



APPENDIX 8-5

WFD COMPLIANCE REPORT



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
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Tionól Reigiúnach
Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



Fáilte
Ireland



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



The Hodson Bay Waterfront Park Project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund



WFD Compliance Report

Hodson Bay Waterfront
Park, Co. Roscommon

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1.

INTRODUCTION

This Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessment was completed as part of the planning application for the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development comprises the redevelopment of an existing Waterfront and Marina at Hodson Bay, Lough Ree, as outlined in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

1.1

Purpose of Assessment

The purpose of the assessment is to determine whether the Proposed Development could compromise the achievement of WFD environmental objectives or cause a deterioration in the status of any surface water or groundwater body hydraulically connected to the Proposed Development. The assessment supplements Chapter 8 of the EIAR (Hydrology and Hydrogeology), submitted as part of the planning application.

1.2

Statement of Authority

This section of the EIAR has been prepared by Anna Bannon and reviewed by Monika Kabza, employees of MKO.

Anna Bannon has a BSc in Geology from the University College Dublin. Anna joined MKO in September 2025 as a Graduate Geoscientist and has been involved in environmental assessment, geological interpretation, and baseline data review for infrastructure and environmental projects.

Monika Kabza is a hydrogeologist with over 16 years of experience in hydrogeology, geology, environmental assessment and water resources management. Monika holds MSc in Groundwater Engineering from the AGH University of Science and Technology Krakow, Poland and is a registered professional geologist (EurGeol, PGeo). She has worked on projects for Uisce Éireann, Geological Survey Ireland, National Federation of Group Water Schemes, Dublin Airport, and private industry. Her experience includes the preparation of WFD assessments, Hydrology and Hydrogeology and Land, Soils, and Geology chapters for Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs), including major infrastructure projects, as well as wind and solar farms development.

1.3

Water Framework Directive

The European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) establishes a comprehensive framework for the protection and management of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater across the EU. The WFD was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003), as amended.

The principal objectives of the WFD are to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore aquatic ecosystems, with the aim of achieving at least Good Ecological Status (or Good Ecological Potential for heavily modified water bodies), Good Chemical Status for surface waters, and Good Quantitative and Chemical Status for groundwater, unless specific exemptions apply under Article 4 of the Directive.

In Ireland, EPA is responsible for monitoring and classifying the status of water bodies and providing the evidence base for River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). Environmental objectives are assigned to individual water bodies through the RBMP process and define the status that should be achieved within each planning cycle.

To support the achievement of these objectives, Programmes of Measures (PoMs) are implemented to protect and improve the water environment. These comprise Basic Measures, which are statutory and enforceable

(e.g. the Sustainable Use of Pesticides regulations), and Supplementary Measures, which are generally non-statutory and voluntary (e.g. pilot schemes, awareness campaigns).

As part of its WFD implementation process, the EPA undertakes a risk assessment to identify water bodies that are either 'At Risk' or 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve their WFD environmental objectives. For water bodies classified as 'At Risk', the EPA identifies the 'significant pressures' responsible for the risk of failing to achieve or maintain the required status. These identified pressures inform the development of targeted Programmes of Measures within the relevant subcatchment to support the achievement of WFD environmental objectives.

Ireland is currently implementing the third RBMP cycle (2022-2027) through the Water Action Plan 2024, which sets out the measures required to achieve the environmental objectives of the WFD. The latest EPA water body classification currently covers the assessment period 2019-2024.

Water body status is formally assessed and reported by the EPA as part of the RBMP cycle. However, the WFD 'no deterioration' principle applies at all times. Accordingly, this assessment considers whether the Proposed Development could result in either temporary or permanent adverse effects that may cause deterioration in the status of any water body or compromise the achievement of its environmental objectives during construction or operation.

The WFD also requires that protected areas associated with the aquatic environment achieve their relevant environmental requirements and conservation objectives. These include:

- Natura 2000 sites comprising Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- Drinking water protected areas;
- Bathing waters;
- Shellfish waters;
- Salmonid waters; and
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas.

The environmental requirements for these protected areas are established through relevant legislation and guidance issued by the competent authorities, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other statutory bodies.

2. WATER BODY IDENTIFICATION

This section identifies the surface water and groundwater bodies that may be potentially affected by the Proposed Development. The identification of relevant water bodies is based on a review of the hydrological and hydrogeological setting of the site, including surface water drainage pathways, groundwater flow patterns and hydraulic connectivity within the surrounding catchment.

2.1 Surface Water Bodies

The Proposed Development is located within Upper Shannon Catchment (26E) and the Shannon [Upper]_SC_090 sub-catchment. The majority of the Proposed Development is situated within the SHANNON (Upper)_110 sub-basin, with a small section of the southern access road located within the BALLYBAY_010 sub-basin.

The principal receiving surface water body is Lough Ree (WFD code: IE_SH_26_750a), which bounds the northern section of the Proposed Development.

