

## **Remedial Natura Impact Statement**

Dwelling house at An  
Formna, Inis Oírr, Co.  
Galway





## DOCUMENT DETAILS

Client: **Olive Faherty**

Project Title: **Dwelling house at An Formna, Inis Oírr, Co. Galway**

Project Number: **191023**

Document Title: **Remedial Natura Impact Statement**

Document File Name: **rNIS F – 2020.08.05 - 191023**

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Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved By
01	Final	05/08/2020	OOG	JH

# Table of Contents

1.	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.1	Statement of Authority .....	1
2.	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Site Location .....	2
2.2	Characteristics of the Proposed Development .....	2
2.2.1	Description of the project .....	2
2.2.2	Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment .....	3
2.2.2.1	Review of Previously Prepared NIS .....	3
2.2.2.2	Results of 2019 Site Visit .....	3
2.2.3	Fauna .....	5
2.2.4	Significance of Habitats & Species .....	5
3.	<b>IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.	<b>ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1	Assessment of European Site located within the Likely Zone of Impact .....	11
4.2	Residual Impact Assessment .....	13
4.3	Cumulative Impact Assessment .....	14
4.3.1	<b>Plans</b> .....	14
4.3.2	Other Projects .....	17
4.3.3	Conclusion of Cumulative Assessment .....	17
5.	<b>CONCLUDING STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>18</b>
6.	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>19</b>

## TABLE OF PLATES

<i>Plate 2.1 Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3).....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Plate 2.2 Amenity grassland (GA2) and Stone walls and other stonework (BL1).....</i>	<i>4</i>

## 1.

# INTRODUCTION

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Appropriate Assessment of minor alterations of specific design and structural components associated with a permitted dwelling house (PI Ref. 15/1313) located at Furmina, Inis Oirr, Co. Galway. The planning application for the permitted development was accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement which was reviewed and considered in the preparation of this assessment.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission guidance document Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), European Communities (2018) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission and the Department of the Environment's Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (December 2009, amended February 2010).

In addition to the guidelines referenced above, the following relevant guidance was considered in preparation of this report:

1. *European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission,*
2. *Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission,*
3. *EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. European Commission.*

## 1.1.1

## Statement of Authority

A baseline ecological survey was undertaken on the 21/11/2019 by Olivia O' Gorman (BSc., MSc.) of McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan (MKO). This report has been prepared by Olivia O' Gorman. The report has been reviewed by John Hynes (BSc, MSc, MCIEEM) who has over 8 years' experience in ecological assessment.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Site Location

The development site is located on the island of Inisheer, Co. Galway [Grid Ref.: L 98451 01875], approximately 20 km from the coast of Co. Galway (Figure 2.2). The site is bordered by traditional stone walls enclosing grassland and limestone fields with a shed located immediately to the north and human dwellings present to the south and east of the site.

### 2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

#### 2.2.1 Description of the project

The subject development is located in the townland of An Formna, on the eastern side of Inis Oírr, County Galway. The constructed dwelling house erected on site has a ridge height of 7.893m, a gross floor area of 244m<sup>2</sup> and incorporates 3 no. dormer windows to the front elevation.

During the course of construction, specific design and structural components of the dwelling house were altered from what was granted permission under PI Ref. 15/1313. The present dwelling house erected on site has a ridge height of 7.893m, which exceeds the permitted height of 6.55m by 1.33m, and a gross floor area of 244m<sup>2</sup>, an increase of 107.36m<sup>2</sup> from the permitted floor space of 136.64m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the siting of the house was marginally reoriented. The dwelling house has also incorporated 3 no. dormer windows to the front elevation which varied from the originally permitted velux windows.

The development layout is shown in Figure 2.1. The development location in relation to EU site is shown in Figure 2.2

