2 below.

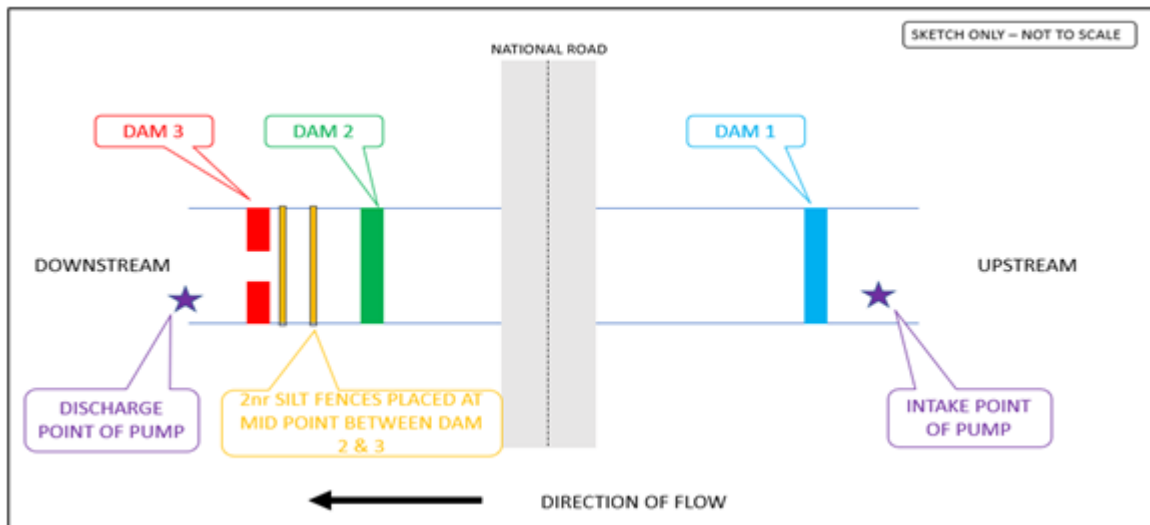




## 3.2 Construction Methodology – Detailed Description

The construction methodology and sequence of works are:

1. The site compound will be contained within the site boundary extent. All required machinery and plant will be stored on site for the duration of works..
2. Traffic Management installed at the works location; the proposed works require a single land closure. Detailed Traffic Management Plan will be provided by the successful contractor once appointed.
3. Construction of a dry working area; this requires full dewatering of the channel and will occur prior to all works apart from site setup. The construction of the dry working area is as follows:



**Figure 3-3 - Schematic of three dam dewatering system proposed at Carrowrevagh Bridge**

- There will be three sandbag dams erected in the watercourse; Dam 1 upstream of the bridge and Dams 2 and 3 situated down-stream of the bridge. Dam 2 and Dam 3 will be erected first (300mm high on the riverbed). Dam 1 will then be erected (800mm high on the riverbed), and the river flow pumped downstream of Dam 3. Instream access by operatives is required for the installation of the sandbag dams and silt fences.
- Dams will be constructed of small sandbags filled with pea gravel. Each bag will be double bagged and sealed thoroughly. The base of each dam will be three times the height. The dam will also be wrapped in 1000-gauge polythene. Dam height will depend on water levels at the time of erection and the 14-day predicted rainfall.
- The sandbags for the dam will be carried by hand and placed into position within ten meters downstream of the structure, 500mm in height, across the full width to prevent downstream water returning into the work area. Dam 2 will be constructed by hand upstream of Dam 3; Dam 2 will be raised to 500mm in height. Dam 1 will then be placed within ten metres upstream of the structure on the upstream elevation; Dam 1 will be raised to full height (Dam 2 and Dam 3 are built up more gradually). Dam 2 will be placed on the natural rock lip seen in Figure 3-4 below (circled in red).





**Figure 3-4 - Natural rock to be sealed with small sandbags upon the completion of Dam 2 located downstream of Carrowrevagh Bridge**

- The section of river between Dam 1 and Dam 2 is required to be electro-fished by a licensed operator. All fish will be relocated downstream of the works area and discharge point of pump. Upon completion of the electro-fishing, Dam 2 will be raised to full height (of 800mm) and a silt fence will be erected between Dam 2 and Dam 3. A second silt fence will be erected just upstream of Dam 3 (Figure 3-3). These two silt fences will act as a final filter for sediment within potential surface water run-off before it re-enters the live watercourse.
  - An over pumping pipe will be placed into a 225mm non-perforated pipe installed through the bridge at high level. It will be secured by temporary brackets that will be fixed along the existing abutment ledge wall. The pipe will be secured to allow for a gravity fall. The intake hose for over pumping will be positioned on the upstream side of Dam 1 and will be wrapped in a layer of silt fencing. The discharge hose will be position on the downstream side of Dam 3. A silt bag will be placed on the end of the discharge hose to prevent discharge of any suspended solids or unwanted material into the live watercourse.
  - The works area between Dam 1 and Dam 2 will be pumped out and discharged between Dam 2 and 3 and before the silt fences. A small natural sump is located within the works area (between Dam 1 and 2) and a submersible pump will be used to over pump any water collected.
  - All over pumping works will require the use of either a submersible pump or centrifugal dewatering pump which will be used to over pump any water collected. Collected water will be discharged to the upstream side of the silt fences between Dams 2 and 3.
- 4. Following the creation of the dry working area the existing riverbed at the upstream inlet will be excavated by a combination of machine excavated (13-ton excavator positioned on south-eastern embankment) and hand excavated to a depth of 500mm below the final proposed bed level in order to install suitable large cobble (estimated 300mm to 500mm) at the location. The extent of excavation will be 2m upstream and 3m into the structure. The 2.5m<sup>3</sup> excavated material will be stored on the southeast embankment for reinstatement upon completion of the works. All excavation works and installation of large cobble will be undertaken within the dry working area.
- 5. The 0.5m<sup>3</sup> masonry repairs to the undermined sections of the existing abutments at the south elevation (upstream end) of the structure and the 0.5m<sup>3</sup> masonry repairs and 10m<sup>2</sup> repointing to the arch barrel and abutments will be undertaken using masonry and lime mortar to match the existing. Masonry repairs will be undertaken by hand within the dry working area. Crevices marked for retention (in red) during previous bat surveys of the structure

are not to be infilled or disturbed. A bat and nesting bird survey check is required prior to masonry works (nesting Dipper behind upstream voussoir during May 2025 site survey).