The closest river waterbody is an unnamed stream west of the site, temporarily designated by EPA as TEMP_26N58 (IE_SH_26S021660). This stream forms part of the Shannon (Upper)_110 river water body. It flows northwards for approximately 0.8 kilometres (km) before discharging to Lough Ree and is hydraulically upstream of the Proposed Development. As there is no hydraulic pathway by which the Proposed Development could affect this upstream waterbody, it is not considered further in this WFD Compliance Assessment.

Lough Ree forms part of the River Shannon system. The continuation of the River Shannon (Upper) is mapped by the EPA approximately 3.6 km southeast of the Site, where it drains Lough Ree towards Athlone.

2.1.1 Surface Water Body Status Classification

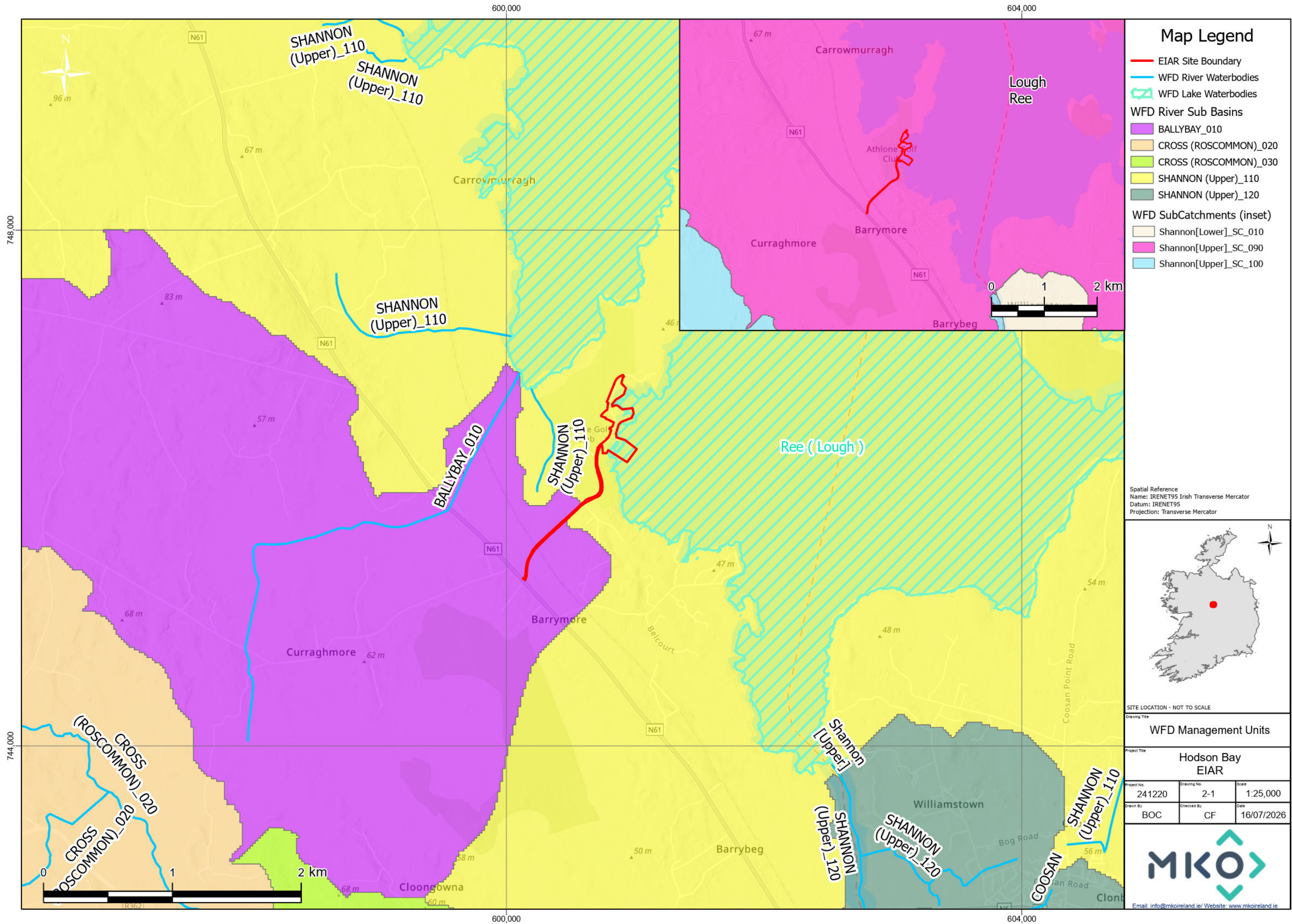
Based on the EPA's most recent classification period (2019-2024), the Lough Ree is classified as having 'Moderate' ecological status (high confidence) and therefore does not achieve the WFD environmental objective of 'Good' ecological status.

