SCREENING STATEMENT

for the Proposed

Strategic Housing Development – Lissywollen, Athlone, County Westmeath

prepared for **Alanna Roadbridge Developments Ltd.**

by FGE Consulting

FGE Consulting

February 2021

Document Details	
Client	Alanna Homes
Document Title	AA Screening for the Proposed Strategic Housing Development – Lissywollen, Athlone, County Westmeath
Publisher	Finch Geospatial and Environmental Consulting, Kilmolin, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.
Prepared by	Domhnall Finch, PhD, MSc, BSc, PgCert ACIEEM Andrew Torsney, MRes, BSc, ACIEEM
Approved by	Domhnall Finch, PhD, MSc, BSc, PgCert ACIEEM
Date	15/02/2021
Status	Final for Submission

Table of Contents

Table of Tables

Table of Figures

1.Introduction

1.1 Background

This Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report has been prepared for the proposed development at the Lissywollen site ['the proposed project'] in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

This report is part of the ongoing AA screening process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the proposed project. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when the planning authority finalises the AA screening at adoption of the proposed project.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European Sites and Natura 2000.

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed, as was the NPWS (2013) publication *"The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland"*.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the proposed project comprised the following elements:

- *Identification of European sites within 15 km of the proposed project boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the proposed project boundary;*
- *Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European sites with identification of potential pathways from the proposed project area; and*
- *Examination of available information on protected species.*

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

Stage One: Screening
The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions
The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain
An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the proposed project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- *Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works;*
- *Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats and*
- *Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.*

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the proposed project provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the proposed project.

The AA Screening exercise has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009.*
- *"Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018.*
- *"Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002.*
- *"Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.*

2. Description of Project

2.1 Receiving Environment

The site sits to the northeast of Athlone town, on the edge of the urban sprawl area. It is bordered by the N6, a residential development, agricultural land and the Old Rail Trail Greenway. The surrounding area north of the site is dominated by agricultural lands with some bog, industrial estates and residential areas. There are no water courses within the boundary of the proposed site. The closest waterways are the Kippinstown Stream (26K74) located approximately 1.1km to the north, which flows north and joins the Garrynafela River (26G51) before entering Lough Ree. Approximately 740m to the south of the site an unidentified stream flows east and joins the Upper Shannon River (26S02) at the River Shannon Callows (Figure 6.1).

None of the habitats on the site were found to contain Annex I type features; additionally, all of the habitats present on site were of low ecological importance at both landscape and local scales. Habitats recorded on site include Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3), Re-colonised Bare Ground (ED3), Hedgerows (WL1) and Treelines (WL2), Agricultural Grassland (GA1) and Amenity Grassland (GA2), Dry Meadow and Grassy Verge (GS2); a full habitat map can be found in Figure 2.1. There were no species identified on site which are invasive and subject to restrictions (Third Schedule) under Regulation 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011. There were no significant habitats found directly adjacent to the site. Refer to Section 6.3.5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment and supporting document Appendix 6.3 for further detail on habitat characteristics and descriptions.

Figure 2.1 Habitats present on site[1]

2.2 Proposed Development

The development proposal consists of the construction of a residential development of 576 no. dwellings, a community hub, 2 no. crèches as follows:

[1] at April and May 2019

(a) 285 no. 2 storey detached, semi-detached & terraced houses comprising 50 no. 4 bedroom houses, 200 no. 3 bedroom houses & 35 no. 2 bedroom houses

(b) 206 no. apartments in 10 no. apartment buildings (Block C – 3 storey, Block G - 2 storey, Block K - 3 storey) Block L - 4 storey with a 5 storey setback, Block M - 3 storey with a 4 storey setback, Block N - 3 storey, Block O - 2 to 4 storey, Block P - 3 storey, Block R - 3 storey & Block T - 3 storey) comprising 41 no. 1 bedroom apartments, 152 no. 2 bedroom apartments & 13 no. 3 bedroom apartments

(c) 85 no. bed duplex / apartments units in 8 no. duplex / apartment buildings comprising 5 no. 2 bedroom duplex apartments & 36 no. 3 bedroom duplex apartments and 20 no. 1 bedroom apartments, 16 no. 2 bedroom apartments & 4 no. 3 bedroom apartments, with 4 no. 2 bedroom duplex apartments located in apartment Block O.

(d) Provision of a community hub measuring circa 107m2 located on the ground floor of the Block D

(e) 2 no. crèches comprised of a 2 storey crèche located adjacent to proposed Block C (measuring circa 214m2) and a 1 storey crèche the ground floor of the proposed Block T (measuring 362m2).

(f) Access to the subject site will be from Ballymahon roundabout (on the R915) to the west and Garrycastle roundabout (on the R916) to the east. The development proposal includes for road development works from Ballymahon roundabout (on the R915) to the west via and Garrycastle roundabout (on the R916) to the east, and the development of an east-west access route through the subject site as envisaged by the Lissywollen South Framework Plan 2018-2024. The proposed development also provides for pedestrian and cyclist connectivity to Old Rail Trail Greenway to the south.

(g) The development proposal includes for the provision of public open spaces, planting, boundary treatments & all ancillary landscape works, public lighting, drainage and attenuation, car & bicycle parking, bin storage, ESB sub-stations and all associated site development works.

(h) The application contains a statement setting out how the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Lissywollen South Framework Plan 2018-2024.