6. On completion of excavation and masonry repairs to the undermined abutments 3.5m<sup>3</sup> of suitably sized large cobble (estimated at 300mm – 500mm) will be placed into the excavated area with the removed material reinstated above to align with existing upstream and downstream bed levels. Reinstatement of bed level will use stockpiled excavated material where possible with the provision of additional gravels to match the existing (estimated at 150mm if required).
7. The localised spalled areas of the concrete deck slab will be repaired using a specialist high strength rapid repair mortar with the steel reinforcement abraded and treated with a corrosion protection product prior to the mortar application. Repairs to spalled areas of concrete deck will be undertaken by hand within the dry working area.
8. Installation of 3m<sup>3</sup> suitably sized rock armour (estimated at 300mm to 500mm) along the northeast riverbank downstream of the structure for a length of 5m.
9. Light temporary scaffold platforms will be installed at both parapet walls to facilitate parapet works. The temporary scaffold platform requires the provision for in channel footings at both the upstream and downstream faces of the structure however installation of deck will be undertaken within the dry working area. The light working decks will be sealed with plastic and will catch any accidental spillage of materials when undertaking masonry works.
10. Existing concrete rubbing strip on the north verge to be broken out with breaker mounted on 5-ton excavator. 3m<sup>3</sup> concrete removed to tip. Works are contained on the bridge carriageway and not over water.
11. The north verge and carriageway to be excavated to deck level of the reinforced concrete slab using a 5t excavator. 0.6m<sup>3</sup> surfacing and 3m<sup>3</sup> fill material to be removed from site to tip. Single-lane closure will remain in place for these works.
12. Existing north parapet wall demolished by hand with concrete removed from site to tip. Full width masonry construction then to raise parapet to 1m height. Masonry construction using lime mortar and selected masonry to match the existing south parapet. Masonry works to be undertaken by hand over sealed temporary scaffold platform where required and over land where not.
13. The 2m long displaced east end of the south masonry parapet (1.5m<sup>3</sup>) is to be taken down and reconstructed. The parapet is also to be raised to 1m in height along its full extent with the existing capping stones taken down and reinstated on the new raised parapet. 1.5m<sup>3</sup> new masonry and lime mortar to match existing. Masonry works to be undertaken by hand over sealed temporary scaffold platform where required and over land where not.
14. Following the completion of excavations, all aspects of rock armour installation (including re-establishment of bed-levels), installation of light scaffolding and parapet repairs, concrete repair and masonry repair works, the dewatered channel will then be demobilised. The removal of the dams will be completed on a two-stage basis. The level of Dam 1 will be lowered by hand to allow the area between Dam 1 and 2 to partially fill with water. The water within Dams 1 and 2 will be allowed to settle overnight and the remainder of the dams will then be removed completely the following morning to minimise any plumes of silt. The flow of the channel will return to existing condition.
15. Deck surface to be cleared of all dust and debris by sweeping with collected material removed from site to tip.
16. Spray applied epoxy waterproofing system to be installed by hand to the deck surface and existing parapet upstand from on top of the deck surface. 16m<sup>2</sup> total area. 0.25m<sup>3</sup> sand asphalt protection layer installed to protect the deck waterproofing. Epoxy to be sprayed by hand in close proximity to the surface of the deck; works are contained on the bridge surface with no potential for materials to enter the watercourse.



17. Installation of 3m<sup>3</sup> granular fill material to north verge and installation of 1m<sup>3</sup> binder course on carriageway. Works contained on existing bridge carriageway and not over water.
18. Construction of the new north rubbing strip with 3m<sup>3</sup> concrete and completion of the carriageway surfacing course 1m<sup>3</sup>. Works will be contained on existing bridge carriageway and not over water.
19. New safety barriers to be installed along the length of both verges with embankment construction using suitable imported fill required at the southeast corner of the structure. The embankment construction comprises imported granular fill material. Works are contained on southeast embankment over land.
20. Regrading of both verges along the length of the barriers with imported topsoil. Both verges then seeded. Works along carriageway and not over water.
21. Removal of traffic management.
22. Demobilisation from site and restoration of site compound area to pre-works condition.

### 3.2.1 Demolition

The demolition works associated with the proposed works at Carrowrevagh Bridge comprise the partial demolition of the existing bridge parapets and the removal of the existing rubbing strip on the north concrete verge in order to undertake the rehabilitation works. New raised height parapets and a new concrete verge will be provided as part of the works.

### 3.2.2 Machinery

Machinery will be refuelled within site compound area away from watercourse. No refuelling of heavy machinery is permitted at works site (adjacent to the river); all refuelling will be done within the site compound. Small jerry cans for usage for generators are permitted. The appointed Contractor will decide on specific machinery required for works however an indicative list of machinery required for the proposed works is as follows:

- 13-ton excavator
- 5-ton excavator (with mounted breaker)
- Concrete truck
- Cement mixer
- Plate compactor
- Dewatering pump
- Truck and trailer for delivery of material to/from site

### 3.2.3 Programme

Works will take a total of 4 weeks in total to complete and are anticipated to commence in Q3 of 2026 at the earliest. Works are limited to daytime working hours and follow the standard programme of 8am to 7pm midweek and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. Instream works are permitted only between the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### 3.2.4 Site Compound

As agreed with MCC, the successful contractor will utilise the area within the site boundary along the N59 national road as a site compound for the duration of works. There may be a requirement for temporary (mobile) lighting within



the site compound area along the N59 should works extend to winter months, however this is not foreseen given the works window of July to September<sup>2</sup> required to facilitate instream works.

Upon completion of works the site compound area will cease to exist and will revert to fully operational road use.