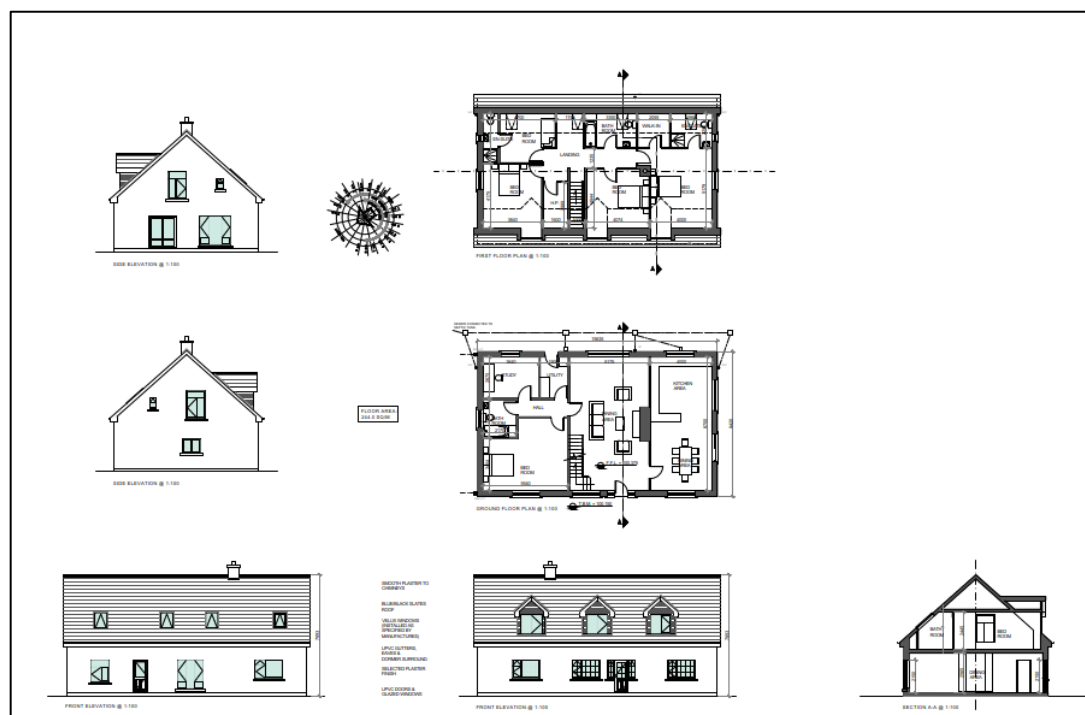
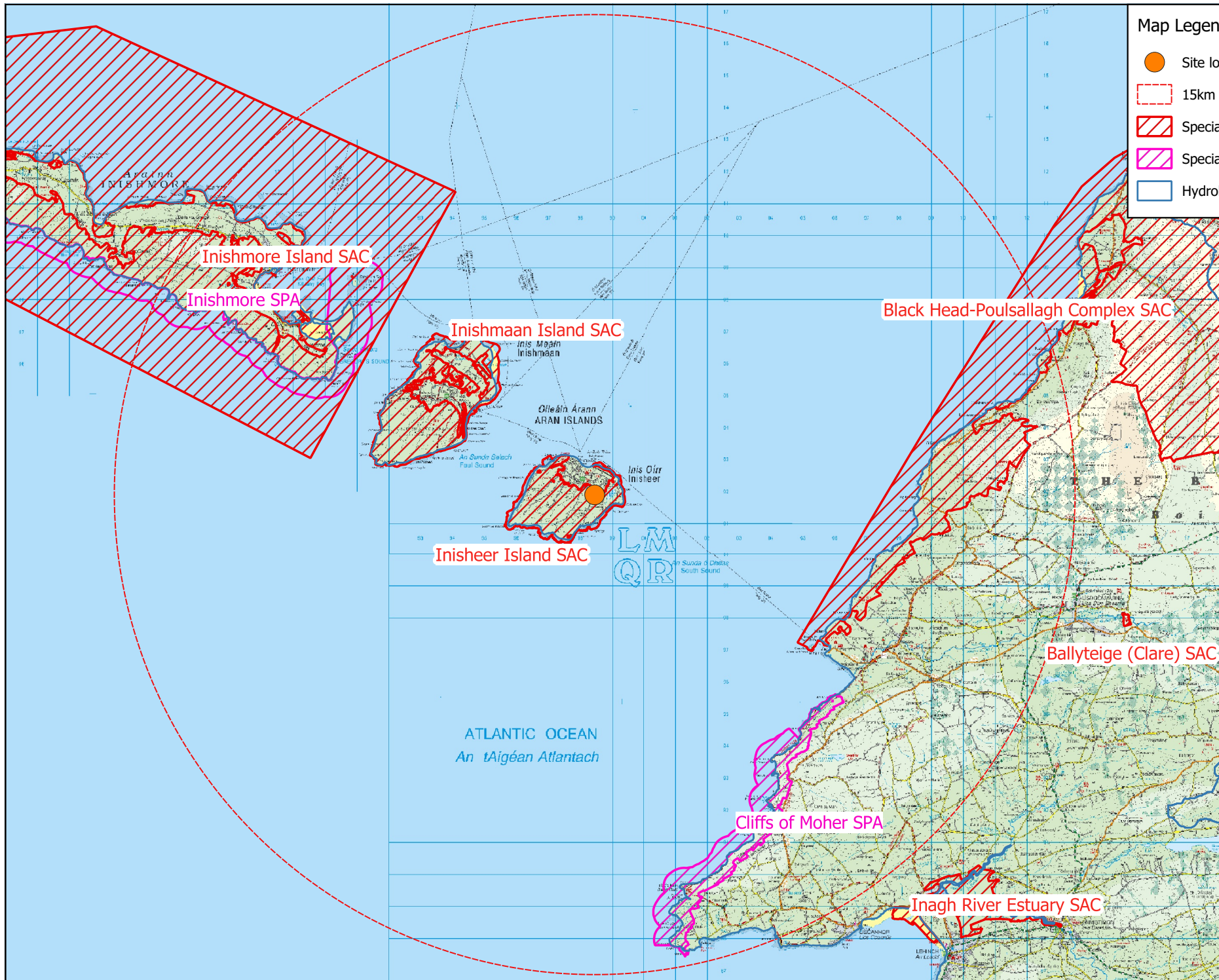



