Appendix to Chapter 8: Biodiversity

Appendix 8.2: Aquatic Habitats & Species Fieldwork & Survey Results

The data and descriptions in this appendix have informed the cumulative evaluations in the EIA Main Report.

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A8-2.1 Fieldwork - Aquatic Habitats & Species

A8-2.1.1 Watercourse Surveys for UWF Grid Connection

Following a comprehensive desktop review to identify watercourses along the <u>UWF Grid Connection</u>, various field surveys took place.

A **watercourse characteristics survey** of crossing locations along the UWF Grid Connection route (by INIS Ecologists and members of the HES team) was carried out visually on the 17th, 22nd, 23rd and 28th of January 2019, and on the 30th of May, during which the following physical parameters and habitat quality indicators were recorded at each watercourse crossing point:

- Grid coordinates of the crossing point;
- Watercourse feature i.e. drain, stream or river;
- Crossing type e.g. existing culvert, new crossing;
- Channel width and depth (m);
- Substrate type listing substrate fractions in order of dominance i.e. large rocks, cobble, gravel, sand, mud, etc.
- Target notes on fisheries habitat and character including: features such as extent of riffle and glide/bank stability; salmonid suitability i.e. spawning / juvenile rearing habitat; and lamprey suitability.

For additional information see Chapter 11: Water and relevant associated Appendices.

Surveys of watercourse crossing locations located on haulage routes associated with the UWF Grid Connection were carried out on the 7th and 8th June, 2017. (Haulage routes for this 2nd UWF Grid Connection application (2019) application were also considered as part of the Haulage routes for the 1st UWF Grid Connection application (2018)).

A8-2.1.2 Watercourse Classification

Watercourses have previously been characterised into 4 classes- Class 1 to Class 4:

Using a combination of the following Best Practice we evaluated each watercourse crossing for fisheries and assigned a fisheries importance rating of Class 1 (EPA Blue Line) or Class 2 (EPA Blue Line Equivalent watercourse) which were evaluated as having Optimal fisheries value, Class 3 for watercourses with Sub-Optimal fisheries value or Class 4 for watercourses with Poor fisheries value. We note that instances of marginal fisheries value (typically between Sub-Optimal and Poor) were subsumed into the Sub-Optimal category to allow for more robust evaluation of effects.

Best Practice literature utilised was as follows:

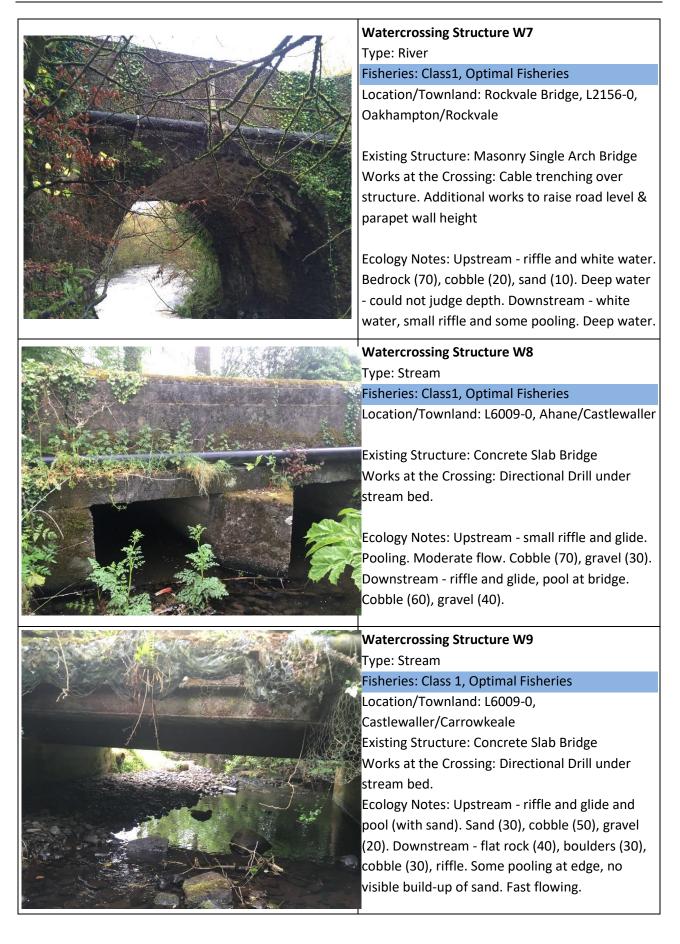
- Barbour, M.T. and Stribling, J.B. (1991) Use of Habitat Assessment in Evaluating the Biological Integrity of Stream Communities. In: Methods in Stream Ecology (Eds. Hauer, F.R. and Lamberti, G.A. Academic Press.
- Kelly & King (2001) A review of the ecology and distribution of three lamprey species, Lampetra fluviatilis (L.), Lampetra planeri (Bloch), and Petromyzon marinus (L.): A context for conservation and biodiversity considerations in Ireland. Biology and the Environment. 101B(3):165-185.
- Kennedy, GJA & Strange, CD (1986) The effects of intra- and inter-specific competition on the distribution of stocked juvenile Atlantic salmon, Salmo salar L., in relation to depth and gradient in an upland trout, Salmo trutta L., stream. J. Fish. Biol., 29(2):199-214.
- Greenberg, L.A. and Dahl, J. 1998. Effect of habitat type on growth and diet of brown trout (Salmo trutta L.) in stream enclosures. Fisheries Management & Ecology 5: 331-348.
- Hatfield, T. & Bruce, J. (2000) Predicting Salmonid Habitat–Flow Relationships for Streams from Western North America. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 20:1005–1015, 2000
- O'Grady, M.F., Curtin, J (1993) The Enhancement of drained salmonid rivers in Ireland. A bioengineering perspective. Hydroecol. Appl., 5(2):7-26.