The overall Moderate ecological status is primarily driven by Moderate classification for macrophytes (other aquatic flora), hydromorphological conditions, supporting chemistry conditions, including dissolved oxygen and total phosphorus. Other quality elements, including phytoplankton, thermal conditions, pH, and nitrogen conditions, are classified as High.

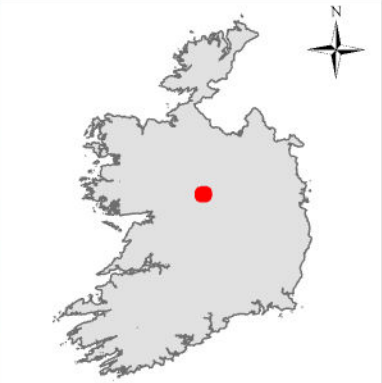
2.1.2 Surface Water Body Risk Assessment

Based on the latest available WFD risk assessment for the period 2022–2027¹, the Lough Ree is 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve its environmental objective.

¹ <https://ais.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>



Spatial Reference
Name: IRENET95 Irish Transverse Mercator
Datum: IRENET95
Projection: Transverse Mercator



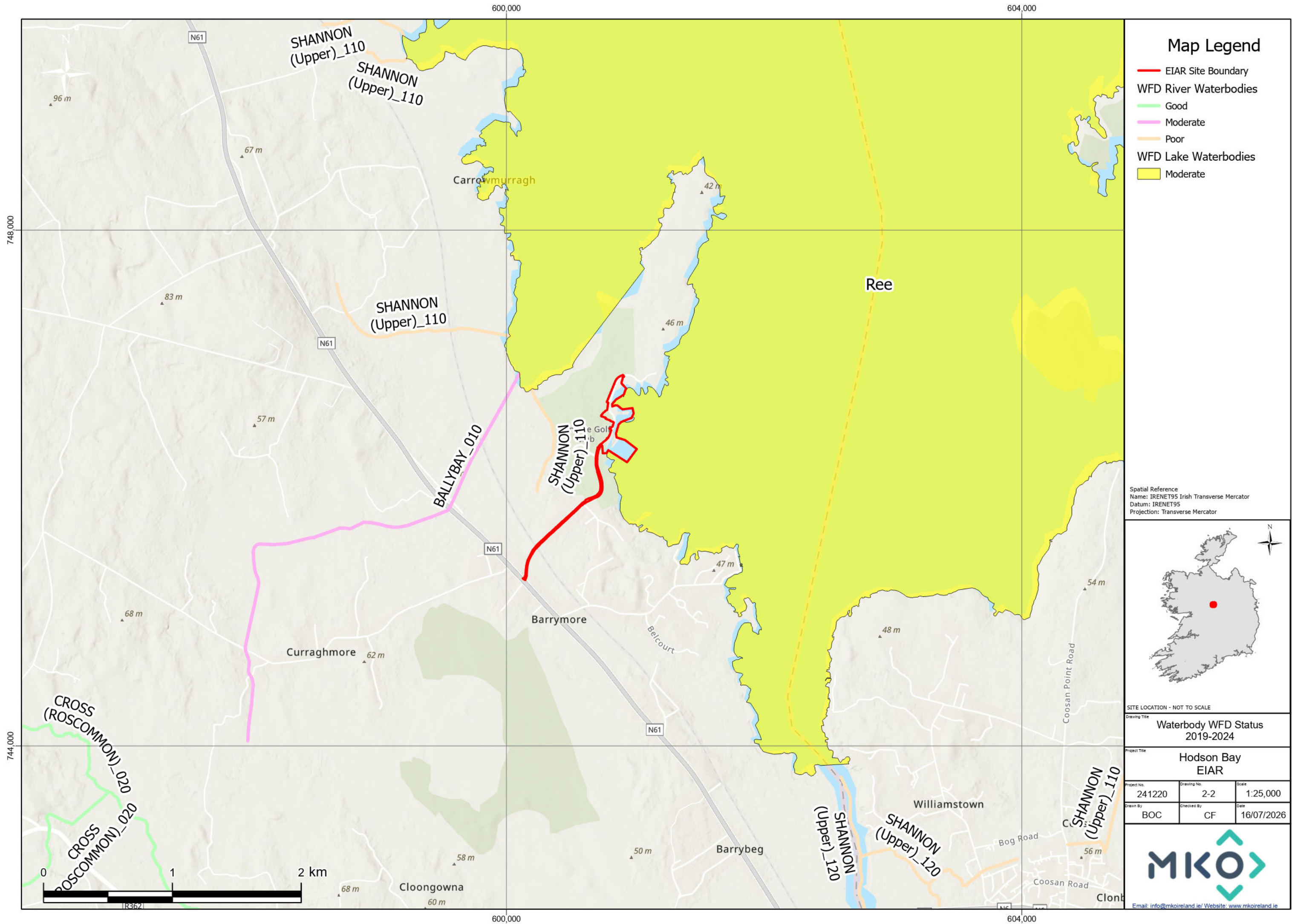
SITE LOCATION - NOT TO SCALE