Figure 2.1 Existing Elevations and Sections of the Subject Development



### Map Legend

- Site location
- 15km Buffer Zone
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Hydrological Catchments



Drawing Title EU Designated Sites within 15km Buffer Zone	
Project Title 191023 Faherty Inis Óirr	
Drawn By OOG	Drawn By JH
Project No. 191023	Drawing No. Figure 2.2
Scale 1:155000	Date 04.08.2020
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#### 2.2.1.1.1 Site Suitability Assessment

The site was assessed for suitability for the treatment of wastewater by Cyril J. Kelly and Associates Consulting Engineers in 2014. A percolation ('P') test for shallow/subsoils and/or water table was conducted within the development site.

The assessment identified that the site was suitable for the treatment of wastewaters in accordance with the requirements of the EPA Code of Practice. It was thus recommended that an Envirocare PE 6 mechanical aeration plant and ancillary treatment plant be installed which would discharge to a peat bed polishing filter and then pumped into a raised soil filter.

### 2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

#### 2.2.2.1 Review of Previously Prepared NIS

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was prepared by John Curtin and James O' Donnell of Planning Consultancy Services in 2014/2015. The NIS found that there were no Annex I habitats or Annex II species present within the site boundary. The NIS concluded that *'the development would not have any effect on the Inisheer Island SAC either individually or in combination with other plans or projects in the area'*

Overall, the nature and scale of the project remains commensurate with that described and assessed in the NIS for the permitted development.

#### 2.2.2.2 Results of 2019 Site Visit

Assessing the impacts of any project and associated activities requires an understanding of the ecological baseline conditions prior to and at the time of the project proceeding. Ecological baseline conditions are those existing in the absence of proposed activities (CIEEM 2018). A multidisciplinary walkover survey was conducted on the 21/11/ 2019 in line with NRA (2009) guidelines (Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes) by Olivia O' Gorman (BSc., MSc.). The ecological survey was undertaken within the optimal time of year to undertake a habitat and flora survey (Smith et. al 2011).

The site of the development consists of an existing dwelling house and paved surfaces with a sewage treatment system and associated percolation area classified as **Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)** (Plate 2.1). These were surrounded by **Amenity Grassland (GA2)** characterised by cocks-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), red clover (*Trifolium pretense*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.) (Plate 2.2)

**Stone walls and other stonework (BL1)** enclosed these habitats with ornamental shrubs and an area planted with ornamental flowers classified as **Flower beds and borders (BC4)**. Native wildflowers were common within **Flower beds and borders (BC4)** with dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), smooth sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

There were no watercourses identified within the development site boundary.

There were no Annex I listed habitats associated with the Inisheer Island SAC identified on-site during the site visit. Non-native invasive species were not found within the development site boundary during the site visit.