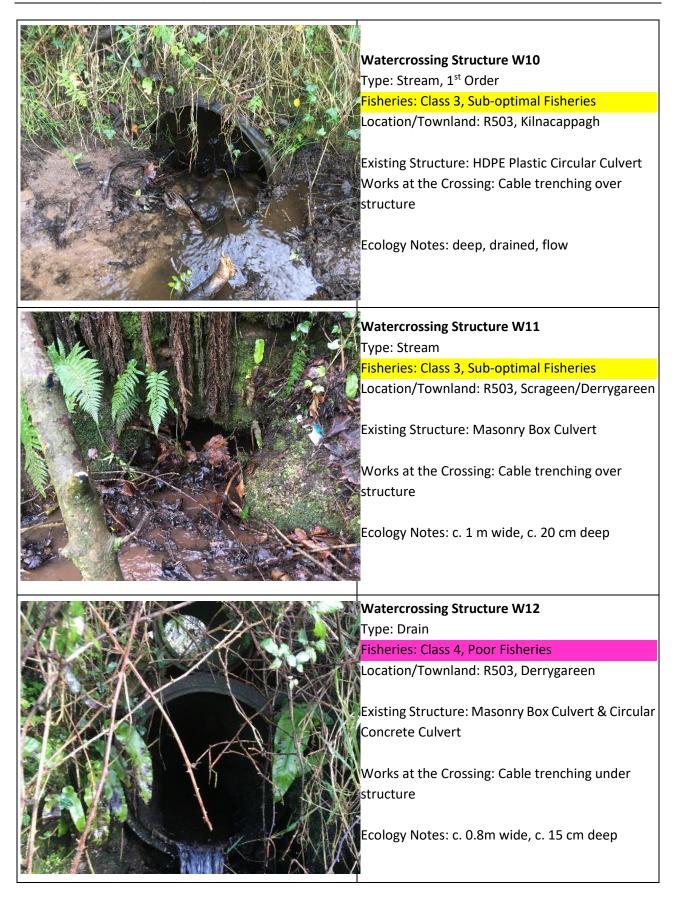
Watercourse Characterisations and equivalent fisheries Evaluations (following Best Practice) are presented in Section A8-2.2 Survey Results – Aquatic Habitats & Species.

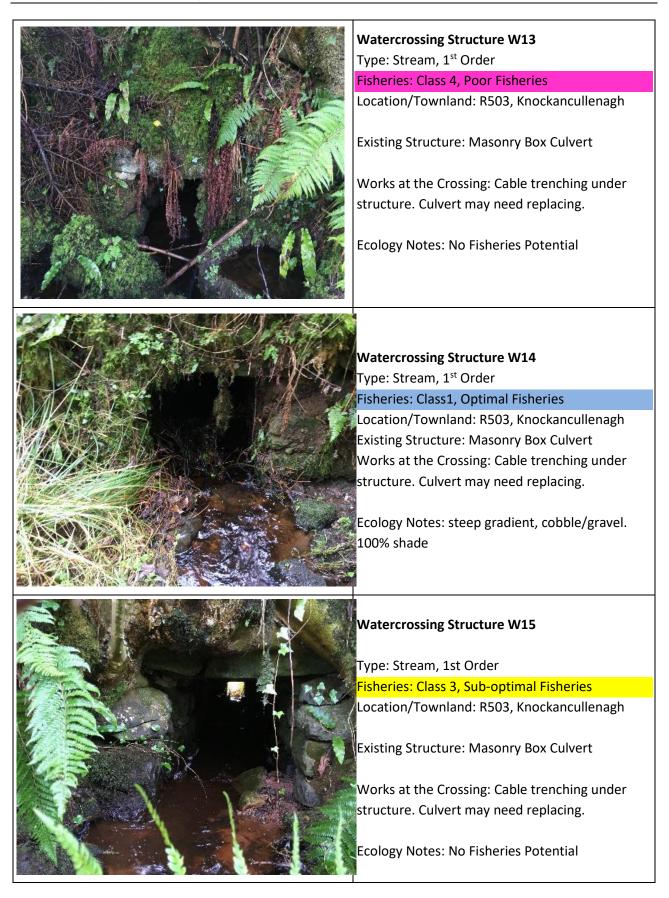
A8-2.2 Survey Results - Inventory & Classification of Watercourses at Crossing Locations