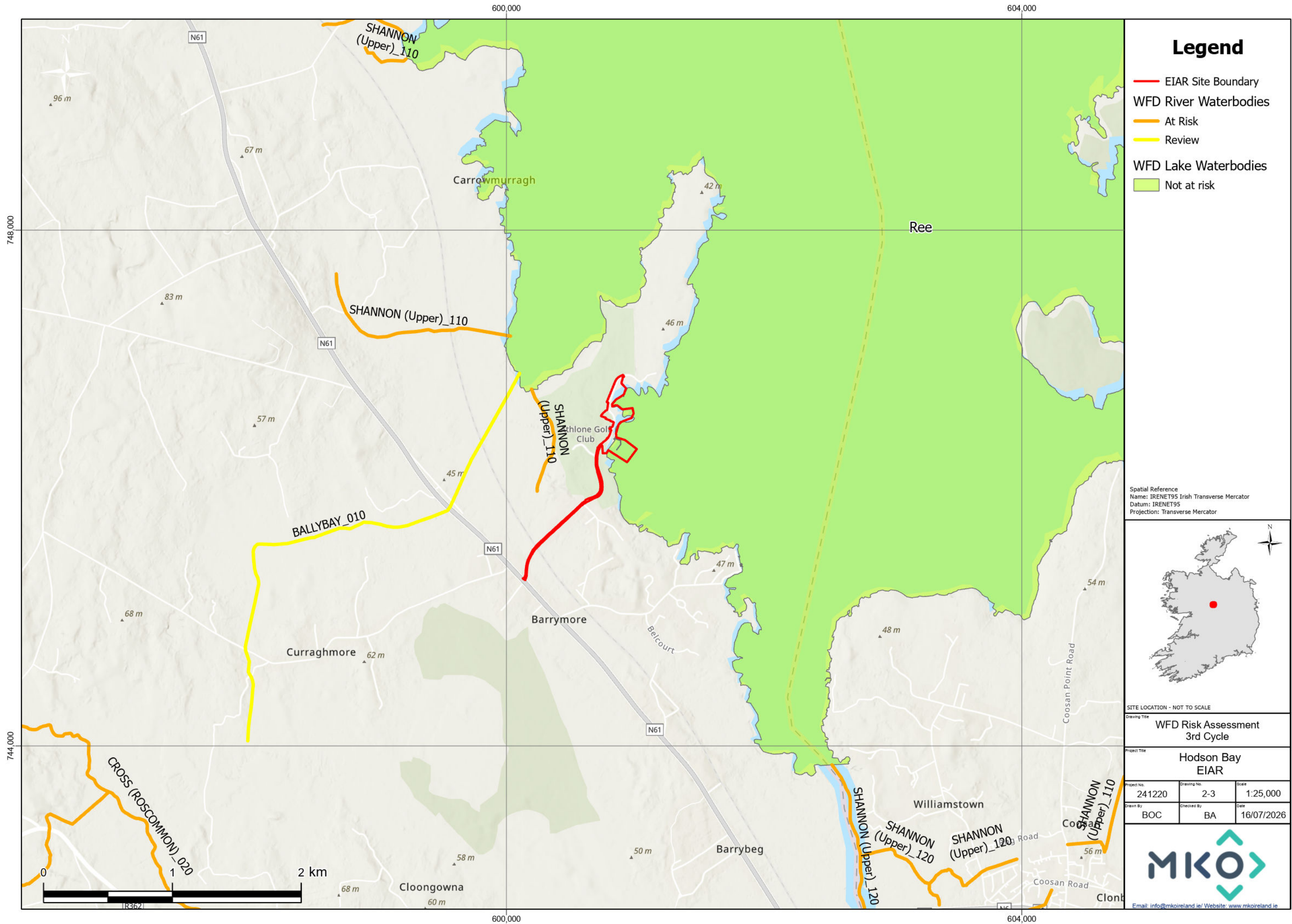
WFD Management Units

Project Title		
Hodson Bay EIAR		
Project No.	Drawing No.	Scale
241220	2-1	1:25,000
Drawn By	Checked By	Date
BOC	CF	16/07/2026



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2.2 Groundwater Bodies

As presented in Chapter 8 of the EIAR, the groundwater body that underlies the Proposed Development is Funshinagh (IE_SH_G_091).

2.2.1 Groundwater Body Status Classification

Based on the latest WFD classification period (2019-2024), the Funshinagh groundwater body is classified as having 'Good' status by the EPA, indicating that it meets the WFD environmental objectives for both quantitative and chemical status.

2.2.2 Groundwater Body Risk Assessment

The Funshinagh groundwater body is classified as 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve the WFD status objectives by 2027.