### 3.2.5 Traffic Management

The proposed works will require an alternating single lane closure on the N59 National Road for an estimated duration of 4 weeks. There is no proposed traffic diversion route, with only a single lane closure required. The successful appointed Contractor will provide and implement a detailed Traffic Management Plan for the duration of works.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/2016/Guidelines%20Report%202016.pdf>





## 4. EIA Screening Process

### 4.1 Desk-Based Studies

In undertaking this EIA Screening Assessment, AtkinsRéalis completed a detailed desk-based assessment using data from the following sources:

- Relevant guidance documents and legislation (listed in Section 4.3 below).
- Relevant published data from Government websites like the EPA's website ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)), the Geological Survey of Ireland ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)), the Mayo County Development Plan (2022-2028).
- AtkinsRéalis Appropriate Assessment Report (May, 2025).
- AtkinsRéalis Natura Impact Statement Report (May, 2025)
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (AtkinsRéalis, 2025).
- Resource and Waste Management Plan (AtkinsRéalis, 2025).
- Stage 1 Structural Assessment (AtkinsRéalis, 2025).

### 4.2 Site Visits and Assessments

A site visit was undertaken by AtkinsRéalis ecologists on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Ecological survey methods were in general accordance with those outlined in the following documents:

- *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000);
- *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping* (Smith et al., 2011);
- *Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes* (NRA, 2009).

Potential sensitive ecological receptors present within the survey area were recorded, including the presence of protected species and habitats or habitats that would support protected species, in addition to noting connectivity to European sites. The presence of non-native invasive species was also recorded. Surveys were undertaken within the seasonally appropriate window to assess the project site for the presence of invasive plant species.

The survey identified there was no evidence of freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) or white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) within the vicinity of the bridge structure. The riverbed at the location of the bridge structure is generally poor given the presence of filamentous algae and is therefore unlikely to support these species. However, there is more suitable habitat for white-clawed crayfish further downstream of the bridge structure where the channel is deeper. No other aquatic species, particularly those of qualifying interest to the Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC were recorded during the site visit.

Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) was recorded within the vicinity of the bridge. A nest was recorded behind the voussoir on the upstream side of bridge structure. No other breeding bird species were identified within the vicinity of the bridge structure. Furthermore, there was no evidence of other terrestrial fauna recorded during the site visit.

There was no evidence of protected or invasive alien species, either aquatic or terrestrial, within the vicinity of the bridge structure. Carrowrevagh Bridge was also surveyed by a sub-contracted ecologist on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 for the purpose of bat survey of the bridge. Results of the survey found no bats roosting in the bridge but a single crevice had old droppings are therefore evidence of previous usage by bats. These crevices were marked for retention at the



time of the survey. No incidental sightings or evidence of otter, freshwater white-clawed crayfish, freshwater pearl mussel or invasive plant species were recorded at the time of the survey. This information is detailed in the Natura Impact Statement Report (AtkinsRéalis, 2025).

## 4.3 EIA Screening Legislation and Guidance

The Project Types listed in Annex I and Annex II of the 2011 EIA Directive were transposed into Irish Planning & This EIA Screening Report has been carried out to consider the requirement, or otherwise, of carrying out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the proposed works. The screening assessment firstly considered the requirement for a mandatory EIA and secondly the requirement for a sub-threshold EIA. The screening process followed in this report is in accordance with the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU and the national regulations transposing the Directive.

The 2011 EU Directive as amended by 2014/52/EU Directive, on the Assessment of Public and Private Development divided projects into Annex I and Annex II projects. Annex I projects require a mandatory EIA. Annex II projects, if over the threshold set by the Government, will require an EIAR. The Project Types listed in Annex I and Annex II of the 2011 EIA Directive were transposed into Irish Planning & Development legislation in Schedule 5 Parts 1 and Part 2, respectively. EIA Regulations ((Planning and Development) Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I No. 296 of 2018)) transposing the 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) were adopted and came into operation on 1st September 2018. These regulations amend the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No.600 of 2001); they seek to transpose EIA Directive 2014/52/EU and to give further effect to the 2011 Directive, as follows:

- An EIAR is required as a matter of course on specified large-scale projects which have a high likelihood of impacting on the receiving environment. These projects are listed in full within the Planning & Development Regulations (2001-2025), Schedule 5, Part 1 – Development for the purposes of Part 10.
- Each EU Member State has discretionary consideration for the requirement of an EIA in relation to Annex II Project Types. In Ireland, these projects are listed in full within the Planning & Development Regulations (2001-2025), Schedule 5, Part 2 – Development for the purposes of Part 10. If a proposed project is listed under Schedule 5, Part 2, but does not exceed the relevant stated thresholds, it is considered to be ‘sub-threshold’. Part 10, Article 92 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 as amended states *“sub-threshold development” means development of a type set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5, which does not equal or exceed, as the case may be, a quantity, area or other limit specified in that Schedule in respect of the relevant class of development*. Any sub-threshold developments should be evaluated to determine if the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and consequently require an EIA.
- Criteria to evaluate whether significant effects on the receiving environment will arise from a Proposed Development are listed under Schedule 7 and Schedule 7A of the Planning & Development Regulations (2001-2025).

A list of the relevant information to be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of sub-threshold EIA Screening is presented in Schedule 7A of the Regulations, and summarised below:

1. Characteristics of the proposed project
2. Location of the proposed project, and,
3. Characteristics of potential impacts of the proposed project.

Accordingly, the proposed works has been screened in accordance with the following legislation:

- EU Directive 2014/52/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.



- Planning and Development Regulations (2001-2025), including S.I. No. 296 of 2018 - European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, which came into operation on 1st September 2018; and,
- Roads Act, 1993-2021 and the European Union (Roads Act 1993) (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulation 2019 (S.I. No. 279 of 2019).

The following guidance documents were also reviewed:

- Section 3.2 of the 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022)
- European Commission (2017), Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on Screening
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Developments
- ORP Practice Note PN02 Environment Impact Assessment Screening (2021)
- Environmental Impact Directive (85/337/EEC) and all subsequent relevant amendments and,
- Planning and Development Regulations (2001-2025), including S.I. No. 296 of 2018 - European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, which came into operation on 1st September 2018.

