

Remedial Natura Impact Statement Report.

**In line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive
and the Planning Development Act 2000.**

**For: Application for Substitute consent of adjustments to property in the
Townland of Rossadillisk, Cleggan.**

By: Corrib Environmental Services.

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1 Introduction.

Ref. Planning ED.No. 22/58. Pl. ref. 21/1097

Corrib Environmental Services were commissioned by Mr. Tom Termini to prepare a **Remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS)** for Galway Co. Co. in line with the requirements of Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43 EC) of an **application for substitute consent for,**

- 1. Adjustments to an entrance driveway in the Townland of Rossadillisk.**
- 2. The construction of a storage shed.**
- 3. The re-roofing of the existing stone shed.**

The site is located close to the boundary of the West Connacht Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC Code 002998) just above the shore area on farm land. These protected sites have been designated under the EU Habitats Directive, and so it is necessary that the potential impacts of the works be assessed by the competent authority, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This report provides the information necessary for the competent authority to complete a remedial Appropriate Assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed works on sites of European importance in the area.

1.1 Statement of Authority.

This remedial Natura Impact Statement Report has been prepared by Emmet McGloin M.Sc (Hons) Rural Environmental Conservation Management.(UCD). B. Agr. Sc.(UCD.)

1.2 Statutory Context.

Irish law the Planning and Development Act 2000.

F841

Inserted (21.09.2011) by *Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010* (30/2010), s. 57, S.I. No. 475 of 2011.

Legal Requirements-EIA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a very significant instrument in the implementation of EU environmental policy, the objective of which is to ensure that certain projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are subject to a comprehensive assessment of environmental effects prior to the grant of development consent. The current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive is Directive 2011/92/EU³ as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU⁴. References going forward to the EIA Directive refer to the current Directive as amended. Environmental impact assessment is a process and is defined in the EIA Directive as follows: “environmental impact assessment” means a process consisting of: (i) the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report by the developer, as referred to in Article 5(1) and (2); (ii) the carrying out of consultations as referred to in Article 6 and, where relevant, Article 7; (iii) the examination by the competent authority of the information presented in the environmental impact assessment report and any supplementary information provided, where necessary, by the developer in accordance with Article 5(3), and any relevant information received through the consultations under Articles 6 and 7; (iv) the reasoned conclusion by the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account the results of the examination referred to in point (iii) and, where appropriate, its own supplementary examination; and (v) the integration of the competent authority's reasoned conclusion into any of the decisions referred to in Article 8a.” The preparation of an environmental impact assessment report (EIAR) by the developer is therefore the first part of the environmental impact assessment process which also includes public consultations, the examination by the competent authority of the information presented, the reasoned conclusion by the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment and the integration of the competent

authority's reasoned conclusion into any of the decisions referred to in Article 8a. Article 3 of the Directive sets out the scope of an environmental impact assessment as follows: 1. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the following factors: (a) population and human health; (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC; (c) land, soil, water, air and climate and landscape; (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape; (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d). 2. The effects referred to in paragraph 1 on the factors set out therein shall include the expected effects deriving from the vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the project concerned.” The required information to be provided by the developer in an environmental impact assessment report is set out in Article 5(1) of the EIA Directive, as follows: “1. Where an environmental impact assessment is required, the developer shall prepare and submit an environmental impact assessment report. The information to be provided by the developer shall include at least: (a) a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project; (b) a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment; (c) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment; (d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment; (e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and (f) any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.” The requirements of the Directive are transposed into Irish legislation by means of Part X of the PDA 2000, as amended. This sets out when the requirement for EIA arises; provides a definition of terms; states the requirements of the EIAR itself; and the process by which assessment process is completed and decisions are made.

2 Methodology

Appropriate methodologies have been used to assess the effects relating to each of the environmental topics that have been investigated as part of the rNIS. These methodologies are based on recognised good practice and guidelines specific to each subject area, details of which are provided within each individual technical section. The description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment covers the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project. Within this rNIS, significance has been determined through combining the sensitivity of a receptor to an effect and the magnitude of the predicted change. This has been generally undertaken through:

- Identifying baseline conditions of the site and its environs.
- Identifying the sensitivity of receptors that had potential to be affected by changes in the baseline conditions.
- Predicting the magnitude of likely changes to the baseline receiving environment.

- Assessing the significance of effect taking into account sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of effect.
- Identifying appropriate remedial measures.
- Assessing the significance of residual effects, taking account of any mitigation measures.