3. **WFD COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT**

This section assesses whether the Proposed Development has the potential to cause deterioration in the status of surface water or groundwater, or to impede the achievement of WFD objectives for any connected water bodies.

3.1 **Risk Factors - Surface Water**

The principal risks to surface water associated with the Proposed Development arise primarily during the construction phase and are related to the temporary disturbance of the existing water environment during the redevelopment of the waterfront and marina, including the construction of the new breakwater, jetty extensions, shoreline promenade, pavilion building and associated infrastructure.

The main potential risk factors include:

- Mobilisation of sediments and increased turbidity arising from site clearance, excavation, earthworks and construction activities within and adjacent to Lough Ree;
- Increased suspended solids associated with excavation dewatering, construction runoff and rainfall on exposed ground;
- Temporary disturbance of the lake bed and nearshore aquatic habitats during marina redevelopment, breakwater improvements and jetty construction;
- Accidental releases of fuels, oils, concrete, cementitious materials or other hazardous substances associated with construction plant, equipment, and material handling;
- Inappropriate collection, storage or disposal of construction wastewater and wash water; and
- Accidental spills or leakages from plant and machinery.

During the operational phase, the principal surface water risks are limited to:

- Contaminated surface water runoff from hardstanding areas;
- Accidental fuel or oil spillages associated with marina activities; and
- Foul wastewater generated by the proposed pavilion and marina facilities.

The principal receiving surface water body is Ree (Lough), which is currently classified as having 'Moderate' ecological status under the WFD and 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve its environmental objective. As the Proposed Development includes works adjacent to and within Lough Ree, particular consideration has been given to the potential for the Proposed Development to affect water quality, hydromorphological conditions and the ecological status of the receiving waterbody.

3.2 **Risk of Affecting Surface Water Body Status**

The principal risks to WFD status relate to the temporary mobilisation of sediments, suspended solids and other contaminants during construction activities, together with the potential for localised disturbance of the lake bed, shoreline and nearshore aquatic habitats during the redevelopment of the marina, construction of the breakwater extension, jetty installation and other lakeside infrastructure works. Without appropriate mitigation, these activities could adversely affect water quality, hydromorphological conditions and ecological receptors within the receiving Ree (Lough) water body.

The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on the receiving water environment. Construction activities within and adjacent to Lough Ree will be undertaken using best

practice construction methods, while the extent and duration of in-water works have been minimised through the project design. The drainage strategy has also been developed to manage surface water runoff using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and nature-based drainage measures, thereby reducing the potential for sediment and pollutant transport to Lough Ree.

The identified risks will be managed by implementing the mitigation measures described in Section 4, together with those incorporated into the Proposed Development.

Subject to the implementation of these measures, the construction of the Proposed Development is not expected to cause deterioration in the status of the Ree (Lough) water body or prevent the achievement of its WFD environmental objectives.

During operation, surface water runoff will be managed through the proposed SuDS network prior to discharge to Lough Ree. Foul wastewater generated by the proposed pavilion and marina facilities will be collected and conveyed to the existing Uisce Éireann foul sewer network for treatment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Consequently, the operational phase of the Proposed Development is not expected to adversely affect the ecological status or environmental objectives of the receiving water body.

Accordingly, the Proposed Development is not expected to result in deterioration in the status of any connected surface water body or compromise the achievement of the applicable WFD environmental objectives.

3.3

Risk Factors – Groundwater

The principal risks to groundwater associated with the Proposed Development arise primarily during the construction phase and are related to temporary ground disturbance, shallow excavations and the potential for accidental contamination associated with construction activities.

The main potential risk factors include:

- Temporary and localised disturbance of shallow groundwater flow paths associated with excavation works and foundation construction;
- Infiltration of sediment-laden surface water or contaminated construction runoff to the underlying groundwater where appropriate controls are not implemented;
- Accidental spillages of fuels, oils, concrete washout, cementitious materials or other hazardous substances associated with construction plant, equipment and material handling; and
- Temporary deterioration in groundwater quality resulting from inappropriate storage or handling of construction materials, fuels or wastes.

The groundwater beneath the Proposed Development forms part of the Funshinagh groundwater body, which is classified as having 'Good' status under the WFD and 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve its environmental objective. The site is underlain by a Regionally Important Karstified Aquifer (Rkc) with Moderate to High groundwater vulnerability, indicating that groundwater may be susceptible to contamination from activities at the ground surface if appropriate pollution prevention measures are not implemented.

3.4

Risk of Affecting Groundwater Body Status

Under the WFD, groundwater bodies are classified based on both quantitative and chemical status, with the overall status determined by the least favourable of the two assessments. The environmental objective is to achieve and maintain 'Good' groundwater status while preventing deterioration in groundwater quality or quantity (WFD 2000/60/EC; DHLGH, 2024).