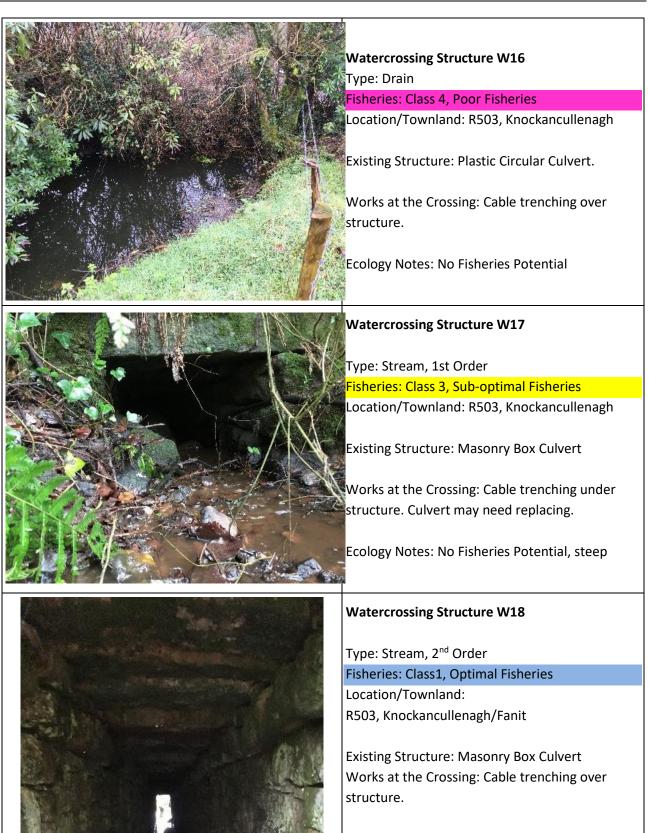
Watercrossing Structure W1 (Temporary Crossing)Type: 1st Order StreamFisheries: Class 2, Optimal FisheriesLocation: Mountphilips Substation SiteExisting Structure: No existing crossing structureWorks at Crossing: Cable trenching under stream bed using dam & pump (flume) method. Temporary Bailey Bridge.Ecology Notes: c. 2 m wide, c. 10 cm deep,
Type: 1st Order StreamFisheries: Class 2, Optimal FisheriesLocation: Mountphilips Substation SiteExisting Structure: No existing crossingstructureWorks at Crossing: Cable trenching understream bed using dam & pump (flume)method. Temporary Bailey Bridge.
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method. Temporary Bailey Bridge.
Ecology Notes: c. 2 m wide, c. 10 cm deep
Ecology Notes: c. 2 m wide, c. 10 cm deep
Leology Notes. C. 2 III wide, C. 10 Cill deep,
gravel (70), cobbles (5), boulders (5),
sands/silts (20)
Watercrossing Structure W2
Type: Drainage Ditch
Fisheries: Sub-Optimal Fisheries
Location: Mountphilips Substation Site
Existing Structure: No existing crossing
structure
Works at Crossing: Installation of new
permanent culvert. Cable trenching under new
culvert.
Ecology Notes: c. 0.5 m wide, c. 10 cm deep,
silts/muds (100)
Watercrossing Structure W3
Type: 1 st Order Stream
Fisheries: Class 2, Optimal Fisheries
Location: Mountphilips Substation Site
Existing Structure: No existing crossing
structure
Works at Crossing: Installation of new
permanent culvert. Cable trenching under new
culvert.
Cuivert.
Ecology Notes: c. 1 m wide, c. 10 cm deep,
cobbles (20), gravels (40), sands/silts (40)

Photos of UWF GRID CONNECTION Bridges / Culverts along Public Roads			
	Watercrossing Structure W4 Type: Stream Fisheries: Class 3, Sub-optimal Fisheries Location/Townland: L2166-0, Coole/Freagh Existing Structure: Concrete Block Box Culvert Works at the Crossing: Cable trenching under structure Ecology Notes: Downstream - Slow flowing, Coble (60), Gravel (40). Overgrown, vegetation shading. 1 metre wide and ~30cm deep.		
<image/>	Watercrossing Structure W5 Type: River Fisheries: Class1, Optimal Fisheries Location/Townland: L6013-0, Foildarrig/Freagh Existing Structure: Masonry Single Arch Bridge Works at the Crossing: Cable trenching over structure Ecology Notes: Upstream - riffle/glide sequence and pool. Bolder (30), cobble (30), sand/gravel (40). Culvert pipe also flowing into river. Downstream - Riffle and pool present. Sand gravel under bridge (60), boulders/cobble(40).		
	Watercrossing Structure W6 Type: Stream Fisheries: Class 3, Sub-Optimal Fisheries Location/Townland: L6013-0, Oakhampton Existing Structure: Concrete Circular Culvert Works at the Crossing: Cable trenching over structure Ecology Notes: Pipe culvert with stream through it. Bolder (50), mud/gravel (50).		

