

Appendix 4 – AA Screening Determination (Stage 1)

Screening for Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Step 1: Description of the project

I have considered the proposed extension to Galway Harbour in light of the requirements of S177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

Galway Bay at its widest point is approximately 60 kilometres wide and is over 70 kilometres long. The inner part of the bay, where the harbour is situated, does not generally exceed 10 metres in depth. There are two islands in the vicinity of the approach to the Harbour, Mutton Island to the west and Hare Island to the east. Both islands are c.1 km from the mainland. Mutton Island is linked to the mainland via a causeway and a WWTP serving the city is situated on the Island. Hare Island is uninhabited. Mutton Island and Hare Island provide a natural shelter to the approach to the harbour. The seabed between the islands and the mainland incorporates very shallow depths.

The site comprises a significant area (c.80 ha) within the inner part of Galway Bay. Galway Harbour is a designated Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. Since the original NIS, and subsequent Addendum and Errata documents, certain European designated sites have been re-assessed and revised Conservation Objective documents and Site Synopsis documents have been published by NPWS. These documents will be listed below.

European Sites at Risk

The applicant states that no additional sites further than 15km from the proposed GHE were identified in the NIS Addendum 2024 that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development and the conclusions of the original NIS remains valid for the purpose of this assessment. However, the applicant does include European sites with marine mammals that are located further than 15km from the proposed GHE. Consequently, I also include in this screening exercise

other European sites within similar ranges of the proposed GHE that have mobile mammals as QIs.

The nearest European Protected Sites include the following:

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

1. Galway Bay Complex (000268)
2. Moneen Mountain (000054)
3. Slieve Tooley/ Tormore Island/ Loughros Beg Bay (000190)
4. Castletaylor Complex (000242)
5. Inishbofin and Inishshark (000278)
6. Lough Corrib (000297)
7. Slyne Head Islands (000328)
8. Duvillaun Islands (000495)
9. Inishkea Islands (000507)
10. Lough Fingall Complex (000606)
11. Kiltiernan Turlough (001285)
12. Ross Lake and Woods (001312)
13. East Burren Complex (001926)
14. Maumturk Mountains (002008)
15. Connemara Bog Complex (002034)
16. Kilkieran Bay and Islands (002111)
17. Lower River Shannon (002165)
18. Blasket Islands (002172)
19. West Connacht Coast (002998)
20. Donegal Bay (Murvagh) (000133)
21. St. John's Point (000191)
22. Inishmore Island (000213)
23. Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary (000458)
24. Ballysadare Bay (000622)
25. Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore (000625)
26. Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) (000627)
27. Clew Bay (001482)
28. Slyne Head Peninsula (002074)

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

1. Inner Galway Bay (004031)
2. Lough Corrib (004042)
3. Creganna Marsh (004142)

The proposed extension to Galway Harbour can be summarised as follows:

- 660m of quay berth to –14.9m O.D. depth.
- Port development serviced by a channel to -10.9m O.D.
- A 400m turning circle to –10.9m O.D.

- 28.07 ha of land development.
- 660m of sheltered quays including breakwater.
- Western Marina with 216 No. berths.
- Fishing Pier.
- Nautical Centre Slipway.
- Freight rail link to enable freight and cargo to be efficiently transported to and from the GHE to allow positive road traffic and environmental benefits.

The application site with a stated area of 85.39 ha is located in Galway Harbour in Galway City. The development area generally comprises of 3 areas:

- Galway Harbour Extension (82.89 ha)
- Galway Harbour Enterprise Park Road & Services Upgrade (1.21 ha)
- Lough Atalia Road & Services Upgrade (1.29 ha)

The GHE area of development consisting of 82.89 ha is broken down as follows:

- Land development area (28.07 ha)
- Breakwaters and Revetment area (3.04 ha)
- Dredged Area (46.48 ha)
- Working Area (Dredge/ Marine Construction) (5.30 ha)

Step 2: Potential impact mechanisms from the project [consider direct, indirect, temporary/permanent impacts that could occur during construction, operation and, if relevant, decommissioning]

Pre-construction Impacts

- A. Impact on Marine Communities – Permanent and irreversible loss of intertidal habitats due to bore holes.
- B. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration – Disturbance due to topographical survey, bore holes and bathymetric survey.