3.Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Overview

Section 3 identifies any potential significant affects to European sites from the proposed project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "'conservation objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/ or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- *For SACs - to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.*
- *For SPAs - to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.*

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat[2] or species[3] at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European sites

The Department of the Environment Guidance (2009) on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the proposed project will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the proposed project area are listed on Table 3.1. These are also illustrated on Figure 3.1 below. European sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments are mapped on Figure 3.2.

Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS documents:

- (2018) Conservation objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [000216]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [004096]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Crosswood Bog SAC [002337]. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC [000440]. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Lough Ree SPA [004064]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2015) Conservation objectives for Carn Park Bog SAC [002336]. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC [001776]. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Mongan Bog SAC [000580]. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Mongan Bog SPA [004017]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Castlesampson Esker SAC [001625]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Ballynamona Bog & Corkip Lough SAC [002339]. Version 1.
- (2019) Conservation Objectives for Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC 000576. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Funshinagh SAC [000611]. Version 1.

[2] Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

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

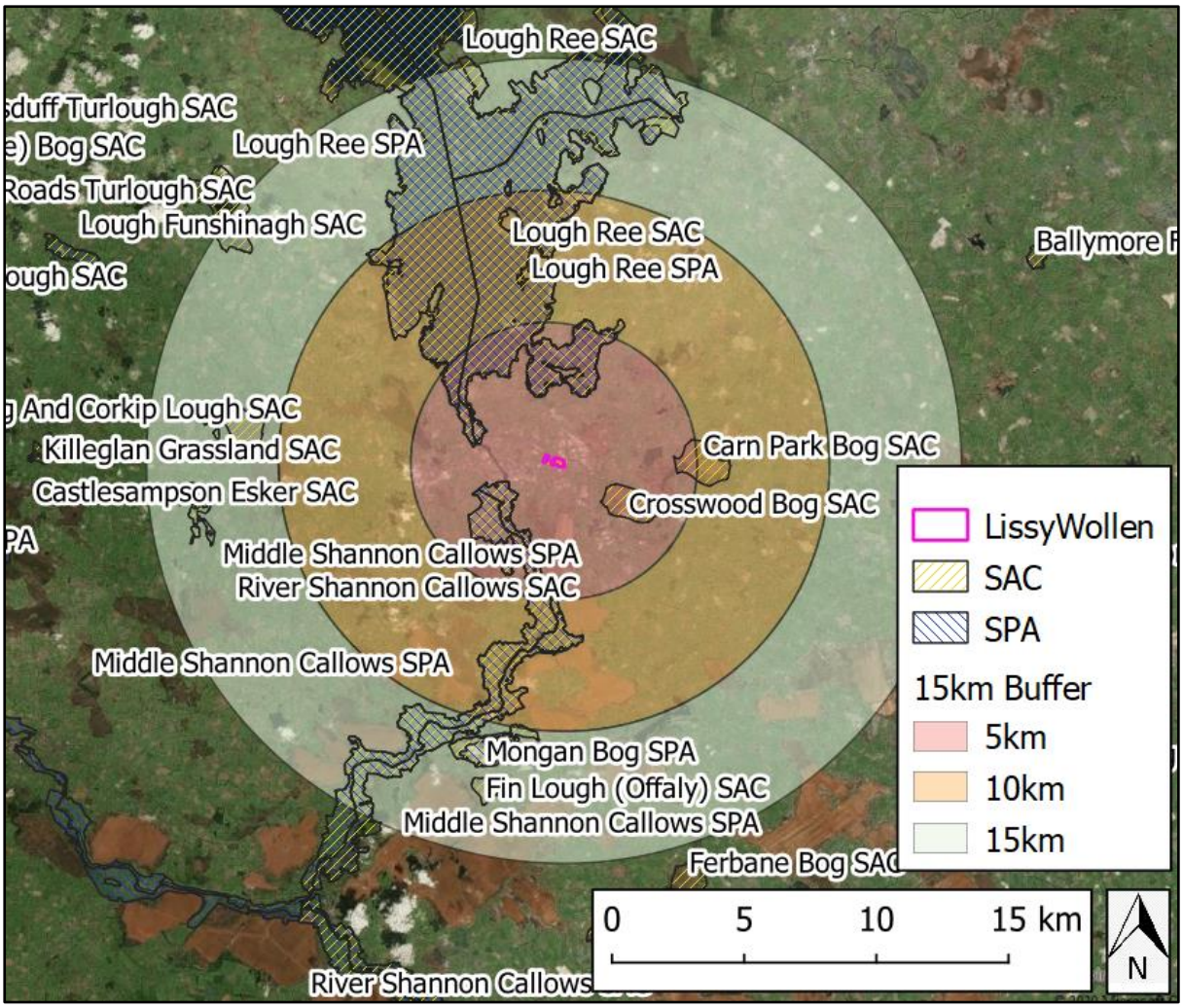

Figure 3.1 European sites within 15km of Lissywollen[4]

[4] Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded July 2020)