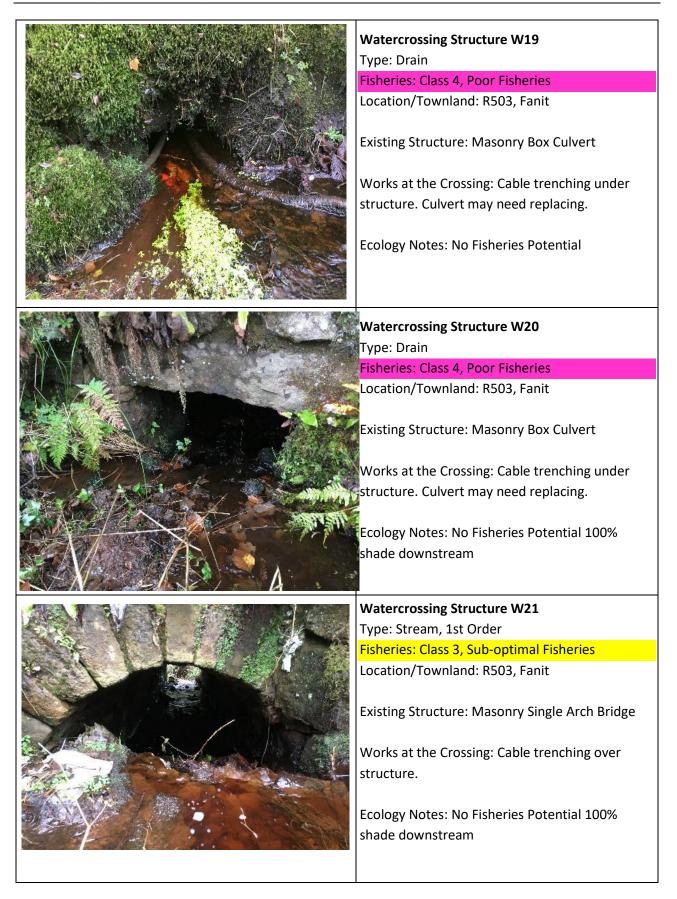


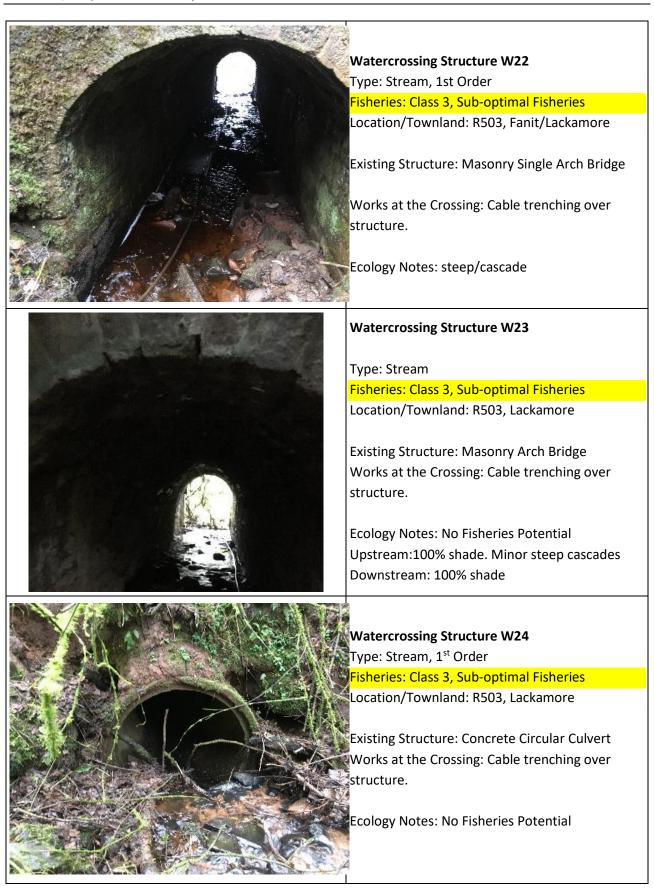


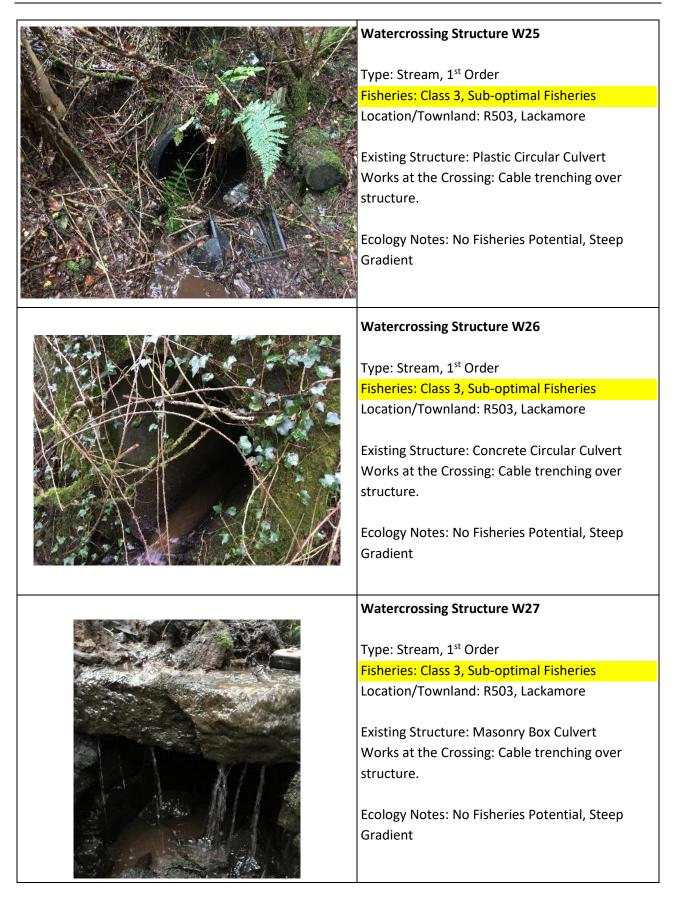


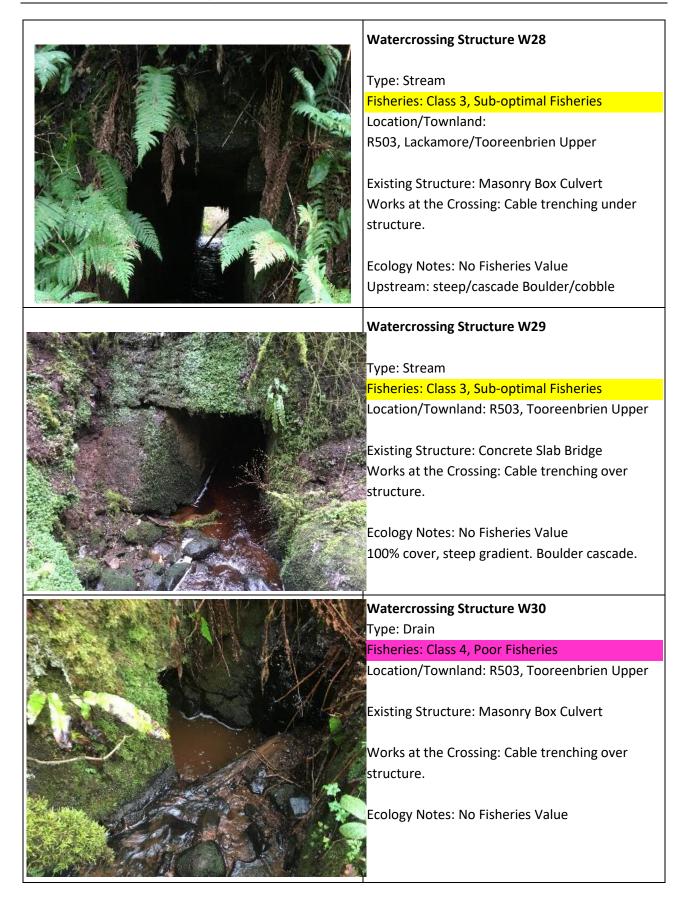


Ecology Notes: steep, boulder cobble pool riffle. Downstream 100% shade, steep gradient