Construction Impacts

- C. Impact on Marine Communities – Permanent and irreversible loss of intertidal habitats. Permanent loss of stony bank vegetation due to recolonisation. Deterioration of habitat quality due to water and air quality degradation. Impact on life cycle of fish and mammals due to dust.
- D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration – Disturbance due to dredging, bore holes, blasting and impulsive pile driving, construction of quay walls, lagoons and breakwater.
- E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension – Potential impacts on marine biota from sediment re-suspension due to capital dredging include smothering biological seabed communities affecting respiration in fish and marine mammals.

Other sources of impact identified in the NIS Addendum 2024 include:

- F. 2D seismic survey – Disturbance to marine mammals.
- G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes – Loss of habitat for intertidal and subtidal species and a loss of foraging habitat for bird species.
- H. Spread of invasive species.

Operational Impacts

- I. Impact on SCI Bird Species – A potential for indirect effect via disturbance and displacement risk to SCI bird species as a result of increased shipping.

Where an ecological pathway exists, these direct impacts could negatively alter the quality of the existing environment, negatively affecting qualifying interest species and habitats that are sensitive to these impacts.

Step 3: European Sites at risk

With reference to the potential impact mechanisms from the proposal, identify the European site(s) and qualifying features potentially at risk. Examine Site specific conservation objectives and relevant and supporting documents.

Table 1. European Sites at risk from impacts of the proposed project

Conservation objectives:

To maintain favourable conservation condition **M**

To restore favourable conservation condition **R**

To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition **M R**

1. Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)¹

Permanent and irreversible loss of fucoid-dominated reef habitat, intertidal mud and sandflat habitat and stony bank habitats due to the proposed development that will have a negative effect on the integrity of the ecosystem and this habitat loss will be an ecologically significant adverse effect.

[Galway Bay Complex SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (16 Apr 2013-Version 1)

ARTICLE 6(4) (IROPI) OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE INVOKED, AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES PLAN APPROVED.

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
A. and C. Impact on Marine Communities B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes H. Spread of invasive species I. Operational impact	Within the SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M Reefs [1170] M Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] M Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] R Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] R Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M

¹ For clarity, Galway Bay Complex SAC has already been brought forward to Stage 2 and is being included here for completeness only and it is not intended to interrupt the earlier conclusion of the Commission regarding IROPI.

		Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] R
<p>2. Moneen Mountain SAC (000054)</p> <p>There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 13.4km to the southwest of the development site. The site is designated for turloughs, heaths, springs, limestone pavements, grassland habitats, marsh fritillary and the lesser horseshoe bat. Due to the distance between the proposed site and the SAC, and the terrestrial nature of the QI habitat, there is no potential for indirect effects on the SAC.</p> <p>Moneen Mountain SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (20 Dec 2021-Version 1)</p> <p>SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE AND THE TERRESTRIAL NATURE OF THE QI HABITATS</p>		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SAC is located c. 13.4km to the southwest of the site.	Turloughs [3180] M Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] M Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] M Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210] R Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] R Limestone pavements [8240] M Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] M Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] M

3. Slieve Tooley/ Tormore Island/ Loughros Beg Bay SAC (000190)

The site is designated for Grey Seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Slieve Tooley/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (19 Aug 2015-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.161km to the north of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364] M

4. Castletaylor Complex SAC (000242)

There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 14.3km to the southeast of the development site. The site is designated for turloughs, heaths, springs, limestone pavements, and grassland habitats. Due to the distance between the proposed site and the SAC, and the terrestrial nature of the QI habitat, there is no potential for indirect effects on the SAC.

[Castletaylor Complex SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (20 Dec 2021-Version 1)

SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE AND THE TERRESTRIAL NATURE OF THE QI HABITATS

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SAC is located c. 14.3km to the southeast of the site.	Turloughs [3180] R Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] R Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] M Semi-natural dry grasslands and

		scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210] R Limestone pavements [8240] R
<p>5. Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (000278)</p> <p>The site is designated for Grey Seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.</p> <p>Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (29 May 2015-Version 1)</p> <p>SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED</p>		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.81km to the northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Grey Seal (Halichoerus grypus) [1364] M
<p>6. Lough Corrib SAC (000297)</p> <p>The site is designated for Sea Lamprey, Salmon and Otter. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on fish and mobile mammal species were identified.</p> <p>Lough Corrib SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (28 Apr 2017-Version 1)</p> <p>SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED</p>		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] R

E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes H. Spread of invasive species	0.6km to the northwest of the site.	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] M Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] M
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7. Slyne Head Islands SAC (000328)

The site is designated for Grey Seal and Bottlenose dolphin. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on these mobile mammal species were identified.