The Proposed Development does not include groundwater abstraction, permanent dewatering or any activities that would result in significant long-term changes to groundwater levels, groundwater recharge or regional groundwater flow. Construction activities will involve only localised and temporary excavations associated with the Water Sports Pavilion building, marina infrastructure and associated services, and are not expected to affect groundwater quantity at the groundwater body scale.

Potential impacts on groundwater chemical status are limited to temporary construction phase risks, including accidental spillages of fuels, oils, concrete washout or other hazardous substances, infiltration of contaminated construction runoff, and disturbance of shallow groundwater pathways. These risks will be managed through the implementation of pollution prevention measures, appropriate storage and handling of hazardous materials, spill response procedures, sediment and runoff control measures, and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

The Funshinagh groundwater body underlying the Proposed Development is currently classified as having 'Good' status and is identified by the EPA as 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve its WFD environmental objective. Although the Site is underlain by a Regionally Important Karstified Aquifer with Moderate to High groundwater vulnerability, the scale and nature of the Proposed Development are not expected to introduce significant additional pressures on groundwater quality or quantity.

Groundwater beneath the site flows towards Lough Ree. Consequently, the proposed pollution prevention and drainage measures will also minimise the potential for indirect effects on the receiving surface water environment.

Accordingly, subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the Proposed Development is not expected to cause deterioration in the status of the Funshinagh groundwater body or compromise the achievement of its WFD environmental objective.

4.

MITIGATION TO PREVENT STATUS DETERIORATION

The objective of the proposed mitigation measures is to protect surface water and groundwater quality during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development, prevent deterioration in the status of the receiving water bodies, and ensure that the Proposed Development does not compromise the achievement of the applicable WFD environmental objectives (WFD 2000/60/EC; DHLGH, 2024).

The mitigation strategy combines embedded design measures with construction and operational controls to avoid or minimise potential adverse effects on surface water quality, groundwater quality, hydromorphological conditions and aquatic habitats. The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise disturbance to Lough Ree through the incorporation of SuDS), pollution prevention measures, appropriate wastewater management, and best practice construction methods for works undertaken within and adjacent to the lake.

Mitigation measures will be implemented throughout the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development and are summarised in Sections 4.1 and 4.2. Collectively, these measures are intended to break potential source–pathway–receptor linkages, minimise the risk of sediment and contaminant mobilisation, protect surface water and groundwater quality, and ensure compliance with the WFD no deterioration principle.

4.1

Construction Phase

The construction methodology adopts a multiple-barrier approach to protect the surface water and groundwater, consistent with the principles set out in Chapter 8 and the CEMP.

The principal mitigation measures include:

- Minimising the extent and duration of exposed ground;
- Implementing erosion and sediment control measures;
- Managing sediment-laden surface water runoff through temporary drainage and treatment systems;
- Pollution prevention measures; and
- Routine inspection and maintenance of all environmental protection measures throughout the construction period.

Particular consideration has been given to works undertaken within and adjacent to Lough Ree, including the marina redevelopment, breakwater extension, and jetty construction, to minimise potential impacts on the receiving water environment.

Collectively, these measures provide multiple barriers to pollutant migration, minimise the potential for sediment transport and contaminant mobilisation, and protect surface water and groundwater quality throughout the construction phase.

The proposed construction-phase mitigation measures are summarised in Table 4-1. Many of these measures will remain in place following construction and will continue to provide water quality protection during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Table 4-1 Summary of Proposed Mitigation Measures During Construction Phase

Mitigation Type	Description
Avoidance Controls	➤ Minimising exposed soils and working areas; ➤ 50m setback from Lough Ree, where practicable;

Mitigation Type	Description
	› Temporary interceptor drains and bunds; › Diversion drains; › Cofferdam installation; › Cessation of works during heavy rainfall.
Source Controls	› Covering/dampening of stockpiles; › Temporary covering of exposed work areas; › Dust suppression; › Sealed earth bund adjacent to alluvial woodland; › Controlled refuelling; › Bunded fuel and chemical storage; › Controlled concrete handling and washout management; › Low-impact piling methods; › Careful positioning of construction plant; › Environmental supervision / CEMP.
In-line Controls	› Sediment control (silt fences, straw bales, sand and oyster bags, and filter fabrics); › Sediment settlement control (weirs, baffles and check dams); › Flow limiters; › Sump pumping; › Flume pipes; › Floating silt curtain.
Treatment Controls	› Sediment traps; › Silt bags; › Sedimats/vegetation filters; › Attenuation ponds; › Perimeter swales; › Hydrocarbon interceptors.
Discharge & Receiving Water Controls	› Controlled discharge using level spreaders; › Floating silt curtain inspected and retained until baseline suspended solids are achieved; › Water-tight shuttering and formwork; › Retention of geomembranes and sandbags;

4.2 Operational Phase

Following completion of construction, the Proposed Development will comprise a permanent marina and waterfront development, including the redeveloped marina facilities, breakwater extension, jetties, Water Sports Pavilion, public realm improvements, drainage infrastructure and associated landscaping.