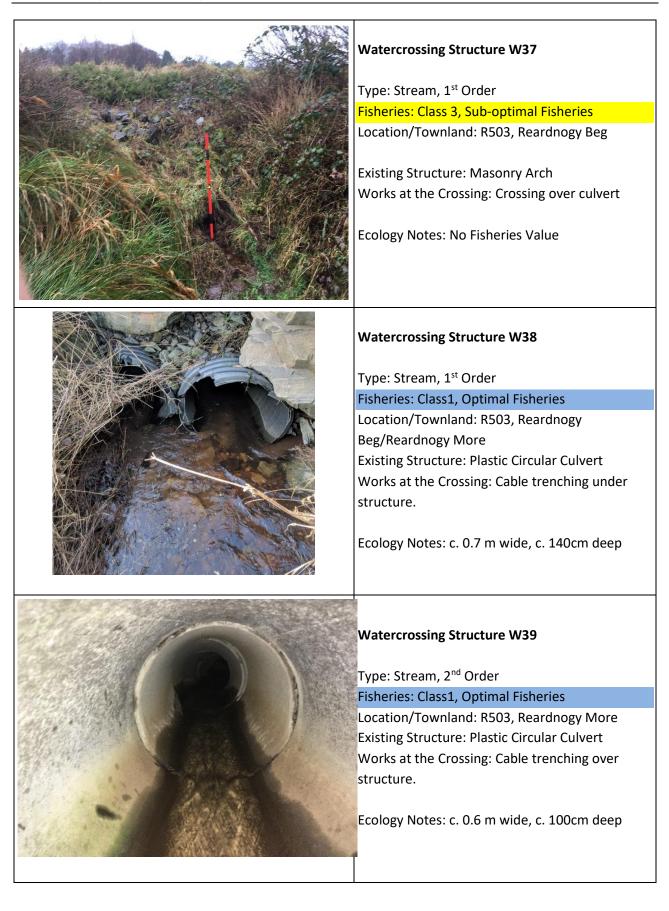


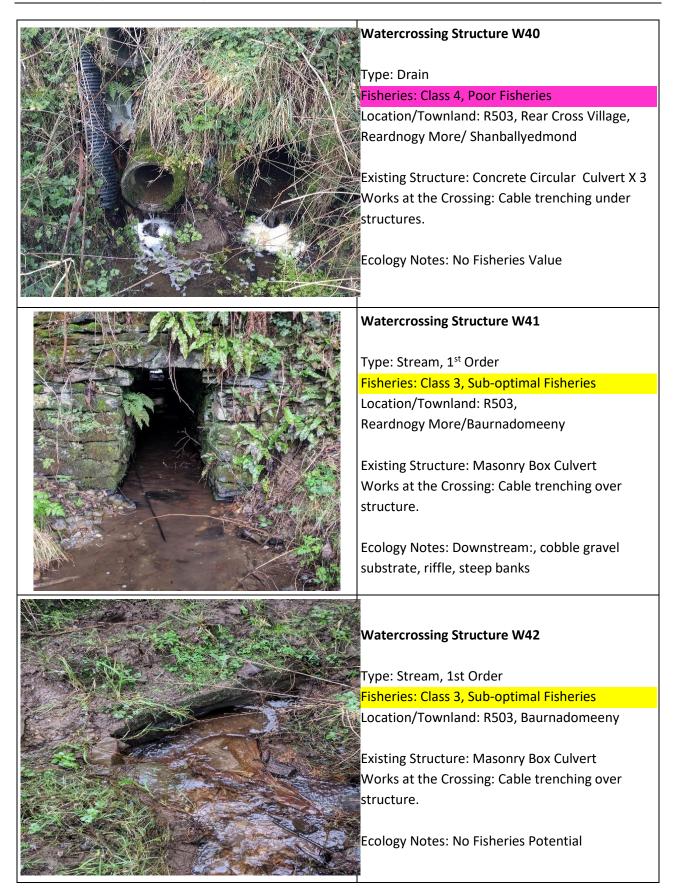


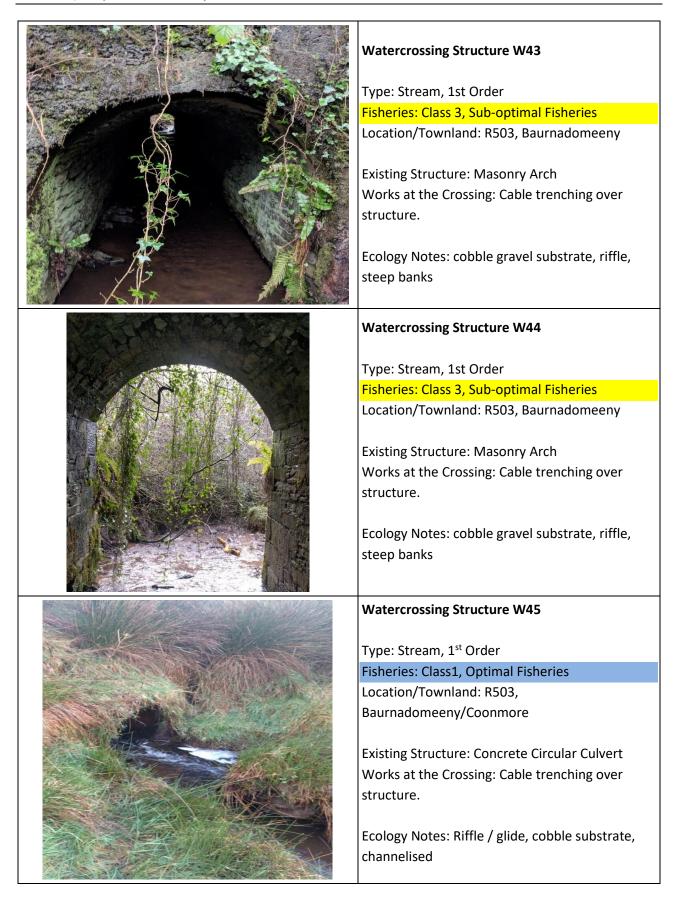


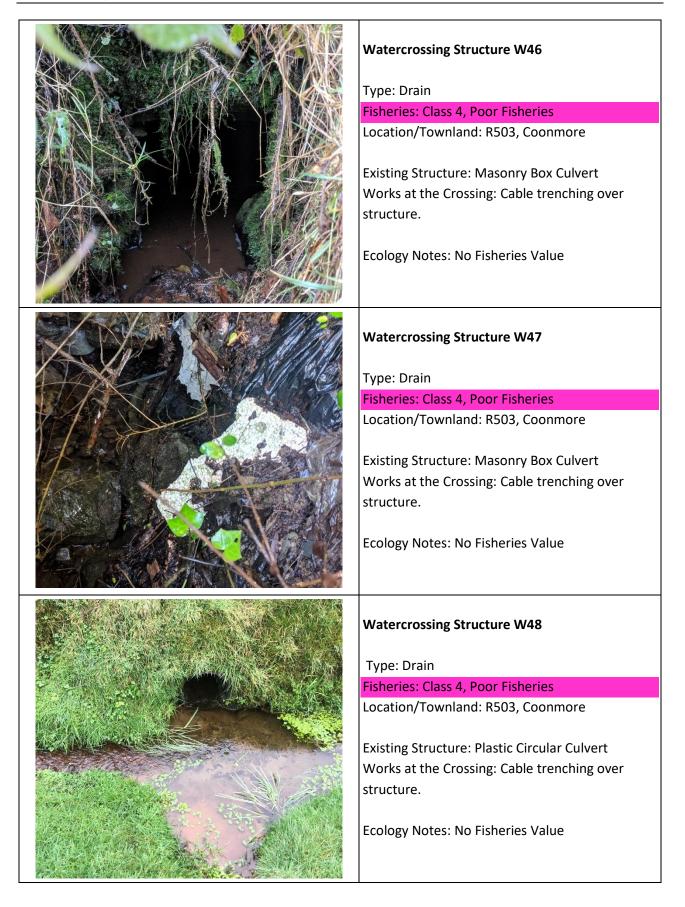


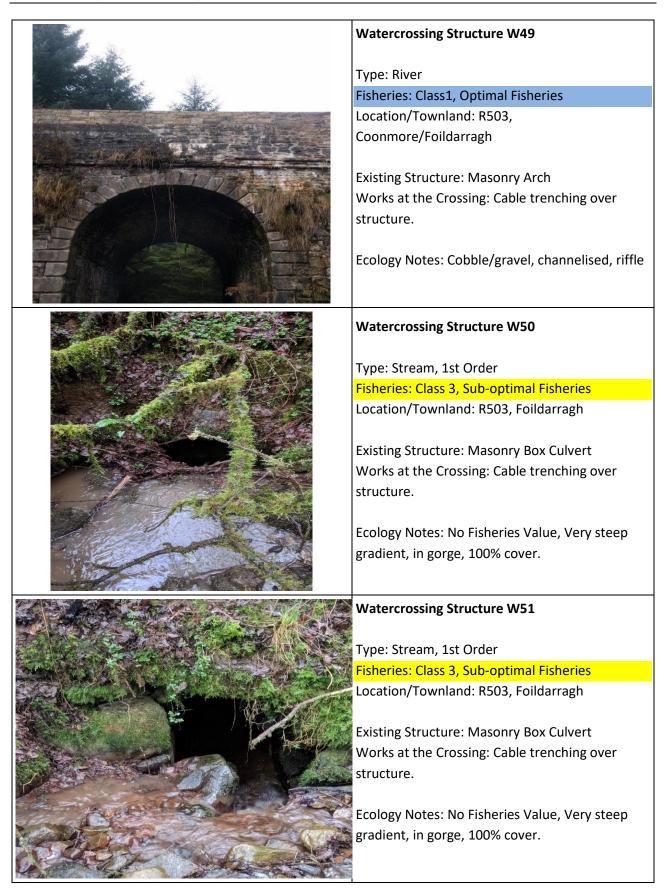


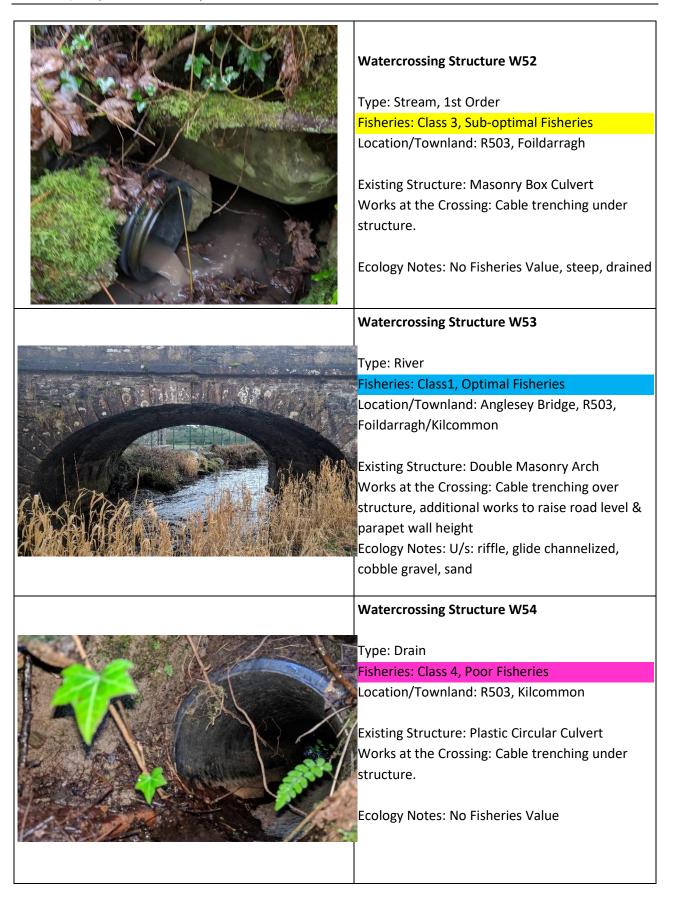