Figure 4-1 summarises the main steps involved in the EIA screening process.

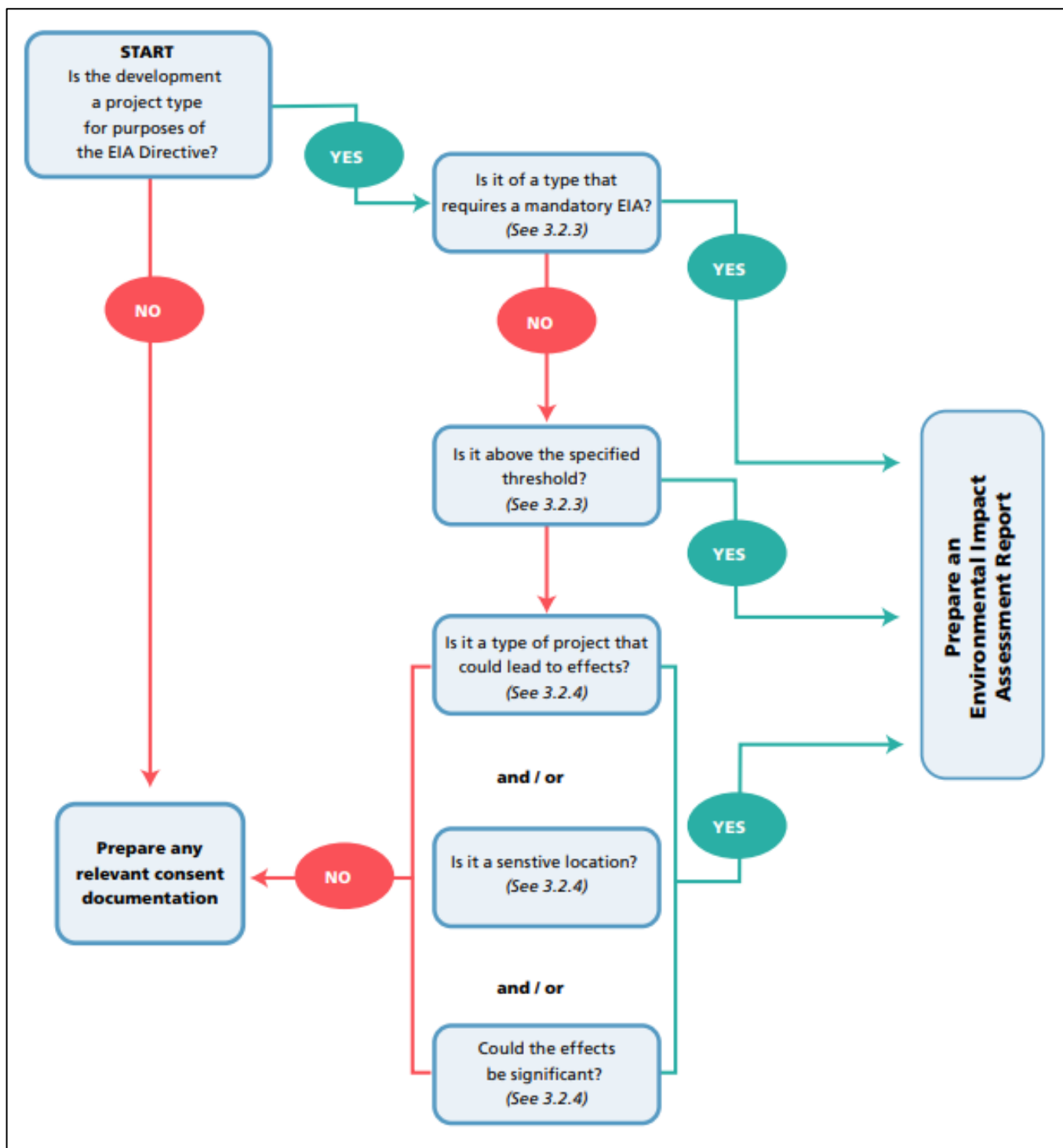


Figure 4-1 - EIA Screening Process (Source: 'Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (EPA, 2022)).



# 5. Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

## 5.1 Introduction

The 2011 EU EIA Directive differentiates between those projects that automatically requires an environmental impact assessment (listed as Annex 1 projects) and those which may require an assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects (Annex II projects). These project types have been transposed into Irish legislation under Parts 1 and 2 respectively of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

The proposed project was screened using the following criteria:

- If the project is of a type listed in Schedule 5, Part 1
- If not, whether:
  - it is listed in Schedule 5, Part
  - it meets any of the relevant thresholds and criteria set out in Schedule 5, Part 2
  - any part of it is located within sensitive area; or,
  - it would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

## 5.2 Part 1 Type Projects

EIA is mandatory for developments listed in Schedule 5, Part 1 of the of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2025. Schedule 5, Part 1 developments are large scale developments for which significant effects impacting on the receiving environment would be expected and comprise developments such as new airports and power stations. The project has been screened against the list of Project Types which have a high likelihood of impacting on the receiving environment and therefore require a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment, under Schedule 5 Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2025.

**This project does not fall within any category of development requiring a mandatory EIA; hence the preparation of an EIAR is not required under Schedule 5 Part 1.**

## 5.3 Part 2 Type Projects

The project has been screened against the types of development, various processes and activities listed in Schedule 5 Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2025. The project falls within the following categories which provide that an EIA must be completed – subject to specified thresholds being met or exceeded.