[Slyne Head Islands SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (17 Dec 2024-Version 2)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.77km to the northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364] M Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349] M

8. Duvillaun Islands SAC (000495)

The site is designated for Grey Seal and Bottlenose dolphin. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on these mobile mammal species were identified.

[Duvillaun Islands SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (17 Dec 2024-Version 2)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.116km to the northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Bottlenose Dolphin Tursiops truncatus [1349] M Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M
<p align="center">9. Inishkea Islands SAC (000507)</p> <p>The site is designated for Grey Seal and Bottlenose dolphin. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on these mobile mammal species were identified.</p> <p>Inishkea Islands SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (15 Apr 2015-Version 1)</p> <p align="center">SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED</p>		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.121km to the northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M
<p align="center">10. Lough Fingall Complex SAC (000606)</p> <p>There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 11.3km to the southeast of the development site. The site is designated for turloughs, heaths, springs, limestone pavements, grassland habitats and the lesser horseshoe bat. Due to the distance between the proposed site and the SAC, and the terrestrial nature of the QI habitat, there is no potential for indirect effects on the SAC.</p> <p>Lough Fingall Complex SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (14 Jan 2019-Version 1)</p> <p align="center">SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE AND THE DISTANCE AND TERRESTRIAL NATURE OF THE QI HABITATS</p>		

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SAC is located c. 11.3km to the southeast of the site.	Turloughs [3180] R Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] M Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] M Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210] R Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] M Limestone pavements [8240] M Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] M

11. Kiltiernan Turlough SAC (001285)

There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 14.3km to the southeast of the development site. The site is designated for a turlough. Due to the distance between the proposed site and the SAC, there is no potential for indirect effects on the SAC.

[Kiltiernan Turlough SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (15 Jan 2021-Version 1)

SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE TO THE QI HABITATS

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SAC is located c. 14.3km to the southeast of the site.	Turloughs [3180] R

12. Ross Lake and Woods SAC (001312)

There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 14.6km to the northwest of the development site. The site is designated for Waters and the Lesser Horseshoe

Bat. Due to the distance between the proposed site and the SAC, there is no potential for indirect effects on the SAC.

[Ross Lake and Woods SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (18 Oct 2018-Version 1)

SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE TO THE QI HABITATS

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SAC is located c. 14.6km to the southeast of the site.	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] R Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] R

13. East Burren Complex SAC (001926)

There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 13.3km to the south of the development site. The site is designated for waters, turloughs, heaths, fens, springs, caves limestone pavements, grassland habitats, marsh fritillary and the lesser horseshoe bat. Due to the distance between the proposed site and the SAC, and the terrestrial nature of the QI habitat, there is no potential for indirect effects on the SAC.

[East Burren Complex SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (18 Jan 2022-Version 1)

SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE AND THE DISTANCE AND TERRESTRIAL NATURE OF THE QI HABITATS

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SAC is located c. 13.3km to the southeast of the site.	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] R Turloughs [3180] R Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] M Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] M

		<p>Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] M</p> <p>Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] R</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210] R</p> <p>Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] R</p> <p>Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] M</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] M</p> <p>Alkaline fens [7230] M</p> <p>Limestone pavements [8240] R</p> <p>Caves not open to the public [8310] Linked to Lesser Horseshoe Bat</p> <p>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] M</p> <p>Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] M</p> <p>Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] R</p> <p>Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] M</p>
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14. Maumturk Mountains SAC (002008)

The site is designated for Atlantic salmon. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, Atlantic salmon enter the SAC through the Corrib system and, consequently, will be in

the vicinity of the proposed development. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this fish species were identified.

[Maumturk Mountains SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (31 Jul 2017-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
C. Impact on Marine Communities D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension H. Spread of invasive species	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.38.6km to the northwest of the site and Atlantic salmon enter the SAC through the Corrib system.	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] M

15. Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034)

The site is designated for otter. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. The SAC is located 13.3km to the northwest of the development site and within the range of foraging otter. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Connemara Bog Complex SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (28 Oct 2015-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
C. Impact on Marine Communities D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension	The SAC is located c. 13.3km to the northwest of the site and within the range of foraging otter.	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] M

16. Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC (002111)

The site is designated for Harbour Seal and Harbour porpoise. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the

proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on these mobile mammal species were identified.

[Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (04 Feb 2014-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.36.6km to the west of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M* Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M

17. Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)

The site is designated for Bottlenose dolphin. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Lower River Shannon SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (07 Aug 2012-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of between c.53-100km to the south and southwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Bottlenose Dolphin Tursiops truncatus [1349] M

18. Blasket Islands SAC (002172)

The site is designated for Grey Seal and Harbour porpoise. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on these mobile mammal species were identified.

[Blasket Islands SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (07 Apr 2014-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.156km to the southwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M

19. West Connacht Coast SAC (002998)

The site is designated for Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour porpoise. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on these mobile mammal species were identified.

[West Connacht Coast SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (17 Jan 2025-Version 2)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.75km to the northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351] M Bottlenose Dolphin Tursiops truncatus [1349] M

20. Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133)

The site is designated for Harbour seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Donegal Bay \(Murvagh\) SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (09 Jul 2012-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.143km to the north of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M

21. St. John’s Point SAC (000191)

The site is designated for Bottlenose dolphin. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[St. John's Point SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (09 Jul 2012-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.149km to the north of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Bottlenose Dolphin Tursiops truncatus [1349] M*

22. Inishmore Island SAC (000213)

The site is designated for Harbour Porpoise. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Inishmore Island SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (17 Dec 2024-Version 2)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.39km to the west of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351] M

23. Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary SAC (000458)

The site is designated for Harbour Seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (31 Oct 2012-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.95km to the north of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M

24. Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622)

The site is designated for Harbour Seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Ballysadare Bay SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (20 Nov 2013-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.109km to the northeast of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M
<p>25. Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (000625) The site is designated for Harbour Porpoise. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.</p> <p>Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (03 Mar 2015-Version 1)</p>		
SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.130km to the northeast of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351] M*
<p>26. Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay SAC (Sligo Bay) (000627) The site is designated for Harbour Seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.</p> <p>Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (02 Jul 2024-Version 2)</p>		

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.118km to the northeast of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] M

27. Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482)

The site is designated for Harbour Seal. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Clew Bay Complex SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (19 Jul 2011-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.67km to the northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] M

28. Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074)

The site is designated for Bottlenose dolphin. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, there is hydrological connectivity between this SAC and the proposed site. Therefore, potential for likely significant indirect effects on this mobile mammal species were identified.

[Slyne Head Peninsula SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (05 Feb 2015-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	The SAC is located a hydrological distance of c.70km west northwest of the site within the range of mobile mammal species.	Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349] M*

29.Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)

There will be direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely within the designated site. There is direct hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SPA. Therefore, a potential for likely significant indirect effect via deterioration of surface water quality and disturbance was identified.

[Inner Galway Bay SPA | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (01 May 2013-Version 1)

SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes I. Operational impact on SCI Bird Species	Within the SPA	Black-throated Diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) [A002] M* Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] M Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] M Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] M Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] M Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] M Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] M Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] M Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] M

		Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137] M Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] M Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] M Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] M Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] M Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] M Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] M Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169] M Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] M Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] M Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis) [A191] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] M Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] M
<p>30. Lough Corrib SPA (004042)</p> <p>The site is designated for SCI Bird Species. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site. However, some of the species have the potential to feed or pass through the area of the proposed development. Therefore, a potential for likely significant indirect effect via deterioration of surface water quality and disturbance was identified.</p> <p>Lough Corrib SPA National Parks & Wildlife Service Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (27 Jan 2023-Version 1)</p> <p>SCREENED IN – PATHWAY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS IDENTIFIED</p>		
Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey	The SPA is located a distance of c.4.5km west northwest of the site within the range of SCI Bird species.	Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065] M

G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes I. Operational impact on SCI Bird Species		Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] R Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] R Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] R Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] R
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31. Cregganna Marsh SPA (004142)

The site is designated for Greenland White-fronted Goose. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site and the species will not move into the area of the proposed development.

[Cregganna Marsh SPA | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#)

Special Conservation Objectives are set out by NPWS (27 Jan 2023-Version 1)

SCREENED OUT – NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SITE AND ABSENCE OF SUITABLE HABITAT FOR THE QI

Effect mechanism	Impact pathway/Zone of influence	Qualifying interest features at risk
None – no pathway identified	The SPA is located a distance of c.6.4km east southeast of the site within the range of SCI Bird species.	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] R

Note: * = There are no site-specific conservation objectives listed yet for these QIs. As a result, the general conservation objective 'To maintain the favourable conservation condition' is used.