3. Remedial Natura Impact Statement.

3.1 Scope.

Section F841 Planning and Development act (Amendment 2011)

177G.— (1) A remedial Natura impact statement shall contain the following:

(a) a statement of the significant effects, if any, on the relevant European site which have occurred or which are occurring or which can reasonably be expected to occur because the development the subject of the application for substitute consent was carried out;

(b) details of—

(i) any appropriate remedial or mitigation measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the applicant for substitute consent to remedy or mitigate any significant effects on the environment or on the European site;

(ii) the period of time within which any such proposed remedial or mitigation measures shall be carried out by or on behalf of the applicant;

(c) such information as may be prescribed under *section 177N*;

(d) and may have appended to it, where relevant, and where the applicant may wish to rely upon same:

(i) a statement of imperative reasons of overriding public interest;

(ii) any compensatory measures being proposed by the applicant.

3.2 Project Description/Background.

The application is for subsequent consent for retention of existing work and completion of the proposed project.

(Current situation outlined on the attached map, **Figure 2.**)

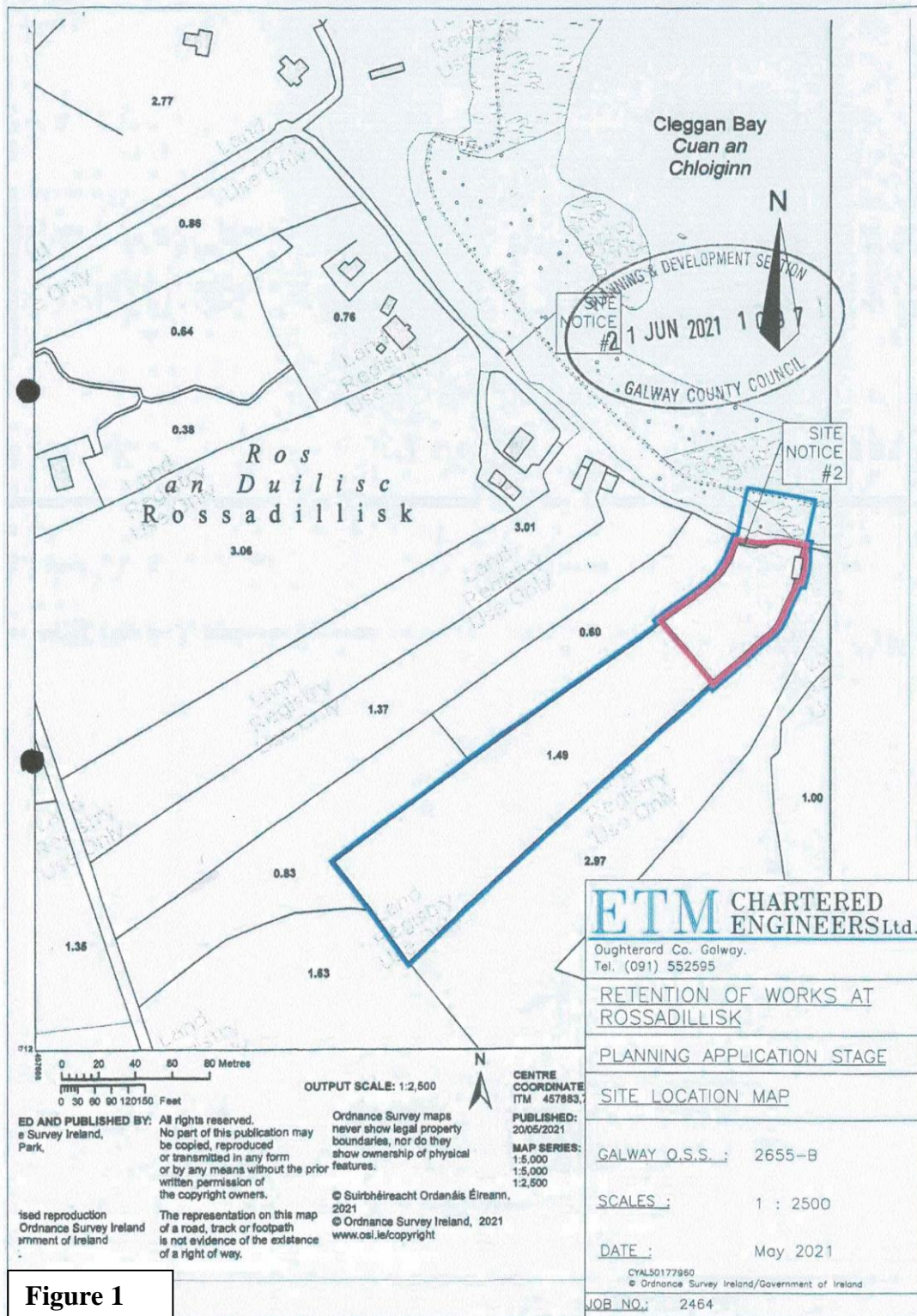


Figure 1

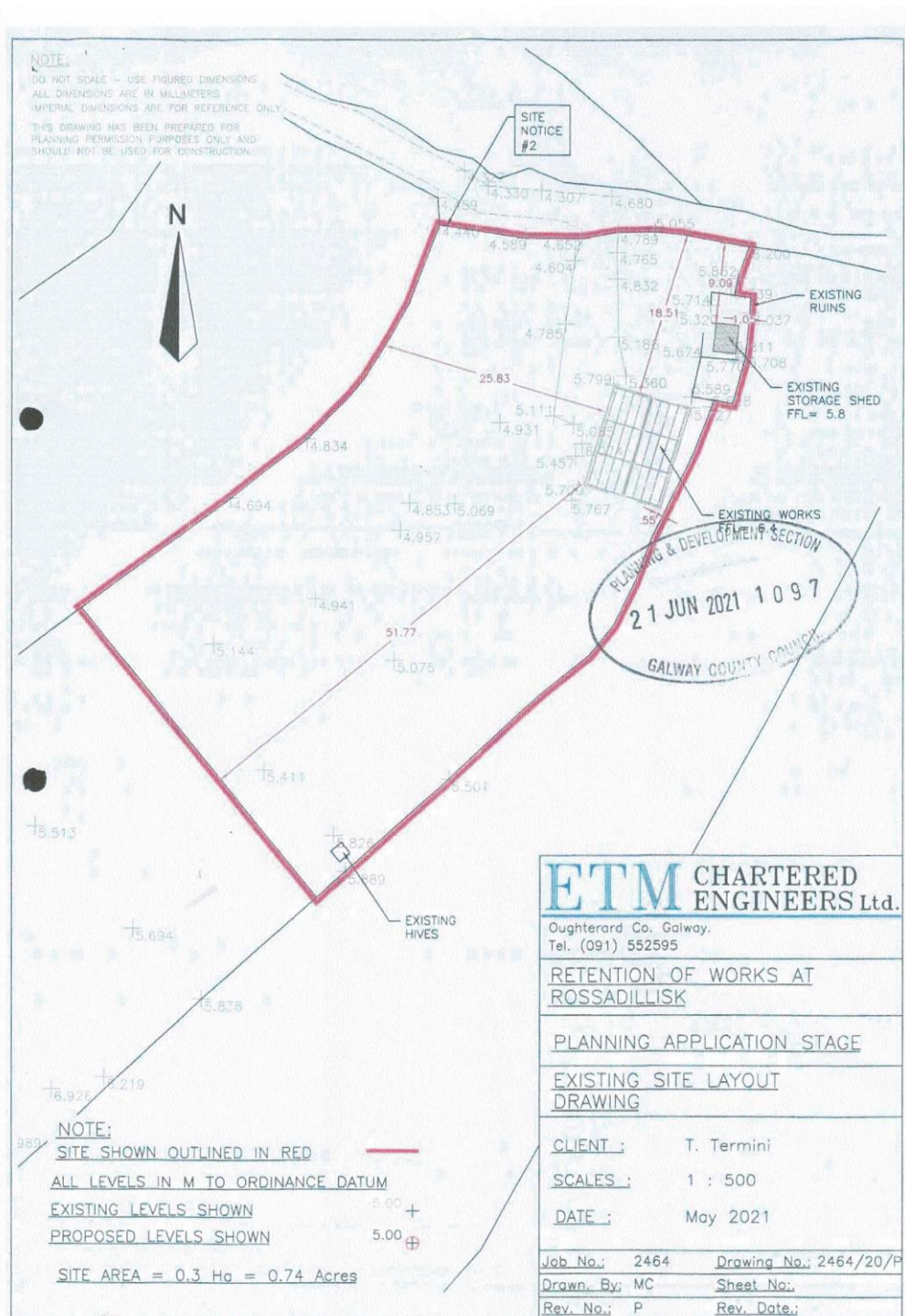


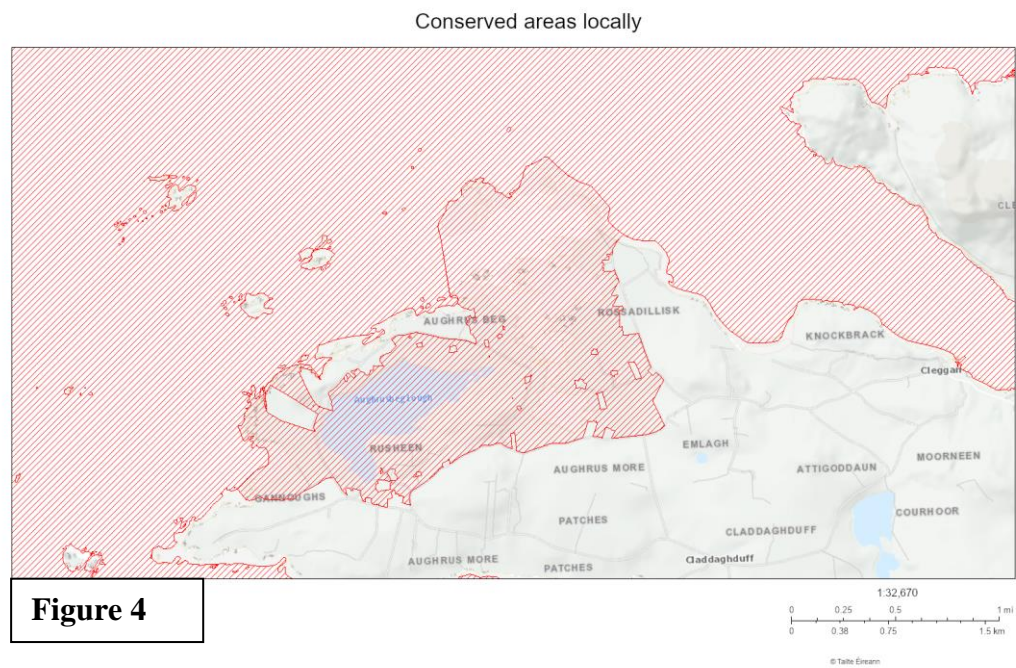
Figure 2.

3.3 Site Description and site Ecological Assessment.

A walkover survey of the area was conducted on the 16/04/2024.

The site is located in the Townland of Rossadillisk close to the coast. A green access lane runs along the shore line via a culvert on a drainage channel that borders the site to the North. The green access lane borders the SAC area. Refer to **Figure 3** and