**Table 5-1 - Screening for Part 2 of Schedule 5**

| <b>Class</b>                                                   | <b>Applicability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Screening</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.<br>Infrastructure Developments<br>(b) (iv)                 | Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere.                                                                                                                                                                                               | The site is ca. 0.1 hectares (ha) in size which is below the 2 hectares threshold and is located within a rural area. The proposed works are below the other relevant thresholds (i.e., 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere).<br><b>Hence the preparation of an EIAR is not required under Schedule 5 Part 2 (10) (b) (iv).</b>                                                                                                   |
| <b>13. Changes, extensions, development and testing</b><br>(c) | Any change or extension of development being of a class listed in Part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule, which would result in the demolition of structures, the demolition of which had not previously been authorised, and where such demolition would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out under Schedule 7. | The demolition works associated with the proposed works at Carrowrevagh Bridge comprise the partial demolition of the existing bridge parapets and the removal of the existing rubbing strip on the north concrete verge in order to undertake the rehabilitation works. New raised height parapets and a new concrete verge will be provided as part of the works.<br><br><b>These works do not require an EIAR to be produced in accordance with Schedule 5 Part 2 (13)(c).</b> |
| 15.                                                            | Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development, but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.                                                                                                 | Based on the nature and scale of the proposed works, it is considered that there is no potential for significant effects on the environment, as detailed further in the following sections of this report. <b>Hence the preparation of an EIAR is not required under Schedule 5 Part 2 (15).</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |

As the proposed works are not a project type listed in Schedule 5 Part 1 or Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2025, there is no automatic requirement under the EIA Directive for this development to be subjected to EIA. Notwithstanding this, MCC is a responsible developer and is committed to demonstrating that the



proposed works will not result in significant effects on the environment. As such, this sub-threshold EIA Screening Report has been prepared to determine whether there are likely significant environmental effects from the proposed works on the receiving environment, with regard to Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations.

## 5.4 Roads Act Screening

The scheme has been screened against the criteria outlined in Section 50(1)(b) and 50(1)(c) of the Roads Act 1993-2024, as follows:

Section 50(1)(a) – ‘A road authority shall prepare a statement of the likely effects on the environment (hereinafter referred to as an “environmental impact statement”) of any proposed road development consisting of - (iii) any prescribed type of proposed road development consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road.

Section 50(1)(b) – ‘If An Bord Pleanála considers that any road development proposed (other than development to which paragraph (a) applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment it shall direct that the development be subject to an environmental impact assessment.’

Section 50(1)(c) – ‘Where a road authority or, as the case may be, the Authority considers that a road development that it proposes (other than development to which paragraph (a) applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, it shall inform An Bord Pleanála in writing prior to making any application to the Bord for an approval referred to in section 51(1) in respect of the development.’

Therefore, it is considered that the scheme should undergo an EIA screening to determine if an EIAR would be required in accordance with Sections 50(1)(a), 50(1)(b) and 50(1)(c) of the Roads Act 1993-2024.

Section 50 (1)(e) of the Roads Act (1993-2024) states ‘where a decision is being made pursuant to this subsection on whether a road development that is proposed would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, An Bord Pleanála, or the road authority or the Authority concerned (as the case may be), shall take into account the relevant selection criteria specified in Annex III.’ Annex III has been transposed into Irish Legislation via Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2025.



## 5.5 Determining if the project is likely to have significant effect on the receiving environment

All relevant information as required under Schedule 7 and 7A has been provided on behalf of MCC and is presented within this screening report. The potential for this project to pose a significant effect to the receiving environment has also been evaluated in accordance with criteria listed in the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001-2025 (Schedule 7), as presented in the tables below.

## 5.6 Selection criteria for screening Schedule 7 Proposed Project

Developments of a type listed in Part 2, but which are below a given threshold must be screened to see if they require an EIAR.

There are no exacting rules as to what constitutes “significant” in terms of environmental impacts. The responsibility is on Planning Authorities to carefully examine every aspect of a development in the context of:

- characterisation of the project
- location of the project; and,
- type and characteristics of potential impacts.

For the purposes of screening sub-threshold developments for EIA, all the relevant information as presented within EIA Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, (Schedule 7A) has been provided on behalf of the applicant, MCC. The potential for the project to pose a significant effect to the receiving environment has also been evaluated in accordance with criteria listed in the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001-2025 (Schedule 7).

The findings of the EIA screening assessment prepared for the project has informed our professional opinion as to whether an EIAR is warranted for the proposed works, with due regard to all relevant statutory requirements and technical guidance. However ultimately it is the responsibility of MCC to decide as to whether an EIAR is required for a particular project, based on screening conducted by the planning authority.

## 5.7 Schedule 7 Assessment

All relevant information as required under Schedule 7 and 7A has been provided on behalf of MCC and is presented within this screening report. The potential for this project to pose a significant impact to the receiving environment has also been evaluated in accordance with criteria listed in the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001-2025 (Schedule 7), as presented within the tables below.

### 5.7.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Project

Table 5-2 below details the development characteristics criteria, as required under Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.





**Table 5-2 - Characteristics of the Proposed Project**

| Screening Criteria                                                                                                                    | Proposed Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Size and design of the project</i>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Will the size and design of the whole project be considered significant?                                                              | No. The site area is ca. 0.2 ha and the scale and nature are not considered significant within the urban setting. Refer to the detailed description in Section 3 above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <i>Cumulation with other projects</i>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Will other existing project and/ or approved project be able to affect the project.                                                   | <p>A search of the MCC Planning Applications, An Coimisiún Pleanála planning portal, Uisce Éireann and Transport Infrastructure Ireland project portals has been undertaken for the applications submitted within the past 5 years in the vicinity of the site (last reviewed 8/05/2025). Some of the granted applications have already been completed and of those which are not completed, most are generally small scale in nature (i.e., residential extension works, or property improvement works). Completed or granted applications of such small scale (such as residential improvements) have not been considered further in terms of potential for cumulative impacts.</p> <p>For the purposes of this study, only significant new developments that are likely to generate a significant number of trips and developments that may encroach nearby to the existing development have been considered.</p> <p>There are no existing or approved projects within the vicinity of the Proposed Project and therefore no further consideration is needed with regards to Cumulative Impacts with other projects.</p> |
| <i>Nature of any associated demolition works</i>                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Will the construction of the project include any significant demolition works.                                                        | There will be no significant demolition works associated with the proposed works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Use of natural resources</i>                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground which are non-renewable or in short supply? | <p>The use of natural resources will be kept to a minimum; aggregates and soil will be re-used on site, where possible and if required.</p> <p>Should vegetation clearance be required for the proposed works, it would take place outside of the nesting season (February – August). If this is not possible, an ecologist will survey the vegetation for breeding birds no longer than 24 hours prior to clearance. If nesting birds are identified, then an alternative approach to the work will be used.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Production of waste</i>                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Will the project produce wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?                                                  | <p>Construction waste will be kept to a minimum with only contaminated waste being removed off site. The following waste streams will be produced during the construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic construction waste that may be generated during the bridge strengthening works. The waste will be separated into dedicated labelled skips and sent for recycling/disposal.</li> </ul> <p>All soil requiring disposal offsite will require waste classification in accordance with EPA requirements as set out in the documents 'Waste Classification List of Waste &amp; Determining if Waste is Hazardous or Non-</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