Plate 2.1 Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)



Plate 2.2 Amenity grassland (GA2) and Stone walls and other stonework (BL1)



### 2.2.3 Fauna

The walkover survey was designed to detect the presence, or likely presence, of a range of protected species associated with European protected sites. No evidence of Annex II species associated with any EU sites were recorded within the site boundary. No watercourses were recorded within the site boundary.

### 2.2.4 Significance of Habitats & Species

None of the habitats within the site boundary correspond to habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, which remains consistent with the findings of the previous NIS. The habitats within the development site boundary are modified and are used for residential/amenity purposes. No habitats or ecological significance were recorded within the site boundary.

3.

## IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

The following methodology was used to establish which European Sites are within the Likely Zone of Impact of the development:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) and the EPA website ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)) on the 29/07/2020. The datasets were utilized to identify European Sites which could feasibly be affected by the proposed development.
- All European Sites within a distance of 15km surrounding the development site were identified and are shown on Figure 3.1. In addition, the potential for connectivity with European Sites at distances of greater than 15km from the proposed development was also considered in this initial assessment. In this case, no potential connectivity with sites located at a distance of over 15km from the proposed development was identified.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed development and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3.1.
- Table 3.1, provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses which are within the likely Zone of Impact. The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this screening assessment
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report 29/07/2020. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the proposed development in relation to all European sites within 15km of the proposed development.
- Where potential pathways for Significant Effect are identified, the site is included within the Likely Zone of Impact.

Table 3.1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 29/07/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
Inisheer Island SAC [001275]  <b>Distance:</b> 0.0 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Coastal lagoons* [1150]</li> <li>➤ Reefs [1170]</li> <li>➤ European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>➤ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)/(*important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>➤ Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510]</li> <li>➤ Limestone pavements* [8240]</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, September 2014) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>The project is located within the boundary of this Inisheer Island SAC.</p> <p>Taking a precautionary approach the potential for direct and indirect impacts on the Qualifying Interests of the SAC will be assessed in greater detail below..</p> <p><b>This site is considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact.</b></p>
Inishmaan Island SAC [000212]  <b>Distance:</b> 4.5 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reefs [1170]</li> <li>➤ Perennial Vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>➤ Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>➤ Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>➤ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>➤ Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]</li> <li>➤ European dry heath [4030]</li> <li>➤ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, December 2014) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>This European Site is located on a different land mass from the proposed works and there is no connectivity between the proposed development and this European Site.</p> <p>The site is not within the and no further assessment is required.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 29/07/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510]</li> <li>Limestone Pavement* [8240]</li> </ul>		
<p>Black Head - Poulsallagh Complex SAC</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 8.0 km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reefs [1170]</li> <li>Perennial Vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395]</li> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculum fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>Alpine and Boreal heaths</li> <li><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</li> <li>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)/(*important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510]</li> <li>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</li> <li>Limestone Pavement* [8240]</li> <li>Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, December 2014) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>This European Site is located on a different land mass from the proposed works and there is no connectivity between the proposed development and this European Site.</p> <p>The site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact and no further assessment is required.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 29/07/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<p>Inishmore Island SAC [000213]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 9.1 km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> [1014]</li> <li>➤ Coastal lagoons* [1150]</li> <li>➤ Reefs [1170]</li> <li>➤ Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>➤ Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>➤ Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>➤ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>➤ Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* [2130]</li> <li>➤ Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170]</li> <li>➤ Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li>➤ Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]</li> <li>➤ European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>➤ Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>➤ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>➤ Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510]</li> <li>➤ Limestone pavements* [8240]</li> <li>➤ Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, January 2015) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>This development is on an entirely different island to this European Site. There is no connectivity between development site and the SAC. No complete source-pathway-receptor chain for effect was identified.</p> <p>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</p>



European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 29/07/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Protection Areas (SPA)</b>			
Inishmore SPA [004152]  <b>Distance:</b> 8.5 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188]</li> <li>➤ Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [A194]</li> <li>➤ Little Tern <i>Sterna ablifrons</i> [A195]</li> <li>➤ Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199]</li> </ul>	Generic conservation objectives for this site (Version 7.0, April 2020) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>This development is on an entirely different island to this European Site. No suitable habitat for SCI species was identified on the site during the walkover survey and there is no potential for disturbance of SCI species given the distance between the proposed development and the SPA.</p> <p>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</p>
Cliffs of Moher SPA [004005]  <b>Distance:</b> 9.8 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [A009]</li> <li>➤ Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188]</li> <li>➤ Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199]</li> <li>➤ Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A200]</li> <li>➤ Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> [A204]</li> <li>➤ Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> [A346]</li> </ul>	Generic conservation objectives for this site (Version 7.0, April 2020) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>This development is on an entirely different land mass to this European Site. No suitable habitat for SCI species was identified on the site during the walkover survey and there is no potential for disturbance of SCI species given the distance between the proposed development and the SPA.</p> <p>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</p>

4.

## ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Any likely direct or indirect effects of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction and operation have been considered in this Assessment.

4.1

### Assessment of European Site located within the Likely Zone of Impact

Table 3.1 identified that Inisheer Island SAC [001275] is in the Likely Zone of Impact. Table 4.1 describes the potential direct and indirect effects on the European Site. It concludes on whether there is any potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the identified European Site.

Table 4-1 Assessment of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Site	Pathways for Direct Effects	Pathways for Indirect Effects	Potential for significant effects on the integrity of the European Site
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
Inisheer Island SAC [001275]  <b>Distance:</b> 0.0 km	The retention application relates to minor alterations to design and structural components of a dwelling house that was granted permission under PI Ref. 15/1313. Overall, the nature and scale of the project remains commensurate with that described and assessed in the NIS for the permitted development.	The retention application relates to minor alterations to design and structural components of a dwelling house that was granted permission under PI Ref. 15/1313. Overall, the nature and scale of the project remains commensurate with that described and assessed in the NIS for the permitted development.  All alteration works were confined to the permitted site boundary and there has been loss of Annex I habitat associated with the development.	There is no potential for adverse effects on this European site.

European Site	Pathways for Direct Effects	Pathways for Indirect Effects	Potential for significant effects on the integrity of the European Site
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
	<p>There is no potential for the design/structural alterations to have resulted in direct or indirect impacts on the QIs of the Inisheer Island SAC.</p> <p>All alteration works were confined to the permitted site boundary and there has been loss of Annex I habitat associated with the development.</p> <p>It can be concluded that there is no potential for any direct impacts on the QIs of the SAC.</p>	<p>During operation the development will be serviced by a Wastewater treatment system which will operate in accordance with the requirements of the EPA Code of Practice. Consequently, no potential for indirect impact on local ground/transitional/marine water quality or the water dependent QI habitats Coastal Lagoon and Reefs will occur during the operational phase of the development.</p> <p>There is no potential for the design/structural alterations to have resulted in direct or indirect impacts on the QIs of the Inisheer Island SAC.</p>	

## 4.2 Residual Impact Assessment

There is no potential for adverse effect on the identified European sites, their QIs/SCIs and associated targets and attributes.

The proposed project will not prevent the QIs/SCIs of European Sites from achieving/maintaining favourable conservation status in the future as defined in Article 1 of the EU Habitats Directive. A definition of Favourable Conservation Status is provided below:

*‘conservation status of a species means the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within the territory referred to in Article 2;*

The conservation status will be taken as ‘favourable’ 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, and*

*‘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.’*

Based on the above, it can be concluded in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information that the project will not adversely affect the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests associated with any European Site.

## 4.3

## Cumulative Impact Assessment

A search and review in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative and/or in-combination impacts on European Sites was conducted. The assessment focuses on the potential for cumulative in-combination effects on the QIs for which potential pathway for impact were identified as Screening Stage. This included a review of online Planning Registers and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted environmental effects.

## 4.3.1

### Plans

The following development plans been reviewed and taken into consideration as part of this assessment:

- Galway County development plan 2015-2021

The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to European sites. None of the objectives reviewed had the potential to result in cumulative adverse effects on any European Site.

Table 7- 1 Review of plans and policies

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of development compliance with policy
Galway City Council Development Plan 2017-2023	<b>Policy 4.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance</b>  Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national legislation.	The development has not and will not adversely affect the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests associated with Inisheer Island SAC.
Variation No.1 to the County Development Plan 2015 - 2021	<b>Objective DS 6 – Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment</b> Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (Including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations	The development has not and will not adversely affect the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests associated with the Inisheer Island SAC.