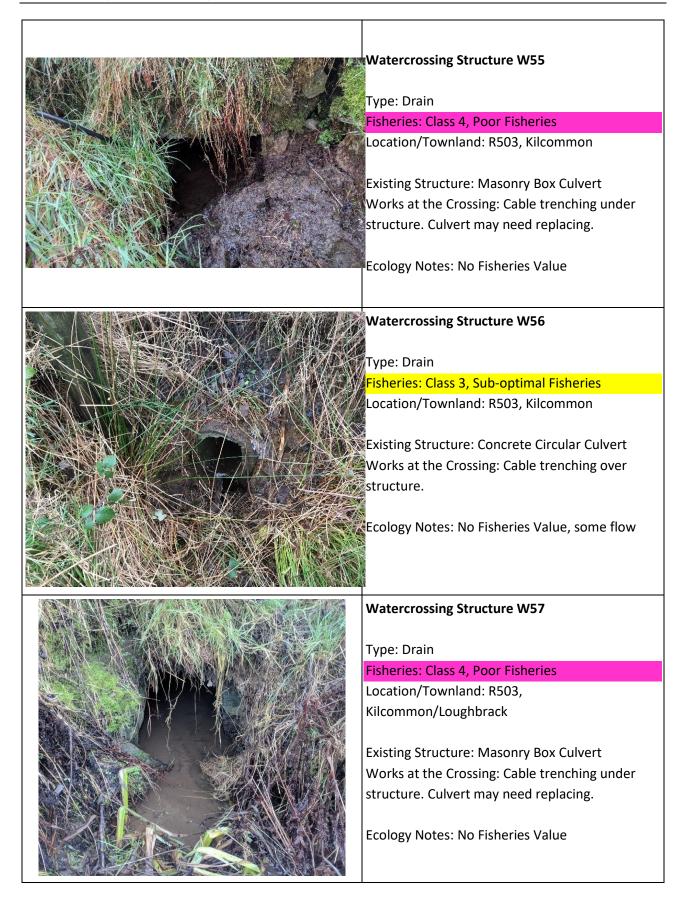




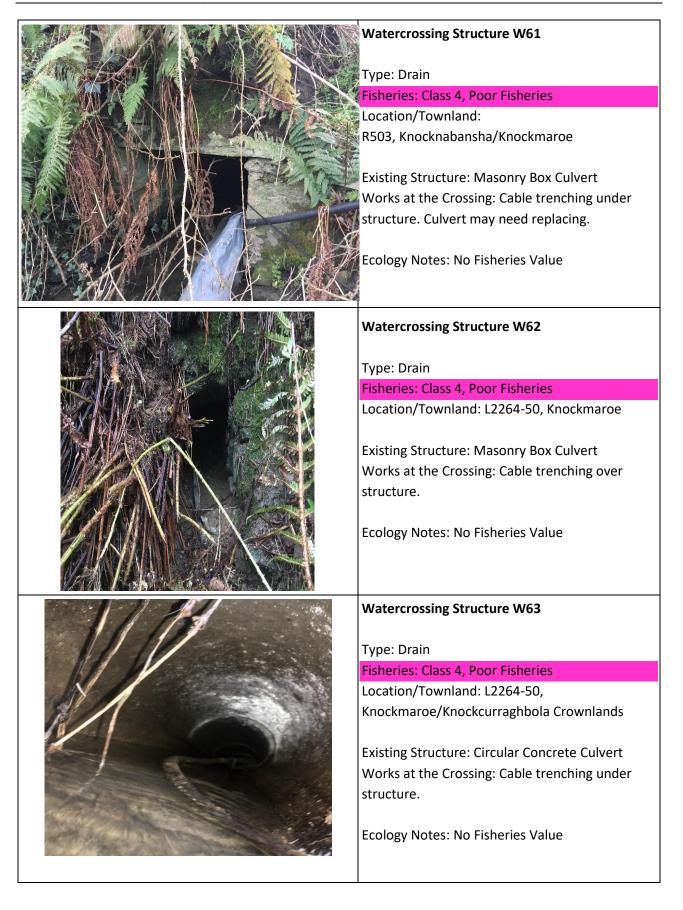


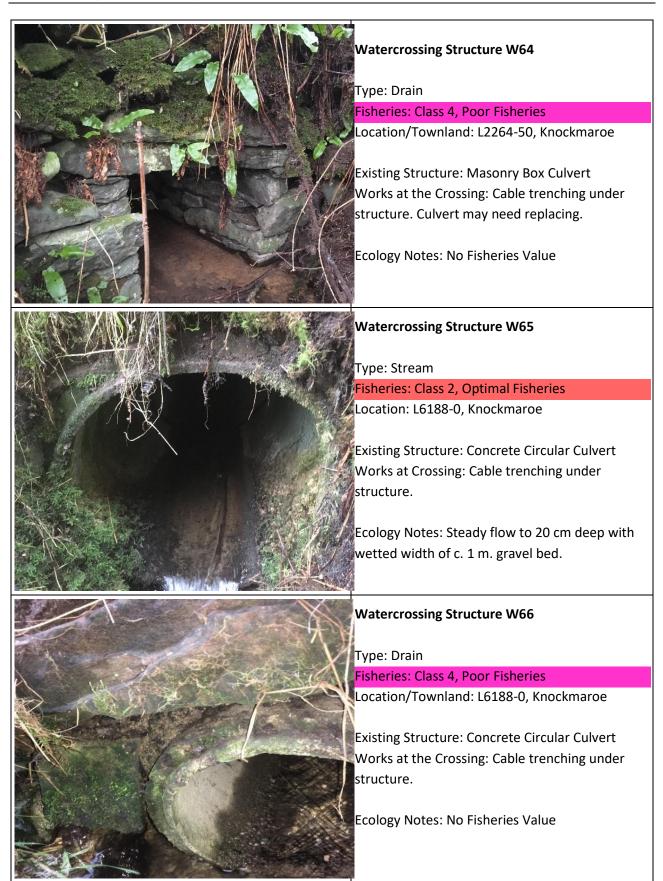












	Watercrossing Structure W67
- All All All All All All All All All Al	Type: Drain
	Fisheries: Class 4, Poor Fisheries
and the second s	Location/Townland: Private Paved Road,
	Knockcurraghbola Commons
	Existing Structure: Concrete Circular Culvert
	Works at the Crossing: Cable trenching under
	structure.
	Ecology Notes: c. 0.5 m wide, 10 cm deep
	Watercrossing Structure W68
G-G-N	Type: Drain
	Fisheries: Class 4, Poor Fisheries
	Location/Townland: Private Paved Road,
	Knockcurraghbola Commons
	Existing Structure: Concrete Circular Culvert
	Works at the Crossing: Cable trenching under
	structure.
	Ecology Notes: No Fisheries Value, Slow flowing