hazardous' (EPA, 2015), and 'Determining if waste is hazardous or non-hazardous' (EPA, 2018), and all relevant waste management legislation. In addition to screening against relevant WAC, the preparation of a waste classification tool (hazwaste online / EPA paper tool or similar etc.) will be required to be carried out in order to determine the relevant LoW / EWC code for the transport of any waste soils which require offsite removal and disposal.

Expected wastes that will be removed from the site will be made ground, tarmac and concrete.

- estimated volume of construction waste i.e. tarmac / concrete / cement to be removed from site (tarmac – 0.8m<sup>3</sup> / concrete – 5m<sup>3</sup>)

#### Pollution and nuisances

Will the project release any pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air? Regional air quality in the vicinity of the proposed works is 'good' (EPA, 2025). The closest Air Quality Monitoring Station to the proposed works is Castlebar (Station M01) located ca. 22.8km northeast. Management of dust will be in line with relevant best practice measures such as those set out in 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (NRA, 2011). On Site dust management will form part of the CEMP for the site. Due to the nature and scale of the project detailed in Section 3, it is anticipated that the construction works and operation of the proposed works will not have a significant effect on air quality.

#### Will the project cause:

Noise and vibration. Noise levels will not exceed the indicative levels of acceptability for construction noise in an urban environment as set out in the NRA guidance 'Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes' (NRA, 2014). The construction phases will have noise barriers in place as required, to minimise / eliminate noise disturbances to sensitive receptors i.e., residential units located adjacent to the site while construction is taking place. Works will be scheduled during day-time hours. Construction contractors will be required to comply with the requirements of the European Communities (Construction Plant and Equipment) (Permissible Noise Levels) Regulations, 1988 as amended in 1990 and 1996 (S.I. No. 320 of 1988, S.I. No. 297 of 1990 and S.I. No. 359 of 1996), and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations, 2006 (S.I. No. 371 of 2006). Due to the nature and scale of the project, detailed in Section 3 it is anticipated that the construction works, and operation of the Proposed Project will not have a significant effect with regards to noise.

Release of light. The lighting will be designed to minimise the effects of light pollution on neighbouring properties. Low energy LED lighting will be used to illuminate areas.

Heat. The proposed works will not cause release of heat.

Energy. The proposed works will not cause release of energy.

Electromagnetic radiation. The proposed works will not cause release of electromagnetic radiation.



Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants, including leachate, onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or sea?

The potential for accidents or incidents causing oil and chemical spillages are limited. All vehicle re-fuelling will be carried out within the Site Compound. With the adoption of site-specific risk management and remediation measures, as appropriate, during construction, no adverse impacts will arise and the residual effects on sensitive receptors would not be significant. Excavation works for the installation of large cobble and rock armour to the riverbank and masonry repairs to the undermined section of the abutments and infilling of the scour hole at the upstream south elevation with suitably sized large cobble will be monitored and in the event that contaminated materials are encountered these will be segregated from uncontaminated soils, temporarily stored (any stockpiles will be lined and covered by heavy duty 1000-gauge plastic), sampled and analysed for relevant parameters (Waste Acceptance Criteria suite e.g., Rilta Disposal Suite). Any contaminated soils will be characterised as per the requirements of the relevant Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) under the relevant European Communities Council Decision (EC) (92003/33/EC). The waste material will be classified in accordance with the requirements of the EPA as set out in the following documents 'Waste Classification List of Waste & Determining if Waste is Hazardous or Non-hazardous' (EPA, 2018). Any contaminated soils will be transported by appropriately permitted hauliers and disposed of to an appropriate EPA licensed Waste Facility in accordance with all relevant waste management legislation. Waste disposal records will be maintained by the Contractor.

*Risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the project concerned*

Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?

Ireland in general is at low risk of natural disasters: earthquakes are rare and of low magnitude, there are no active volcanos, and severe weather events are rarely experienced. Flooding is experienced throughout Ireland on a regular basis. According to the OPW, there is no reported flood risk or historic flooding events within the vicinity of the site. Possible accidents relevant to the Project include vehicle collisions and fire, for both of which there will be plans in place to minimise the risk of harm caused by emissions or discharges.

The appointed contractor will have an emergency plan in place in the event of any major accidents. This will be approved by MCC prior to works commencing.

Major accidents affecting the proposed works include generic risk of fire or explosion.

All these events will be covered by risk assessments and contingency plans which apply to the proposed works. The chosen contractor will be required to liaise with MCC and familiarise themselves with MCC's emergency procedures. In the event of accidents or fire, measures will be in place to limit emissions to land, water and air, as far as practicable.

With these arrangements in place the impact of emissions on human health and sensitive receptors in general will be mitigated such that adverse impacts will be unlikely to arise in the event of an accident.

Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme

The location is not susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme/adverse climatic conditions.



/adverse climatic conditions, e.g., temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?

#### *The risks to human health*

Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution)

Construction will be undertaken in accordance with the commitments to be set out in a site-specific CEMP prepared by the appointed Contractor, such that no significant construction effects on construction workers, residents and the environment would arise. The Contractor will also comply with MCC Emergency Procedures and Plans. A Traffic Management Plan will be put in place for the duration of the works (4 weeks) that will allow continued safe use of this section of the road for road users.