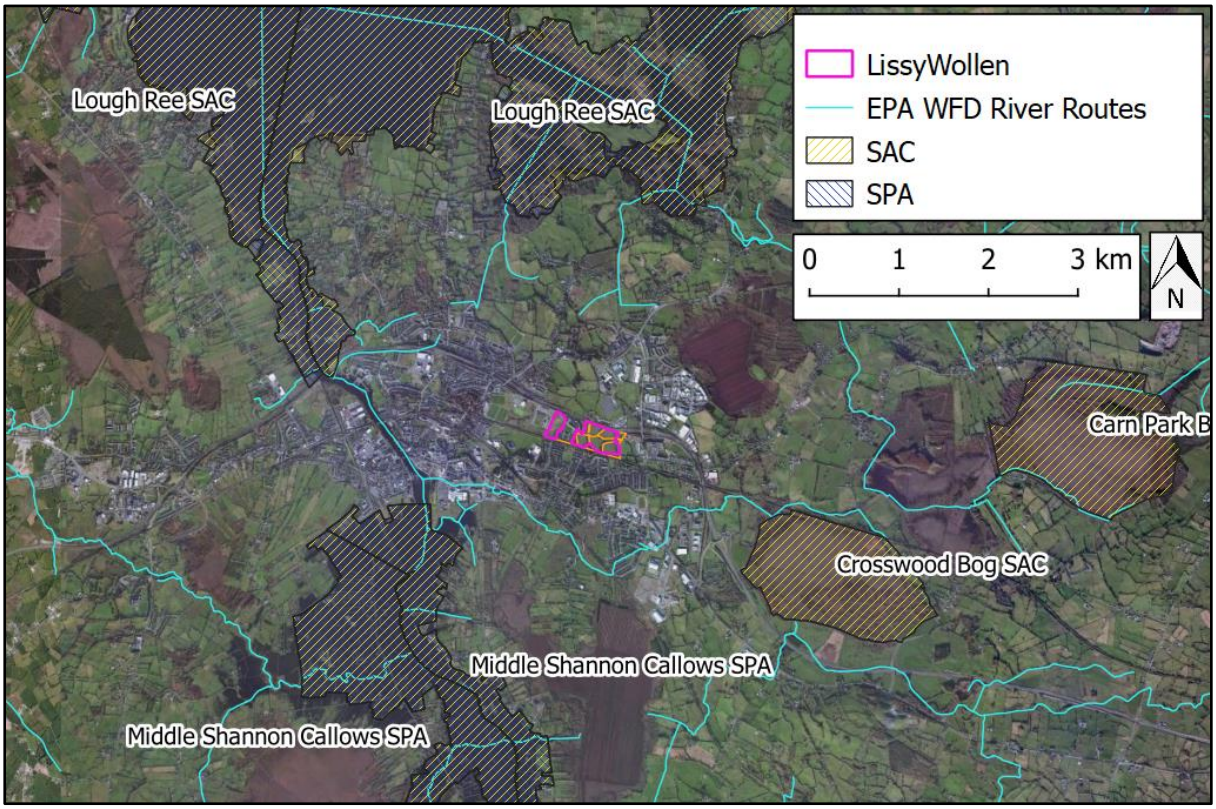

Figure 3.2 European sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments

Table 3.1 European sites within 15 km of the proposed project boundary (listed according to distance)

Code	**Site Name**	**Distance** (km)	**Sensitive Receptors** (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	**Site Synopsis and Existing Threats or Sensitivities**
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	1.49	*Molinia* Meadows [6410], Lowland Hay Meadows [6510], Limestone Pavement [8240], Alluvial Forests [91E0], Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]	The River Shannon Callows is a long and diverse site which consists of seasonally flooded, semi-natural, lowland wet grassland, along and beside the river between the towns of Athlone and Portumna. It is approximately 50 km long and averages about 0.75 km wide (reaching 1.5 km wide in places). Along much of its length the site is bordered by raised bogs (many, but not all, of which are subject to large-scale harvesting), esker ridges and limestone-bedrock hills. The soils grade from silty-alluvial to peat. This site has a common boundary, and is closely associated, with two other sites with similar habitats, River Suck Callows and Little Brosna Callows. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as paths/tracks/cycle tracks, trampling/overuse, intensive/non-intensive grazing, use of fertilizers/chemicals, removal of hedgerows/copse/scrub, land abandonment, planting of non-native trees, grazing in woodlands, peat extraction, flooding, siltation and land reclamation. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. The site synopsis has identified pressures that occur both outside and within the boundary including hunting and predation. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	1.49	Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* [A038], Wigeon *Anas penelope* [A050], Corncrake *Crex crex* [A122], Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140], Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [A142], Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156], Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179]	The Middle Shannon Callows is a long and diverse site which consists of seasonally flooded, semi-natural, lowland wet grassland, along and beside the river between the towns of Athlone and Portumna. It is approximately 50 km long and averages about 0.75 km wide (reaching 1.5 km wide in places). Water levels on the site are greatly influenced by the very small fall between Athlone and Portumna and by the weir at Meelick. The site has extensive areas of callows, *i.e.* seasonally flooded, semi-natural, lowland wet grassland, along both sides of the river. The callows mainly too soft for intensive farming but are used for hay or silage or for summer grazing. Other habitats of smaller area which occur alongside the river include lowland dry grassland, freshwater marshes, reed-beds and wet woodland. The diversity of semi-natural habitats present and the sheer size of the site attract an excellent diversity of bird species, including significant populations of several. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as hunting, bridge/viaduct, path/tracks/cycle tracks, walking/horse-riding/cycling, grazing, fertilisation (both), water sports, fishing, human habitation, abandonment of pastoral systems. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as bridges/path/tracks/cycle tracks, recreational activities, leisure fishing, hunting, and grazing/fertilisation. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. Pressures identified by the NPWS both inside and outside the boundary include urbanisation and fertilization. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	1.75	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Crosswood Bog is situated approximately 5 km east of Athlone, Co. Westmeath, mainly in the townlands of Crosswood, Glenaghanvoneen, and Creggan Lower. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Sensitive species within the community composition include *Sphagnum fuscum, S. imbricatum and S. pulchrum.* The northern margin of the bog lies along the southern side of the Dublin-Galway railway line. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as paths/tracks/cycle tracks, invasive species, household waste disposal, peat extraction, fire, reclamation/drying out, and genetically modified organisms. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. Stock feeding has been identified by the NPWS as a pressures both inside and outside the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000440	Lough Ree SAC	2.19	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion- or Hydrocharition-type vegetation [3150], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120],	Lough Ree is the third largest lake in Ireland and is situated in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous limestone on the River Shannon system between Lanesborough and Athlone. The site spans Counties Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10 m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to south, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of InchmoreIt has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. Although the main habitat, by area, is the lake itself, interesting shoreline, terrestrial and semiaquatic habitats also occur. Species of interest

Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Sensitive Receptors (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Site Synopsis and Existing Threats or Sensitivities
			Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0], Bog woodland [91D0], Otter *Lutra lutra* [1355]	include, but are not limited to pollan (Coregonus autumnalis), the whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) and Bird's-nest orchid (*Neottia nidusavis*). The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as walking/horse-riding/cycling, piers, water sports/fishing, hunting, grazing and pasture abandonment. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. The site synopsis has identified pressures that occur both outside and within the boundary including fertilisation, forestry, ground- and surface-water pollution, flooding, and invasive/introduced species. The NPWS have identified pressures outside of the boundary including housing, and heating/siltation of water. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004064	Lough Ree SPA	2.19	Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004], Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038], Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050], Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052], Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053], Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056], Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061], Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065], Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067], Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A125], Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140], Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142], Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Ree is the third largest lake in Ireland and is situated in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous limestone on the River Shannon system between Lanesborough and Athlone. The site spans Counties Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10 m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to south, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of Inchmore. It has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. It also has a good scattering of islands, most of which are included in the site. The site are of special conservation interest for Wetlands and Waterbirds. Lough Ree is one of the most important midland sites for wintering waterfowl. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as fishing, hunting, water sports and invasive species. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. The site synopsis has identified pressures that occur both outside and within the boundary including grazing, fertilisation, forestry and walking/horse-riding/cycling. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002336	Carn Park Bog SAC	4.15	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Carn Park Bog is situated 8 km east of Athlone, in the townlands of Tullywood, Carn Park, Cappaghbrack, Warren High and Moydrum, Co. Westmeath. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Sensitive species within the community composition include *Sphagnum fuscum, S. imbricatum and S. pulchrum.* The margins of the site are bounded by roads on the north, west and southern margins and forestry on the east. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as paths/tracks/cycle tracks, invasive species, peat extraction, reclamation/drying out, and genetically modified organisms. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	9.88	Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland [6210]	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC is a narrow esker ridge extending 2 km east from Clonmacnoise in Co. Offaly. The site is adjacent to the River Shannon Callows, to the north, and Mongan raised bog, to the south. The western area includes Bunthulla Hill (north of the road) and Hanging Hill (south of the road); the central area runs along both sides of the summit ridge before widening out eastwards to include a substantial area of esker grassland centred on the site of an old ring-fort. The site supports a large population of the rare the Red Data Book species Green-winged Orchid (Orchis morio), and also Autumn Gentian, which locally frequent in the centre of Ireland and scarce elsewhere. Pilgrim's Road Esker is the most scenically impressive esker in the midlands and the one best known to the public. Orchid-rich calcareous grassland is a rare habitat in Ireland and is listed as a priority habitat under Annex I. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as roads and paths, agricultural intensification, intensive grazing/feeding, fertilisation, use of biocides/hormones/chemicals, illegal dumping and plant succession. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000580	Mongan Bog SAC	10.26	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120],	Mongan Bog is a midland raised bog of medium size situated immediately east of the monastic site of Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, and 12 km south of Athlone. It is situated in a basin, surrounded on 95% of its perimeter by high ground on mineral soil. At two points in the north it shares a common boundary with Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC. Most of the bog is a Statutory Nature Reserve, established in 1987. Several rare invertebrate species are known to occur on the bog,

Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Sensitive Receptors (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Site Synopsis and Existing Threats or Sensitivities
			Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	including *Chrysops sepulchralis*, *Dixella serotina*, *Coenonympha tullia*, *Tachina grossa* and *Saturnia pavonia*. Mallard, Snipe, Curlew, Skylark and Meadow Pipit are known to breed on the peat dome. The bog has been the subject of ongoing intensive research on aspects of bog ecology since 1972, reinforcing its international importance. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as peat extraction, drainage, burning of vegetation, stock feeding, fertilisation and illegal waste disposal. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. No other pressures have been identified by the NPWS.
	Mongan Bog SPA	10.26	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	Mongan Bog is a midland raised bog of medium size situated immediately east of the monastic site of Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, and 12 km south of Athlone. It is situated in a basin, surrounded on part of its perimeter by high ground on mineral soil. The bog has a well-developed microtopography of hummocks, pools and lawns. At the time this site was identified for Special Protection Area (SPA) designation it was being utilised by Greenland White-fronted Goose from the internationally important River Suck population. Although Greenland White-fronted Goose does not currently utilise the site, this species is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as improved access to the site, grazing and peat extraction. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. The site synopsis identified grazing, quarrying and peat extraction as threats occurring outside of the site boundary. No other pressures have been identified by the NPWS.
001625	Castlesampson Esker SAC	10.29	Turloughs [3180], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210]	Castlesampson Esker is a complex site with esker, turlough and raised bog all found. The esker is the most westerly of an important group of eskers centred on Adrnacloon Hill in south-east Co. Roscommon, 9 km west of Athlone. It forms a steep-sided, crescent-shaped hill composed of glacial gravels, situated on the south side of a metalled road. Although gravel is being quarried all around the esker and gravel pits occur within the site, the esker ridge itself is largely intact and fairly undisturbed. Lying to the east of the esker is a raised bog, whilst to its west is a turlough. The site is of high conservation for the proximity and juxtaposition of esker, raised bog and turlough. The esker itself is of high importance for its almost intact structure, (very rare in Irish eskers), its relatively undisturbed state and for the presence of good quality, species-rich dry calcareous grassland. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as peat extraction both inside and outside the boundary, and quarrying outside the boundary of the site. No other pressures have been identified by the NPWS.
002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	10.64	Turloughs [3180], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0]	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough is situated approximately 9 km west of Athlone, mainly in the townlands of Skeanamuck, Carrowkeeran and Pollalaher, in Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a relatively small portion of what was once a large bog complex, and includes areas of high bog and cutover bog, and also the turlough, Corkip Lough. The rare aquatic invertebrate *Eurycercus glacialis* is found at Corkip Lough, one of the few sites in Ireland where it occurs. Sensitive species of interest include the mosses, *Sphagnum fuscum, S. imbricatum and S. pulchrum* and water germander (*Teucrium scordium*). The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as household waste disposal and invasive species both inside and outside the boundary. The site synopsis identified land reclamation/drying out and modification of water processes as pressures occurring outside of the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000546	Fin Lough SAC	11.98	Alkaline fens [7230] *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	Fin Lough is a shallow limestone lake surrounded by a complex of wetland habitats; 7 km north-east of Shannonbridge in Co. Offaly. It is a shallow lake, about 16ha in extent (in winter) and bounded to the north and east by the Clonfinlough esker ridge, and to the south and west by Blackwater Bog. The lake and its surrounding wetland communities are arranged in distinct zones reflecting wetness and substrate. They include open water, reed swamp, tall sedge, alkaline fen, fen-bog transition, swamp woodland and bog. The transition from calcium-rich lake to reedbed, to

Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Sensitive Receptors (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Site Synopsis and Existing Threats or Sensitivities
				fen, to bog is relatively intact in some areas, which is exceptional for this part of the country. Fin Lough is an important site because of the diversity of wetland habitats and species that it supports. The presence of the rare snail, *Vertigo geyeri*, an Annex II species, is of considerable conservation significance. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as burning, drainage and drying out, silting, land abandonment, succession, illegal dumping and hunting. All of these pressures are identified within the boundary. No other pressures have been identified by the NPWS.
000611	Lough Funshinagh SAC	13.52	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodion rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation [3270]	Lough Funshinagh is located approximately 12 km north-west of Athlone, in Co. Roscommon. The lake, which is underlain by Carboniferous limestone, is classified as a turlough because it fluctuates to a significant extent every year and occasionally dries out entirely (approximately two to three times every ten years). In most years, however, an extensive area of water persists. This is filled with vegetation, providing excellent breeding habitat for wildfowl, and the site is designated a Wildfowl Sanctuary. The lake is fed by springs and a small catchment to the west. It is mesotrophic in quality, with some marl (calcium carbonate) deposition, and is fringed by wet grassland. The lake is important for wintering waterfowl. Lough Funshinagh is of major ecological importance, both from a vegetation and ornithological viewpoint. It is a unique and atypical example of a turlough, and has a particular value in being relatively unmodified by grazing and modern agriculture. The standard data form for the site details a list of potential threats for the site such as stock feeding inside the boundary, fertilisation outside the boundary, and paths/tracks and cycle tracks both inside and outside the boundary of the site. No other pressures have been identified by the NPWS.

3.3 Assessment Criteria

3.3.1 Is the Proposed Project Necessary to the Management of European sites?

The primary purpose of the proposed project is not the nature conservation management of the site, but to provide for residential development in the Lissywollen area. Therefore, the proposed project is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the Proposed Project with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The proposed project is a residential development project for the Lissywollen area. The operation phase of the development will be consistent with the receiving environment which is predominantly residential. Effects associated with the operational phase of residential property are known to be localised and low-level from effects such as noise and light pollution within the footprint of the residential area in question. The construction phase elements of the proposed project have potential to introduce sources for effects which interact with ecological processes such as alteration to air or water quality and/or indirect disturbance effects due to noise/vibration, light pollution etc.

Potential effects arising from the proposed project are examined below in relation to the sensitive receptors of each of the European sites identified with regard to their conservation objectives and the potential pathways for effects.

3.4 Types of Potential Effects and Changes

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any potential effects to the integrity of European sites resulting from the proposed project. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures. In determining the potential for significant effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to European sites were evaluated. Secondly, the individual elements of the proposed project and the potential effects they may cause to the sites were considered. The elements of the proposed project with potential to cause effects to the integrity of European sites are presented in Table 3.2 below.

Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- *Where it can be shown that there are no pathways for effects such as hydrological links between activities of the proposed project and the European site being screened;*
- *Where the site is located at a distance from proposed project such that effects are not foreseen; and*
- *Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from the proposed project.*

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts[5]:

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a plan or project.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time for which the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and

[5] These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

Ecologically Significant Impact - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.

Integrity of a Site - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site. SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status *of a* ***species*** *can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'*

Favourable conservation status *of a* ***habitat*** *can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.*

Generic Conservation Objective for cSACs:

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

Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

- *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.*

EC guidance[6] outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements; and
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

In addition, the guidance outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

[6] Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001

- Reduction of Habitat Area;
- Disturbance to Key Species;
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation;
- Reduction in Species Density;
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.); and
- Climate Change.

The elements detailed above were considered with specific reference to each of the European sites identified in Section 3.2.

3.4.1 Land Take

There are no European sites present within the redline boundary and the closest European site is 1.49km away. Similarly, there were no Annex I habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II species identified on site during the field work. Therefore, there will be no effects posed to European sites in this respect.

3.4.2 Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)

The resource requirements for the proposed project relate to construction materials. For the operational phase the resources required will be drinking water and electricity etc. for the operation of a residential area, these requirements are determined to be low due to the nature of the proposed development. Drinking water being supplied by Irish Water and supported by Westmeath County Council for the area. Water abstraction from existing reservoirs will not affect the ecological integrity of any European site.

3.4.3 Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)

Drainage for the site will be managed by the existing site surface water drainage system. Construction phase elements of the plan may give rise to increased temporary site effects such as noise or contamination due to dust. Given the distance between the closest European site and the proposed development, combined with the relatively small scale of the proposed development, these effects are determined to be negligible. There are no hydrological pathways between the site and any European Site. Given the scope of works proposed there are no mitigation measures required to ensure the protection of the ecological integrity of any European site in this regard as the there are no pathways for effects.

3.4.4 Excavation Requirements

There are no major excavation works. There will be small scale temporary excavations in relation to setting the foundations of the new structures. Given the distance to any European site, the absence of hydrological linkages and the scale of the proposed development, effects arising from these works will be negligible.

3.4.5 Transportation Requirements

There will be a minor temporary increase in traffic during the construction phase and a minor increase in operational traffic due to the residential nature of the proposed development. However, these effects are considered to be negligible with regard to European sites due to the pathways identified. Given the scope of works proposed there are no mitigation measures required to ensure the protection of the ecological integrity of any European site in this regard as the there are no pathways for effects.

3.4.6 Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

Construction is programmed to be completed in a phased sequence over the course of 5 years with commencement in 2021 which ensures any potential effects will be short term. The proposed development will be a permanent feature with no decommissioning phase. The duration of the construction and operational phases will have no effects on European sites as there are no pathways

for effects. No mitigation measures are required in this regard given the nature of the proposed works and the absence of pathways for effects.

3.4.7 Reduction of Habitat Area

No European sites or qualifying habitat features exist within 1.49 km of the site, therefore there will be no reduction of habitat area posed to European sites in this respect.

3.4.8 Disturbance to Key Species

None of the species and/or habitats identified in Table 3.1 were recorded on site. The nearest European site is 1.49 km away from the proposed site and therefore disturbance effects due to noise or lighting etc. are not present.

3.4.9 Habitat or Species Fragmentation or Reduction in Species Density

The existing site has negligible ecological value being comprised of agricultural and amenity grasslands. The nearest European site is 1.49 km from the existing facility. There are no habitat features present on site that are consistent with those of the European sites identified within the ZOI. No mitigation measures are required in this regard given the nature of the proposed works and the absence pathways for effects.

3.4.10 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)

There are no pathways for effects to a European Site identified within the screening assessment process. There are no water courses within the boundary of the proposed site. The closest waterways are the Kippinstown Stream (26K74) located approximately 1.1km to the north, which flows north and joins the Garrynafela River (26G51) before entering Lough Ree. Approximately 740m to the south of the site an unidentified stream flows east and joins the Upper Shannon River (26S02) at the River Shannon Callows (Figure 6.1). Therefore, following the source-pathway-receptor model there will be no effects in this regard.

3.4.11 Climate Change

Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development, the effects of the proposed development on climate and Ireland's obligations under the Kyoto Protocol are not anticipated to be significant.

Table 3.2 Screening assessment of the potential effects arising from the Proposed Project

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (QIs/SCIs)	Characterization of Potential Effects[7]	Potential Significant Effects	Potential In-Combination Effects
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	1.49	*Molinia* Meadows [6410], Lowland Hay Meadows [6510], Limestone Pavement [8240], Alluvial Forests [91E0], Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to recreational use, agricultural use, peat extraction, flooding and silting. The QIs for this site are sensitive to agricultural improvement, abandonment of pastoral systems/mowing, scrub encroachment, problematic native and invasive non-native species. The otter is sensitive to habitat destruction and pollution. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance[8] (less than 250m [9]), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course to the Shannon Callows is 740m from the proposed development. The small-scale short-term nature of the proposed event ensures that there will be no significant effect to the trophic structure or water quality of the SAC. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	1.49	Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* [A038], Wigeon *Anas penelope* [A050], Corncrake *Crex crex* [A122], Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140], Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [A142], Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156], Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179]	The standard data form identifies the threats and pressures to the site relate to agricultural management practices, recreational use and infrastructure. The species are sensitive to direct disturbance through noise pollution, human disturbance, hydrological condition and prey availability/trophic structure. The corn crake is sensitive to drainage, agricultural intensification and mortality due to mowing. The main threat to Whooper swans is collision with powerlines and wind turbines. Construction phase effects, such as noise pollution, from the site are identified to be localised. Given the distances between the SPA and the site, and the small-scale nature of the proposed event, the will be no significant effects to prey availability or trophic structure. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SPA. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No