Of the 31 no. sites identified, 24 no. sites have been screened in for further examination, as follows:

1. Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)
2. Slieve Tooley/ Tormore Island/ Loughros Beg Bay SAC (000190)
3. Inishboffin and Inishshark SAC (000278)
4. Lough Corrib SAC (000297)
5. Slyne Head Islands SAC(000328)
6. Duvillaun Islands (000495)
7. Inishkea Islands SAC (000507)

8. Maumturk Mountains SAC (002008)
9. Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034)
10. Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC (002111)
11. Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)
12. Blasket Islands SAC (002172)
13. West Connacht Coast SAC (002998)
14. Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133)
15. St. John's Point SAC (000191)
16. Inishmore Island SAC (000213)
17. Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary SAC (000458)
18. Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622)
19. Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (000625)
20. Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)
21. Clew Bay SAC (001482)
22. Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074)
23. Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)
24. Lough Corrib SPA (004042)

Step 4: Likely significant effects on the European site(s) 'alone'

Table 2: Could the project undermine the conservation objectives 'alone'

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		A. and C. Impact on Marine Communities B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension H. Spread of invasive species
Galway Bay Complex SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain favourable conservation condition M • To restore favourable conservation condition R • To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		

		G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	
		I. Operational impact	
1. Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	Y	Y
	Coastal lagoons [1150] R	Y	Y
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	Y	Y
	Reefs [1170] M	Y	Y
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] M	Y	Y
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] M*	N	N
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] M	Y	Y
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] R	Y	Y
	Turloughs [3180] M	N	N
	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] R	N	N
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] M	N	N
	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] M	N	N

	Alkaline fens [7230] M	N	N
	Limestone pavements [8240] M*	N	N
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] R	Y	Y
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature Slieve Tooney/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
2. Slieve Tooney/ Tormore Island/ Loughros Beg Bay SAC (000190) is located c.161km to the north of the site.	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] M*	N	N
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] M*	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] M	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] M*	N	N

	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> [2140] M	N	N
	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150] M	N	N
	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] M*	N	N
	Humid dune slacks [2190] M*	N	N
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] R	N	N
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] R	N	N
	<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] M	N	N
	<i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] M	N	N
	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
	Coastal lagoons [1150] R	N	N

3. Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (000278) is located c.81km to the northwest of the site	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] M	N	N
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] R	N	N
	European dry heaths [4030] R	N	N
	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature Lough Corrib SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension H. Spread of invasive species

4. Lough Corrib SAC (000297) is located a hydrological distance of 0.6km to the northwest of the site.	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] R	N	N
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] R	N	N
	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] R	N	N

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] M	N	N
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] M	N	N
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] M	N	N
Active raised bogs [7110] R	N	N
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] None	N	N
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] None	N	N
Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] M	N	N
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] M	N	N
Alkaline fens [7230] M	N	N
Limestone pavements [8240] M	N	N
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] M	N	N
Bog woodland [91D0] M	N	N
Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] R	N	N
Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] M	N	N

	Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] M	N	N
	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] R	N	N
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] M	N	N
	Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216] M	N	N
	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] R	Y	Y
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] M	Y	Y
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
Slyne Head Islands SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
5. Slyne Head Islands SAC (000328) is located c.77km to the northwest of the site	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] M	Y	Y
	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
Duvillaun Islands SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
6. Duvillaun Islands (000495) is located c.116km to the northwest of the site	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] M	Y	Y
	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
Inishkea Islands SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension

7. Inishkea Islands SAC (000507) is located c.121km to the northwest of the site	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] R	N	N
	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M	Y	Y
	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395] M	N	N
European Site and qualifying feature Maumturk Mountains SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
8. Maumturk Mountains SAC (002008) is located c.38.6km to the northwest of the site	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] M	N	N
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] R	N	N
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] R	N	N
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] R	N	N
	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] R	N	N
	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] R	N	N

	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] M	Y	Y
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] M	N	N
European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
Connemara Bog Complex SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	C. Impact on Marine Communities	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
9. Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034) is located c.13.3km to the northwest of the site	Coastal lagoons [1150] M	N	N
	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] M	N	N
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] M	N	N
	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] M	N	N
	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] M	N	N
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] R	N	N
	European dry heaths [4030] R	N	N

	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] M	N	N
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] R	N	N
	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] R	N	N
	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] R	N	N
	Alkaline fens [7230] R	N	N
	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] M	N	N
	Euphydrias aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] M	N	N
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] R	N	N
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] M	Y	Y
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] M	N	N

European Site and qualifying feature Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension

10. Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC (002111) is located c.36.6km to the west of the site	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Coastal lagoons [1150] M	N	N
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	N	N
	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] R	N	N
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] R	N	N
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] R	N	N
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] M	N	N
	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] M	N	N
	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M*	Y	Y
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] R	N	N
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y
Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] M	N	N	