Given the nature of the proposed works, impacts on population during operation, from water contamination, traffic safety, noise and vibration or air quality and climate are not anticipated to be significant.

## 5.7.2 Location of the Proposed Project

Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, requires a description of the location of the proposed works, with regards to the environmental sensitivity of the geographical area likely to be affected by the project. Table 5-3 below details the criteria considered and provides an assessment relating to same.

**Table 5-3 - Location of the Proposed Project**

| Screening Criteria                                                                                                                                                                 | Proposed Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Existing and approved land use</i>                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Are there existing or approved land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project?                                                 | <p>There are no existing approved land uses or community facilities located within or around the proposed works.</p> <p>The contractor will inform and work with all stakeholders to address concerns. Control measures to avoid/mitigate impacts will be included in the CEMP.</p> <p>The Contractor will develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the construction stage.</p> <p>No existing, approved land uses for health, education, or community facilities in general, on, or around, the location will be affected by the proposed works..</p> <p>The construction, operation or decommissioning of the proposed works will not involve actions which will cause significant physical changes in the topography of the area.</p> |
| <i>The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality                                                                                                | <p>Material will be imported for the works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimate volume of top soil and subsoil to be excavated is 26m<sup>3</sup> – (9m<sup>3</sup> on north verge + 17m<sup>3</sup> on southeast</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |





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| or scarce resources which could be affected by the project?                                                                                                                                                         | <p>embankment for stripping for embankment construction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the estimated volume of imported fill is 33m<sup>3</sup> (5m<sup>3</sup> for north verge, 28m<sup>3</sup> for southeast embankment)</li> <li>the estimated volume of soil to be reused onsite is 26m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> <p>As noted above, excavation works will be monitored and in the event that contaminated materials are encountered these will be segregated from uncontaminated soils, temporarily stored (any stockpiles will be lined and covered by heavy duty 1000-gauge plastic), sampled and analysed for relevant parameters (Waste Acceptance Criteria suite e.g., Rilta Disposal Suite). Any contaminated soils will be characterised as per the requirements of the relevant Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) under the relevant European Communities Council Decision (EC) (92003/33/EC). The waste material will be classified in accordance with the requirements of the EPA as set out in the following documents 'Waste Classification List of Waste &amp; Determining if Waste is Hazardous or Non-hazardous' (EPA, 2018). Any contaminated soils will be transported by appropriately permitted hauliers and disposed of to an appropriate EPA licensed Waste Facility in accordance with all relevant waste management legislation. Waste disposal records will be maintained by the Contractor.</p> |
| <b>Absorption capacity of the natural environment</b>                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Are there any other areas on or around the location which has the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths? | <p>An NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2025) prepared for the proposed works concluded that:</p> <p><i>“Given the prescription of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 7 of this NIS, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed project will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, give rise to any impacts which would constitute adverse effects on the Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC or any other Natura 2000 site, in view of their conservation objectives. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the authors of this report that An Coimisiún Pleanála, as the competent authority in this case, may determine that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, provided that the mitigation prescribed in this NIS is fully and properly implemented”</i></p> <p>Based on the location of the proposed works, there is no potential for impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Has the project the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural                                                                                                                                   | The proposed works are located ca. 7.9km from Clew Bay. Due to the proximity to the coast, it is not anticipated that the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| environment, paying particular attention to coastal zones and the marine environment?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | proposed works will have a significant impact on the coastal zone or marine environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Has the project the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to mountain and forest areas?                                                                                                                                                                                          | There are no mountain or forest areas within 1.8km of the proposed works and therefore no impacts on this habitat type. The proposed works lies within the existing road network which is surrounded by agricultural lands.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Has the project the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC?                                                  | <p>An NIS (AtkinsRéalis, 2025) prepared for the proposed works concluded that:</p> <p><i>“Given the prescription of the mitigation measures detailed in Section 7 of this NIS, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed project will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, give rise to any impacts which would constitute adverse effects on the Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC or any other Natura 2000 site, in view of their conservation objectives. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the authors of this report that An Bord Pleanála, as the competent authority in this case, may determine that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, provided that the mitigation prescribed in this NIS is fully and properly implemented”</i></p> <p>Based on the location of the proposed works, there is no potential for impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment.</p>                                                          |
| Has the project the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure? | <p>The absorption capacity of the natural environment is characterised as follows:</p> <p>The area around the proposed works is agricultural in nature.</p> <p>There is 1no. European Sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed works, Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex Special Area of Conservation (site code: 001932) located ca. 0.3km west. Based on the nature, scale and location of the proposed works as detailed in Section 3, there is no potential for impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment.</p> <p>The proposed works are located within the Erriff-Clew Bay Water Framework Directive (WFD) Catchment area (catchment ID: 32) and the Erriff_SC_010 WFD sub-catchment. The proposed works cross 1no. watercourse; Rooghaun 32 (EPA code: IE_WE_32D020150) which is classified by the EPA (2025) as being of ‘good’ WFD status for the 2016-2021 monitoring period and is reported as ‘not at risk’ of failing to meet relevant EFD objectives by 2027. The proposed works are within the Clifden Castlebar Groundwater Body (EPA code: IE_WE_G 0017) which is classified by the EPA (2025) as</p> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>having a 'good' water quality status and as 'not at risk' for failing to meet relevant WFD objectives by 2027.</p> <p>Contamination of the watercourses via. siltation or hydrocarbon spillages, is a risk during the construction phase, however, best practice measures will be employed through adherence to the CEMP which will be prepared, and accidental spills and silt generation will be dealt with through prescribed spill response and silt collection measures.</p> <p>Leaching of pollutants to groundwater is a risk during the construction phase, however, best practice measures will be employed through adherence to the CEMP which will be prepared, and accidental spills will be dealt with through prescribed spill response measures.</p> |
| Has the project the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to densely populated areas?                                                     | No. There is no significant effect on the absorption capacity of the natural environment in relation to densely populated areas as a result of the proposed works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Has the project the potential to impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or Archaeological significance? | No. There is no potential for impact on the absorption capacity of the natural environment in relation to landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or Archaeological significance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## 5.7.3 Characteristics of potential impact