[7] NPWS (2013). The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland. Overview Volume 1. Unpublished Report, National Parks & Wildlife Services. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.
[8] Williams, W.B., 2014. Source Apportionment and Dispersion Mapping of Fugitive Dust Using Directional Passive Monitors (Doctoral dissertation, University of Portsmouth).
[9] Tian, G., Li, G., Yan, B.L., Huang, Y.H. and Qin, J.P., 2008. Spatial dispersion laws of fugitive dust from construction sites. Huan jing ke xue= Huanjing kexue, 29(1), pp.259-262.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (QIs/SCIs)	Characterization of Potential Effects[7]	Potential Significant Effects	Potential In-Combination Effects
002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	1.75	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to recreational use, land use practices, illegal dumping and invasive species. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to peat extraction and drying out. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
000440	Lough Ree SAC	2.19	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion- or Hydrocharition-type vegetation [3150], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Alkaline fens [7230], Limestone pavements [8240] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0], Bog woodland [91D0], Otter *Lutra lutra* [1355]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to recreational use, changes in land management and pollution of ground- and surface-waters. The QIs for this site are sensitive to eutrophication, agricultural improvement, abandonment of pastoral systems/mowing, scrub encroachment, problematic native and invasive non-native species. Bogs are sensitive to peat extraction and drying out. The otter is sensitive to habitat destruction and pollution. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course to Lough Ree is 1.1km from the proposed development. The small-scale short-term nature of the proposed event ensures that there will be no significant effect to the trophic structure or water quality of the SAC. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
004064	Lough Ree SPA	2.19	Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004], Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038], Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050], Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052], Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053], Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056],	The standard data form identifies the threats and pressures to the site relate to fishing, hunting, water sports and invasive species. The species are sensitive to direct disturbance through noise pollution, human disturbance, hydrological condition and prey availability/trophic structure. The main threat to Whooper swans is collision with powerlines and wind turbines. Construction phase effects, such as noise pollution, from the site are identified to be localised. Given the distances between the SPA and the site, and the small-	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (QIs/SCIs)	Characterization of Potential Effects[7]	Potential Significant Effects	Potential In-Combination Effects
			Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061], Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065], Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067], Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A125], Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140], Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142], Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	scale nature of the proposed event, the will be no significant effects to prey availability or trophic structure. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SPA. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.		
002336	Carn Park Bog SAC	4.15	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to recreational use, land use practices and invasive species. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to peat extraction and drying out. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	9.88	Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland [6210]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to recreational use, agricultural practices and illegal dumping. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to agricultural intensification and succession to scrub. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (QIs/SCIs)	Characterization of Potential Effects[7]	Potential Significant Effects	Potential In-Combination Effects
000580	Mongan Bog SAC	10.26	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to land use practices and illegal dumping. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to peat extraction and drying out. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
	Mongan Bog SPA	10.26	Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]	The standard data form identifies the threats and pressures to the site relate to peat extraction, agricultural practices and illegal dumping. The species is sensitive to direct disturbance through noise pollution, human disturbance and trophic structure. The main threat to Greenland White-fronted geese is sensitive to habitat loss and degradation. Construction phase effects, such as noise pollution, from the site are identified to be localised. Given the distances between the SPA and the site, and the small-scale nature of the proposed event, the will be no significant effects to prey availability or trophic structure. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SPA. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
001625	Castlesampson Esker SAC	10.29	Turloughs [3180], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to peat extraction and quarrying. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to hydrological changes, changes in grazing levels, agricultural intensification and succession to scrub. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (QIs/SCIs)	Characterization of Potential Effects[7]	Potential Significant Effects	Potential In-Combination Effects
				All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.		
002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	10.64	Turloughs [3180], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to invasive species and waste disposal. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to hydrological changes, changes in grazing levels, agricultural intensification, peat extraction and drying out. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
000546	Fin Lough SAC	11.98	Alkaline fens [7230] *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to drainage, silting, land abandonment and succession. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to peat extraction, wetland reclamation and infilling. Geyer's whorl snail is very sensitive to abrupt changes in hydrology. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC. The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.	No	No
000611	Lough Funshinagh SAC	13.52	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodion rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation [3270]	The threats to the site identified by the NPWS in the standard data form relate to invasive species and waste disposal. The QIs for this site are highly sensitive to hydrological changes, changes in grazing levels, and changes in sediment load. Construction phase effects such as dust are known to persist over a short distance (less than 250m), all other effects from the site are identified to be localised and there are no hydrological pathways between the site and the SAC.	No	No

Site Code	**Site Name**	**Distance (km)**	**Qualifying features** (QIs/SCIs)	**Characterization of Potential Effects[7]**	**Potential Significant Effects**	**Potential In-Combination Effects**
				The nearest water course is 740m from the proposed development. Therefore, there are no sources with pathways for effects to the sensitive receptors of the SAC. All of the developments within the receiving environment are also small in scale (and were subject to their own AA processes, see **Error! Not a valid result for table.** below for details) with negligible effects to water quality and therefore there are no in combination effects observed.		