European Site and qualifying feature Lower River Shannon SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension

		G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	
11. Lower River Shannon SAC (002165) is located between c.53-100km to the south and southwest of the site	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] M	N	N
	Estuaries [1130] M	N	N
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Coastal lagoons [1150] R	N	N
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	N	N
	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] M	N	N
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] M	N	N
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] R	N	N
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] R	N	N
	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] M	N	N
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] M	N	N
	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] R	N	N

	Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] R	N	N
	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] R	N	N
	Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] M	N	N
	Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] M	N	N
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] R	N	N
	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] M	Y	Y
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] R	N	N

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
Blasket Islands SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
12. Blasket Islands SAC (002172) is located c.156km to the south and southwest of the site	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] R	N	N
	European dry heaths [4030] M	N	N
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] M	N	N

	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M	Y	Y
	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature West Connacht Coast SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
13. West Connacht Coast SAC (002998) is located c.75km to the northwest of the site	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] M	Y	Y
	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension

		G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	
14. Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133) is located c.143km to the northwest of the site	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] R	N	N
	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] M*	N	N
	Humid dune slacks [2190] R	N	N
	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature St. John's Point SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
15. St. John's Point SAC (000191) is located c.149km to the north of the site	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	N	N
	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] M*	N	N
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland	N	N

	facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] R		
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] R	N	N
	Alkaline fens [7230] M	N	N
	Limestone pavements [8240] M	N	N
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] M	N	N
	Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] M*	N	N
	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] M*	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
Inishmore Island SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
16. Inishmore Island SAC (000213) is located c.39km to the	Coastal lagoons [1150] R	N	N
	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] M	N	N

west of the site	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] M	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] M	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] M	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] R	N	N
	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] M	N	N
	Humid dune slacks [2190] M	N	N
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] R	N	N
	European dry heaths [4030] M	N	N
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Under review	N	N
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] M	N	N
	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] M	N	N
	Limestone pavements [8240] M	N	N
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] M	N	N
	<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] M	N	N
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M	Y	Y	

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
17. Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary SAC (000458) is located c.95km to the north of the site	Estuaries [1130] M	N	N
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] M	N	N
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] M*	N	N
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] M	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] M	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] R	N	N
	Humid dune slacks [2190] R	N	N

	Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] M	N	N
	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] M	N	N
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature Ballysadare Bay SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
18. Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622) is located c.109km to the northeast of the site	Estuaries [1130] M	N	N
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] M	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] R	N	N
	Humid dune slacks [2190] R	N	N
	Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] M	N	N
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
Bunduff Lough and Machair /Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
19. Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (000625) c.130km to the northeast of the site	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	N	N
	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] R	N	N
	Humid dune slacks [2190] M*	N	N
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] M	N	N
	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] M	N	N
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] M	N	N

	Alkaline fens [7230] M	N	N
	Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] M*	N	N
	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] M*	Y	Y
	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395] M	N	N
European Site and qualifying feature Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
20. Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627) is located c.118km to the northeast of the site	Estuaries [1130] M	N	N
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] M	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] R	N	N
	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] R	N	N

	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] R	N	N
	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] M	N	N
	Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] M	N	N
	Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] R	N	N
	Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] M	N	N
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y
European Site and qualifying feature Clew Bay Complex SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
21. Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482) is located c.67km to the northwest of the site	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] M	N	N
	Coastal lagoons [1150] M	N	N
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	N	N
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] M	N	N

	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] R	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] R	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] M*	N	N
	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] M*	N	N
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] R	N	N
	Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's whorl snail) [1013] Under review	N	N
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension
Slyne Head Peninsula SAC National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
22. Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074) is located	Coastal lagoons [1150] R	N	N
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] M	N	N

c.70km west northwest of the site	Reefs [1170] M	N	N
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] M	N	N
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] M	N	N
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] R	N	N
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] R	N	N
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] R	N	N
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] R	N	N
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] R	N	N
	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] M	N	N
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] M*	N	N
	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] M	N	N
	European dry heaths [4030] M	N	N
	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] M	N	N
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] M	N	N	

	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] M	N	N
	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] M	N	N
	Alkaline fens [7230] M	N	N
	Tursiops truncatus (Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] M*	Y	Y
	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395] M	N	N
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] M	N	N