Table 5-4 below details the types and characteristics of potential impacts of the Proposed Project as required under Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

**Table 5-4 - Characteristics of the Proposed Project**

| Screening Criteria                                                                                                                        | Proposed Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</i>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Outline the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected). | <p>The spatial extent of the proposed works measures ca. 0.1 hectares.</p> <p>The types of development identified within the vicinity of the proposed works include the few nearby residential properties, and Cushlough Community Centre located ca.585m south of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>Direct impacts associated with the proposed works are likely to be located within the environs of the site, chiefly associated with impacts on vehicular movement within the local area. Traffic management will be implemented during construction to minimise disruption to traffic flow. Due to the nature of the proposed works it is likely that the resident population would potentially be affected by the proposed works.</p> |
| <i>Nature of the impact</i>                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Outline the nature of the impact.                                                                                                         | There could be potential adverse construction and operation impacts arising from temporary disruption or disturbance associated with the proposed works. This has potential to result in construction traffic, noise and air quality impacts but with the implementation of the control measures included in the CEMP it is unlikely that impacts would give rise to significant environmental effects. Potential adverse operational impacts of the proposed works will be associated with traffic as well as the lighting. MCC will engage with stakeholders including the adjacent residents and commercial, premises throughout the design and construction stages to address any concerns.                                        |
| <i>Transboundary nature of the impact</i>                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?                                                                                   | Given the location of the site no transboundary impacts will occur.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <i>The intensity and complexity of the impact</i>                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Outline the intensity and complexity of the impact.                                                                                       | The impacts identified are unlikely to cause significant changes in environmental conditions within the site and surrounding area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <i>The probability of the impact</i>                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Outline the probability of the impact.                                                                                                    | <p>During construction, conventional construction and best environmental practice techniques can be readily deployed. In order to minimise disruption, a CEMP will be implemented.</p> <p>There is no significant environmental effects during the operational phase anticipated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <i>The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact</i>                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Outline the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

It is expected that the duration of construction works will be approximately 4 weeks. Normal working hours during the construction period are expected to be Monday to Friday 08:00 to 18:00, and Saturday 09:00 to 13:00. During the construction stage it may be necessary to carry out some work outside of normal working hours however, this will be kept to a minimum and only undertaken following approval from MCC.

The noise and air quality impact peaks during construction will be intermittent with a potential background level of nuisance as they will depend on the construction activities which are for their nature variable and not continuous.

It is not expected that noise levels will be significant during the operational stage.

The selection and implementation of established best practice procedures as set out by the appointed Contractor will ensure potential environmental impacts during the construction phase are offset.

#### *Cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved development*

Could this project together with existing and/ or approved project result in cumulation of impacts together during construction/ operation phase?

As discussed previously, there are no approved developments in the vicinity with which cumulative impacts could arise.

#### *Possibility of effectively reducing the impact*

What measures can be adopted to avoid, reduce, repair or compensate the impact?

The design of the proposed works is being developed to reduce both construction and operational impacts. During construction the impact of the proposed works would be further reduced through the implementation of the CEMP. During operation, potential impacts would be reduced by the inclusion of design measures, operational control plans including MCC guidance and standards.



## 5.7.4 Schedule 7A

Table 5-5 below signposts the location of information for screening.

**Table 5-5 - Information for Screening**

|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. A description of the proposed Project, including:                                                                                                                       |                                                         |
| (a) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed works and, where relevant, of demolition works.                                                    | Refer to Table 5-1 and 3 of this report.                |
| (b) A description of the location of the proposed works, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of the geographical areas likely to be affected.          | Refer to Table 5-2 and Section 2 of this report.        |
| 2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed works.                                                              | Refer to Table 5-3.                                     |
| 3. A description of the likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the Proposed Project on the environment resulting from: |                                                         |
| (a) The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant,                                                                                       | Refer to Table 5-1 – Production of Waste.               |
| (b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity                                                                                         | Refer to Table 5-1– soil, land, water and biodiversity. |
| 4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 4 shall take account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.                                         |                                                         |

## 6. Potential for Significant Effects on the Receiving Environment

All relevant information as required under Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, and the Roads Act 1993 as amended, has been provided on behalf of the client and is presented within Section 5 of this Screening Report. The potential for the proposed works to pose a significant effect to the receiving environment has also been evaluated in accordance with criteria listed Planning and Development Regulations (2001-2025) (Schedule 7).

It is considered that due to the size, nature, and characteristics of the proposed works, no significant effects on the receiving environment are expected; hence the preparation of a sub-threshold EIAR is not required.

## 7. Screening Conclusion

This EIA Screening Report has been carried out in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations as amended 2001-2025 (which give effect to the provisions of EU Directive 2014/52/EU) and the Roads Act 1993 as amended. The report assessed the impact of the proposed works in conjunction with committed developments in the surrounding area.

Based on all available information, and taking account of the scale, nature and location of the proposed works, it is our opinion that the preparation of an EIAR is not a mandatory requirement (under Schedule 5, Part 1 and 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 2025). The proposed works is deemed a sub-threshold development; hence the potential for significant environmental effects arising as a result of the proposed works has been evaluated, in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 7A and Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Acts 2001-2025. However, MCC, as the competent authority will ultimately determine whether an EIA is required or not.

Key findings are summarised as follows:

- Due to the limited nature of the works, it is considered that there will be no significant cumulative impacts with other developments in the general area.
- Limited noise, vibration and dust emissions may be generated during construction; however, this is anticipated to be minimal in effect and will cause no significant impacts.
- There will be no significant impact on biodiversity, groundwater, surface water or traffic; and,
- There will be no significant impacts on recorded monuments or historic features.
- In summary, no significant adverse impacts to the receiving environment will arise because of the proposed works.

Accordingly, we consider that the preparation of an EIAR is not required for the proposed works. However, the competent authority will ultimately determine whether an EIA is required or not.

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