3.5 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European sites. The characteristics of the proposed project are foreseen to have very low effects to any European sites. Therefore, the in-combination effects do not need to be considered, as per the CIEEM 2016 guidelines. However, following a precautionary approach relevant plans and projects have been assessed. **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** outlines projects within the surrounding area of the proposed event that were considered which may interact with the proposed event to cause in-combination effects to European sites.

Table 3.3 Other Plans, Programmes etc. considered by the AA Screening

Plan or project	Status	Overview	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Possible significant in-combination effects
16/7155	Permission granted (10/04/2017)	The development will consist of the following: 1. The demolition of residential unit. 2 The provision of filling station, with canopy & car wash adjacent to existing retail unit. 3 The extension to the existing shop to accommodate coffee dock seated area for 40 people and office unit, canteen and storage space at first floor and 4. Provision of bicycle hire and storage hut, storage units, car parking spaces, landscaping, pedestrian and bicycle pathways and all associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
15/7090	Permission granted (28/10/15)	The development will consist of the construction of a two-storey dwelling, a new garage and associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
15/7148	Permission granted 917/02/2016	The development will consist of the change of use of an existing store building located to the east if the main building to a new IT classroom incorporating the construction of a new extension along with elevational changes to the existing building. The change of use of an existing Store Building to a new Arts Room to the north east of the main building along with elevational changes. Construction of a new General Workshop Building including a new canopy to the front, to the north east of the site. All ancillary site works associated with the above.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
17/7022	Permission granted (05/04/2017)	The development will consist of an extension to an existing General Workshop Building to the north east of the site previously granted planning permission under planning reference 15/7148 including changes to the existing elevations. All ancillary site works associated with the above.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
17/7179	Permission granted (17/11/2017)	The development will consist of a two-storey extension to the existing building to facilitate the installation of a new Part M passenger lift along with all ancillary site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
16/7031	Permission refused (05/08/2016)	The reconstruction of a two-storey dwelling (original structure destroyed by fire) with use of existing mains water, foul & storm sewer with all associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
16/7159	Permission granted (24/01/2017)	Permission to demolish existing fire-damaged semi-detached dwelling and associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
16/7160	Permission granted (24/01/2017)	Permission to construct a replacement detached house and all associated sit works including reconnection to existing public services.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No

Plan or project	Status	Overview	Possible significant effects from plan or project	Is there a risk of in-combination effects	Possible significant in-combination effects
17/7058	Permission granted (25/05/2017)	Permission for a new dormer dwelling house, connection to public foul and storm water sewers, connection to public watermain. Permission is also sought for new site entrance off Retreat Avenue together with all associated site development works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
16/7090	Deemed withdrawn (26/07/2017)	Permission to reconstruct and extend private dwelling house to include extension and all associated works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
15/7061	Incomplete application (29/05/2015)	The development consisted of the construction of a back extension to an existing dwelling providing a ground floor kitchen, utility and toilet with tiled roof together with all associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
15/7068	Permission granted (05/082015)	The construction of a back extension to an existing dwelling providing a ground floor kitchen, utility and toilet with tiled roof, conversion and alterations to existing shed including replacement of flat roof with pitched roof and windows/doors together with all associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
17/7180	Incomplete application (26/09/2017)	Permission to erect a 25mfree standing monopole communication structure carrying antennae and communication dishes within an existing 2.4m high palisade fence compound at ESB Telecoms Ltd telecommunication compound at ESB Bushfield 38kV Substation	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
17/7211	Incomplete application (22/11/2017)	Permission is sought to erect a 25mhigh free standing monopole communication structure carrying antennae and communication dishes within an existing 2.4m high palisade fence compound	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
18/7005	Permission granted (05/03/2018)	Permission is sought to erect a 25mhigh free standing monopole communication structure carrying antennae and communication dishes within a new expanded 2.4m high palisade fence compound	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
16/7066	Permission granted (20/07/2016)	(i) Short-term 5-year Retention Permission for stand-alone single storey data room building and covered walkway with associated site works. (ii) Retention Permission for change of use from existing main building store room to ground floor data room and first floor data room including first floor data room including first floor and associated site works. (iii) Retention Permission for change of use from existing first floor office space to switch room with associated site works. (iv) Planning Permission for external plinth and security fencing with associated site works for building services. (v) Planning Permission for standalone single storey double MV switch room with associated site works.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No
15/7150	Permission granted (23/02/2016)	Alterations and extensions to existing house and conversion of garage to bedroom use, together with associated site works and modifications to existing services.	This is a small-scale project with a short-term construction phase and the operational phase will have localised effects that have negligible interactions with the environment.	No	No

4. Conclusion

This report to inform the AA Screening of the Lissywollen proposed development demonstrates that the implementation of the proposed project will not result in adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European sites.

The proposed event is not located within 1.49 km of any European site. Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. The provisions of the proposed project were considered in relation to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified.

Given the nature of the proposed project, it's scale, the localised and short-term nature of the construction and the localised nature of the operational effects identified as potential sources, the proposed development will not lead to a significant in-combination effect with any other plans or projects.

This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. It is concluded that the proposed project is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[10]. Consequently, a Stage Two is not required for the project.

[10] Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.