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives:	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension I. Operational impact
Inner Galway Bay SPA National Parks & Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 		
23. Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)	Black-throated Diver (Gavia arctica) [A002] M*	Y	Y
	Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer) [A003] M	Y	Y
	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] M	Y	Y
	Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) [A028] M	Y	Y

	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] M	Y	Y
	Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] M	Y	Y
	Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A052] M	Y	Y
	Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] M	Y	Y
	Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] M	Y	Y
	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] M	Y	Y
	Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] M	Y	Y
	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] M	Y	Y
	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] M	Y	Y
	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] M	Y	Y
	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] M	Y	Y
	Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] M	Y	Y
	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] M	Y	Y
	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] M	Y	Y
	Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] M	Y	Y
	Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A050] M	Y	Y
	Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A191] M	Y	Y
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] M	Y	Y

European Site and qualifying feature	Conservation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain favourable conservation condition M To restore favourable conservation condition R To maintain or restore favourable conservation condition M R 	Could the conservation objectives be undermined (Y/N)?	
		B. and D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration F. 2D seismic survey G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes	E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension I. Operational impact
24. Lough Corrib SPA (004042) is located 4.5km to the north northwest of the site	Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] R	N	N
	Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] R	N	N
	Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] M	Y	Y
	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] R	N	N
	Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] R	N	N
	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] M	N	N
	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] R	Y	Y
	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] R	Y	Y
	Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] R	Y	Y
	Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] R	Y	Y
	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] R	N	N
	Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A056] R	N	N

	Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) [A051] R	N	N
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] M	N	N

I conclude that the proposed development would have a likely significant effect 'alone' on the qualifying interests of the following sites:

1. Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)
2. Slieve Tooley/ Tormore Island/ Loughros Beg Bay SAC (000190)
3. Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (000278)
4. Lough Corrib SAC (000297)
5. Slyne Head Islands SAC (000328)
6. Duvillaun Islands (000495)
7. Inishkea Islands SAC (000507)
8. Maumturk Mountains SAC (002008)
9. Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034)
10. Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC (002111)
11. Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)
12. Blasket Islands SAC (002172)
13. West Connacht Coast SAC (002998)
14. Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133)
15. St. John's Point SAC (000191)
16. Inishmore Island SAC (000213)
17. Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary SAC (000458)
18. Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622)
19. Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (000625)
20. Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)
21. Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482)
22. Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074)
23. Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)
24. Lough Corrib SPA (004042)

Potential impacts include the following:

Pre-construction Impacts

- A. Impact on Marine Communities – Permanent and irreversible loss of intertidal habitats due to bore holes.
- B. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration – Disturbance due to topographical survey, bore holes and bathymetric survey.

Construction Impacts

- C. Impact on Marine Communities – Permanent and irreversible loss of intertidal habitats. Permanent loss of stony bank vegetation due to recolonisation. Deterioration of habitat quality due to water and air quality degradation. Impact on life cycle of fish and mammals due to dust.
- D. Impact on Marine Communities from Noise and Vibration – Disturbance due to dredging, bore holes, blasting and impulsive pile driving, construction of quay walls, lagoons and breakwater.
- E. Impacts from Sediment Re-suspension – Potential impacts on marine biota from sediment re-suspension due to capital dredging include smothering biological seabed communities affecting respiration in fish and marine mammals.

Other sources of impact identified in the NIS Addendum 2024 include:

- F. 2D seismic survey – Disturbance to marine mammals.
- G. Extended number of boreholes and core holes – Loss of habitat for intertidal and subtidal species and a loss of foraging habitat for bird species.
- H. Spread of invasive species.

Operational Impacts

- I. Impact on SCI Bird Species – A potential for indirect effect via disturbance and displacement risk to SCI bird species as a result of increased shipping.

An appropriate assessment is required on the basis of the effects of the project 'alone'. Further assessment in-combination with other plans and projects is not required at this time.

Proceed to AA.

In the interests of a complete assessment, Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268) is carried forward to AA but I note the assessments carried out to date which resulted in the Commission deciding to invoke the Article 6(4) process and the Minister approving the compensatory measures in 2024.