	<p>2011(SI No.477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010 (and any updated or subsequent guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the plan area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and/or a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</li> <li>The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</li> </ol>	
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	<p><b>Objective DS 10 – Impacts of Developments on Protected Sites</b></p> <p>Have regard to any impacts of development on or near existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Salmonoid Waters, Refuges for Flora and Fauna, Connamara National Park, shellfish waters, freshwater pearl mussel catchments and any other designated sites including future designations.</p>	<p>The development has not or will not adversely affect the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests associated with the Inisheer Island SAC.</p>
The Regional Planning Guidelines for the West 2010-2022	<p><b>EAP13:</b> To support the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites (Wetlands), Wildfowl Sanctuaries, National Parks, Nature Reserves and the biodiversity designated under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act, Flora Protection Order and other designated or future designated sites.</p>	<p>The proposed development has not or will not adversely affect the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests associated with the Inisheer Island SAC.</p>
	<p><b>EA017:</b> To support the protection of Wetlands in the Region.</p>	<p>The proposed development has not or will not adversely affect Wetlands on the Inisheer Island SAC.</p>
	<p><b>EA018:</b> Support the achievement of favorable conservation status of Annex I habitats, Annex II species, Annex I bird species and other regularly occurring migratory bird species and their habitats in the region.</p>	<p>The proposed development has not or will not adversely affect the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests associated with the Inisheer Island SAC.</p>
National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021	<p><b>Target 6.2:</b> Sufficiency, coherence, connectivity, and resilience of the protected areas network substantially enhanced by 2020.</p>	<p>There will be no impact on QI's of Inisheer Island SAC.</p> <p>The development has not or will not impact on connectivity within the wider area. There are no watercourses within the proposed project site that could be used as a commuting corridor.</p>

### 4.3.2 Other Projects

The online planning system for Galway County Council was consulted on the 04/08/2020. Additional projects identified on Inisheer Island, Co. Galway include;

- Demolition of part of an existing hotel, proposed extension and new wastewater treatment system [Pl. Ref. 151116].
- Permission for the construction of an extension of an existing school and provision for a wastewater treatment system at Scoil Chaomhain [Pl. Ref. 151483].
- Permission for the construction of a waste transfer building [Pl. Ref. 15629].
- Permission to make alterations to existing front entrance door, Upgrade existing floor structure, insulate existing roof structure, install limestone plaque on external and internal wall and upgrade existing effluent treatment system to EPA standards at St. Kevins Church which is a Protected Structure (No. 788) [Pl. Ref. 16/557]
- Permission for minor modifications to existing planning permission (planning reg. ref. no. 11/168) to include the following: relocation of proposed percolation area to adjoining land for proposed new Bison wastewater treatment plant and associated site development works, relocation of proposed new soak hole / rain water harvesting system to adjoining land. Previous Planning Reference No. 12/1549. [Pl. Ref. 171542]
- Permission for the construction of a new house and sewage system. Gross floor space for the works: 251 sqm [Pl. Ref. 18/1633]
- Permission for the construction of a fully serviced dwelling house and domestic garage [Pl. Ref. 19/1648].
- Permission for addition to existing B&B, proprietary waste-water treatment system and all associated site works. The Planning Application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement. Gross floor space of proposed works: 238.9 sqm. Gross floor space of work to be retained: 144 sqm [Pl. Ref. 19/1527]
- Retention of the increase in the street facing a house and the store underneath. The street will be used by the customers using the restaurant/café inside the house. Gross floor space of the work to be retained: 55 sqm [Pl Ref: 19/445]
- Permission for '10 Glamping Pods' on a camping site. Gross floor space of proposed work 105 sqm [Pl. Ref. 20/457]

### 4.3.3 Conclusion of Cumulative Assessment

Following the detailed assessment provided in the preceding sections, it is concluded that, the proposed works will not result in any residual adverse effects on any of the European Sites, their integrity or their conservation objectives when considered on its own. There is therefore no potential for the proposed development to contribute to any cumulative adverse effects on any European Site when considered in combination with other plans and projects.

In the review of the projects that was undertaken, no connection, that could potentially result in additional or cumulative impacts was identified. Neither was any potential for different (new) impacts resulting from the combination of the various projects and plans in association with the development.

Taking into consideration the reported residual impacts from other plans and projects in the area and the predicted impacts with the current proposal, no residual cumulative impacts have been identified with regard to any European Site

## 5. **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

The retention application relates to minor alterations to design and structural components of a dwelling house that was granted permission under PI Ref. 15/1313. Overall, the nature and scale of the project remains commensurate with that described and assessed in the NIS for the permitted development.

The minor alterations to design and structural components have not and will not result in any direct or indirect adverse effects on any European site.

Therefore, it can be objectively concluded that the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, has not and will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

6.

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