During operation, the principal measures for the protection of surface water and groundwater will comprise the permanent stormwater drainage strategy, which has been designed in accordance with the SuDS hierarchy and incorporates nature-based solutions (NBS) where practicable. The drainage strategy seeks to replicate the natural hydrological regime by reducing runoff volumes, promoting attenuation and improving water quality prior to discharge to Lough Ree. Where site constraints prevent the use of nature-based attenuation features, below-ground attenuation will be provided. All stormwater will pass through hydrocarbon and integrated silt separation interceptors prior to discharge.

Foul wastewater generated by the Proposed Development will be collected from the Water Sports Pavilion and marina facilities and discharged to the existing on-site pumping station operated by Uisce Éireann before being conveyed to the existing foul sewer network for treatment at the receiving Wastewater Treatment Plant. No untreated foul wastewater will be discharged to the receiving environment.

The stormwater and foul drainage infrastructure, including attenuation features and treatment devices, will be subject to routine inspection and maintenance to ensure their continued operational performance.

4.3

Monitoring

A construction phase monitoring programme will be implemented in accordance with the commitments set out in Chapter 8 to verify the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures and demonstrate compliance with the WFD no deterioration principle.

The monitoring programme will comprise routine inspection of temporary drainage infrastructure, erosion and sediment control measures, cofferdams, settlement features and discharge locations, together with surface water quality monitoring within Lough Ree. Monitoring will include field measurements and laboratory analysis of water quality parameters at upstream and downstream monitoring locations established for the Proposed Development.

Monitoring will commence prior to the start of construction, continue throughout the construction phase, and extend following completion of the works, in accordance with the programme described in Chapter 8. The monitoring programme will adopt an adaptive approach, allowing the frequency and scope of monitoring to be modified where required based on site conditions or monitoring results.

Where monitoring identifies deterioration in water quality or indicates that mitigation measures are not performing as intended, corrective actions will be implemented immediately, including suspension of works where necessary, until the issue has been resolved.

The monitoring programme will verify that the proposed mitigation measures remain effective throughout construction and that the Proposed Development does not result in deterioration of the Ree (Lough) (IE_SH_26_750a) surface water body or prevent the achievement of the applicable WFD environmental objectives.

4.4

General Environmental Management Measures

In addition to the project-specific mitigation measures described above, a range of general environmental management measures will be implemented throughout the construction phase and, where relevant, during the operational phase to minimise the risk of accidental pollution and ensure compliance with the WFD environmental objectives (WFD 2000/60/EC; DHLGH, 2024).

4.4.1

Fuel and Chemical Management

- Fuels, oils and other potentially polluting substances will be stored, handled and used in accordance with the CEMP and relevant best practice guidance;
- Refuelling and maintenance of plant and machinery will be undertaken using appropriate pollution prevention measures, with spill response equipment available at all active work areas; and
- Any accidental spillages will be contained and cleaned up immediately in accordance with the emergency response procedures set out in the CEMP.

4.4.2 Wastewater and Concrete Management

- Construction wastewater, welfare wastewater and concrete-related waters will be managed in accordance with the CEMP and will not be discharged untreated to Lough Ree, surface water drains or groundwater; and
- Ready-mixed concrete and pre-cast elements will be used where practicable to minimise on-site concrete handling.

4.4.3 In-Water Construction Management

- In-water works will be undertaken using best practice construction methods to minimise sediment disturbance and turbidity, with duration and extent of such works minimised, where practicable; and
- Temporary works within Lough Ree will be removed following completion of construction, and disturbed areas will be reinstated, where required.

4.4.4 General Environmental Management

- All construction personnel will receive appropriate environmental awareness training prior to commencing works;
- Pollution prevention measures, erosion and sediment controls, and drainage infrastructure will be routinely inspected and maintained throughout construction; and
- Construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with the CEMP and relevant guidance documents, including the Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance for the protection of the aquatic environment during construction works.

Collectively, these measures, together with the project-specific mitigation measures presented in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 and their implementation through the CEMP, including the proposed mitigation and monitoring programmes, will minimise the risk of accidental pollution, protect surface water and groundwater quality, and ensure that the Proposed Development will not cause deterioration in the status of any connected WFD water body or prevent the achievement of the applicable WFD environmental objectives.

4.5 Residual Effects After Implementing Mitigation Measures

Following implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, no significant impacts on the surface water or groundwater environment are anticipated. The identified risks to surface water and groundwater quality, hydromorphological conditions and aquatic habitats will be effectively managed through the application of embedded design measures, pollution prevention procedures, construction management controls, SuDS, and the routine inspection and maintenance of the proposed drainage and wastewater infrastructure.