Step 5: Where relevant, likely significant effects on the European site(s) 'in-combination with other plans and projects'

There is potential for air and water emissions from the project alone and in combination with other plans and projects to undermine the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network. The applicant's Natura Impact Statement Addendum identifies plans/ projects as presenting a risk of acting in-combination with the Proposed Development, which include *inter alia*:

- National University of Ireland, Galway (22180): Permission granted for the construction of a new water sport facility with the provision of 2 no. floating pontoons on the bank of the River Corrib and a pedestrian and cyclist greenway along the River Corrib.
- Seagullpoint Limited (2047 and ABP-310568-21): Permission granted for a 10-year permission for the construction of mixed-use regeneration project including 376 no. apartments, retail units, cafe/restaurant/bar units, Hotel, office use, childcare facility, car parking and other services. Note: Split decision to refuse residential towers Pin 4 and 5 of Block 9.
- Dept. of Agriculture, Food & The Marine (23218): Permission granted for a deepwater quay which will provide 200 metres of outside berthing frontage at Rossaveel Harbour (subject to a Judicial Review – substitute consent application pending).

- Galway City Council (ABP-314597-22): Permission granted for proposed BusConnects Galway (Cross City Link-University Road to Dublin Road) Scheme.
- Galway County Council (ABP-318220-23): Application for N6 Galway City Ring Road consisting of approximately 18km of road infrastructure from new junction with the R336 at the western side of Bearna to tie-in to the existing N6 to the east of Galway City at Coolagh, Briarhill.
- Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta (ABP-317409-23): Application for the proposed development of an offshore wind farm and associated infrastructure for Sceirde Rocks.
- Land Development Agency proposal (P.A. Ref. No.2560296) for a mixed-use development primarily comprising 356 no. residential apartments, a crèche, 2 no. café/restaurant units and 1 no. retail unit on a site of 1.621 ha. in Galway Port at Dock Road and Lough Atalia Road, Galway City.
- A number of foreshore applications, aquaculture sites, and fisheries orders.
- Wastewater treatment plant on Mutton Island.
- Both the Galway and Gort Lowlands flood relief schemes (both at feasibility and design stage).
- Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029
- 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027
- Compensatory Measures Plan

The permitted and proposed developments are all either a distance from the application site or within the urban area of Galway City and not connected to the application site. The GHE will not affect the flood relief scheme for the city or require flood protection and is sufficiently removed from Kinvarra Bay to affect or be affected by the Gort Lowlands scheme.

The proposed GHE will compromise some of the conservation objectives of QIs in the Galway Bay Complex SAC, but a Compensatory Plan has been agreed for

this. The GCDP has an objective for the development of a Masterplan for the Inner Harbour Regeneration Site, which will be subjected to the appropriate assessment process if it comes to fruition. The Compensatory Measures Plan with Accompanying Measures and Additional Environmental Benefits will result in an overall significant positive impact on the environment of Galway Bay Complex SAC and the coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

Overall Conclusion - Screening Determination

In accordance with Section 177U(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of objective information, I conclude that the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the protected birds and habitat of the following sites 'alone' in respect of effects associated with construction and disturbance on bird species within the nearby SACs/SPAs:

- Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)
- Slieve Tooley/ Tormore Island/ Loughros Beg Bay SAC (000190)
- Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (000278)
- Lough Corrib SAC (000297)
- Slyne Head Islands SAC (000328)
- Duvillaun Islands (000495)
- Inishkea Islands SAC (000507)
- Maumturk Mountains SAC (002008)
- Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034)
- Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC (002111)
- Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)
- Blasket Islands SAC (002172)
- West Connacht Coast SAC (002998)
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133)
- St. John's Point SAC (000191)
- Inishmore Island SAC (000213)
- Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary SAC (000458)
- Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622)

- Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (000625)
- Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)
- Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482)
- Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074)
- Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)
- Lough Corrib SPA (004042)

Having regard to the qualifying interests for which the sites were designated and in the absence of connections to and distance between the application site, the following European sites have been screened out for further consideration:

- Moneen Mountain SAC (000054)
- Castletaylor Complex SAC (000242)
- Lough Fingall Complex SAC (000606)
- Kiltiernan Turlough SAC (001285)
- Ross Lake and Woods SAC (001312)
- East Burren Complex SAC (001926)
- Creganna Marsh SPA (004142)

This conclusion is based on:

- Objective information presented in the Applicant's Screening Report, the original NIS and NIS/ Errata Documents (2014, 2015, & 2019) and NIS Addendum 2024.
- Standard pollution controls that would be employed regardless of proximity to a European site and effectiveness of same.
- Distance from European Sites.
- The absence of meaningful pathway to any European site.
- Impacts predicted would not affect the conservation objectives.

No measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on European sites were taken into account in reaching this conclusion.

It is therefore determined that Appropriate Assessment (stage 2) [under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000] is required for 24 no. on the basis of the effects of the project 'alone'.