Accordingly, the Proposed Development is not expected to cause deterioration in the status of Ree (Lough) or the Funshinagh groundwater body, nor is it expected to compromise the achievement of their applicable Water Framework Directive environmental objectives.

During the operational phase, the continued operation and maintenance of the proposed drainage infrastructure, hydrocarbon interceptors, foul drainage network and associated pollution prevention measures will ensure that the Proposed Development does not introduce significant additional pressures on the receiving water environment.

On this basis, the Proposed Development is considered to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and is not expected to prevent the achievement of, or contribute to deterioration in, the status objectives of any hydrologically connected surface water or groundwater body.

5.

DESIGNATED SITES AND PROTECTED AREAS

A review was undertaken of designated sites and protected areas located within the potential zone of influence of the Proposed Development. The designated sites identified in proximity to the Proposed Development are summarised in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Summary of Designated Sites and Potential to be Impacted by the Proposed Development

Designated Site and distance from Proposed Development	Likely Zone of Influence Determination
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	
Lough Ree SAC [000440] Distance: 0 km	A section of the Site is located within the boundaries of Lough Ree SAC. There is potential for direct effects on the designated site. Some aspects of the works will take place within Lough Ree itself and on directly adjacent shores. There is the potential for significant negative effects on surface water quality, primarily through sediment mobilisation, transport, and resuspension, which increase turbidity and, in turn, have indirect negative effects on ecosystems, flora, and fauna. In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for negative impacts on this SAC through deterioration in surface water quality during construction. Hence, further assessment is required.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	
Lough Ree SPA [004064] Distance: 0 km	See SAC description above.
Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA)	
Lough Ree pNHA [000440] Distance: 0 km	See SAC description above.

The qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the identified protected areas were considered in the context of the hydrological and hydrogeological pathways associated with the Proposed Development. As the Proposed Development comprises the redevelopment of the existing marina, construction of new jetties and boardwalks, extension of the existing breakwater, public realm improvements, landscaping, and associated drainage infrastructure, the only credible pathways for indirect effects are limited to:

- Temporary increases in suspended sediment concentrations and turbidity resulting from shoreline and in-water construction activities;
- Accidental releases of fuels, oils, concrete, or other potentially polluting substances during construction;
- Temporary localised deterioration in surface water quality associated with sediment-laden surface water runoff and dewatering activities, where required;
- Temporary disturbance of lakebed sediments during construction of the breakwater extension, jetties and associated in-water infrastructure; and
- Temporary disturbance associated with in-water construction activities.

These potential pathways will be effectively managed through the implementation of the embedded mitigation measures and additional pollution prevention measures described in Section 4. Following implementation of these measures, no significant adverse effects on surface water quality, groundwater quality or hydromorphological conditions are predicted.

Accordingly, the Proposed Development is not expected to cause deterioration in the ecological or chemical status of Ree (Lough) (IE_SH_26_750a) or the Funshinagh groundwater body (IE_SH_G_091), nor to adversely affect the water-dependent qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the protected areas considered within this assessment.

6.

SUMMARY

This WFD Compliance Assessment has evaluated the potential for the Proposed Development to affect the status of hydrologically connected surface water and groundwater bodies or to prevent the achievement of the applicable WFD environmental objectives established under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Water Action Plan for Ireland 2024.

The assessment identified Ree (Lough) (IE_SH_26_750a) as the receiving surface water body and the underlying Funshinagh groundwater body (IE_SH_G_091) as the relevant groundwater body. Ree (Lough) is currently classified as having 'Moderate' ecological status and is identified by the EPA as 'Not At Risk' of failing to achieve its environmental objectives. The Funshinagh groundwater body is currently classified as having 'Good' groundwater status and is also identified as 'Not At Risk'.

The assessment concludes that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures, best practice construction methods and environmental management procedures described in the EIAR, the Proposed Development is not expected to cause deterioration in the status of any hydrologically connected surface water or groundwater body or compromise the achievement of the applicable WFD environmental objectives.

During operation, the Proposed Development incorporates SuDS, nature-based drainage measures, attenuation storage and hydrocarbon treatment systems to maintain the existing hydrological regime and protect water quality. Foul wastewater generated by the development will be discharged to the existing Uisce Éireann foul sewer network for treatment. Consequently, no significant adverse effects on the receiving water environment are predicted, and the Proposed Development is considered to be compliant with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

7.

REFERENCES

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2024). Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027. Accessible from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/policy-information/river-basin-management-plan-2022-2027/>

EPA, GSI, NPWS, online databases were reviewed to assess catchment status, surface and groundwater classification chemistry data, and designated sites.

Environmental Protection Agency (2024). Cycle 3. HA 26E Upper Shannon (Lough Ree) Catchment Report.

European Parliament and Council, 2000. Directive 2000/60/EC Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy (Water Framework Directive). Official Journal of the European Communities, L327/1.

European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003), as amended.