photographs. A piped culvert allows the drainage channel flow gently to the shore area. The is no evidence that this is interfering with the wet lands from which it flows.



3.4 Ecology of surrounding location /Baseline condition.

The surrounding landscape is lowlying pastoral mountain farmland with some enclosed wet grassland meadows (GS4). Farming activity in the area is low level with a mix of Dry stock and Sheep rearing the principal activity. The meadows in the immediate area are wet with rushes (Juncus spp) the dominant species. A small drainage channel intersects the area. Some early-stage infestation of Gunner tinctora was observed.

The Ecological evaluation of the project area would be low value.

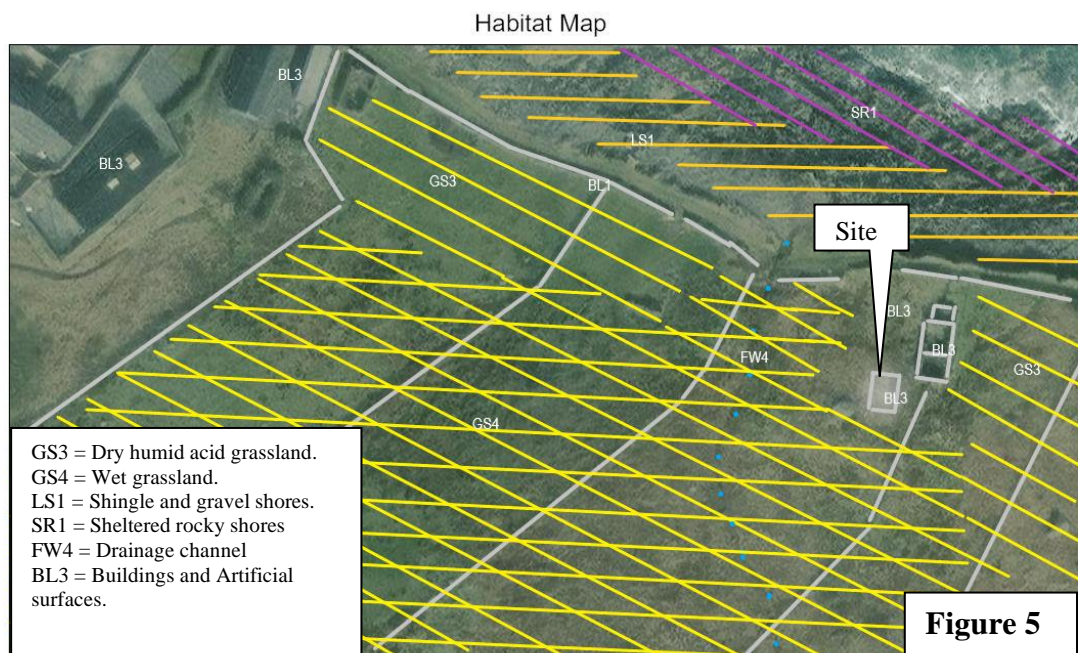
(Nairn and Fossitt 2004). See Habitat Map. **Figure 5.**



Approach lane

Unfinished shed

Gunnera tinctora.



26/04/2024, 08:59:17

1:1,128
0 0.01 0.01 0.02 mi
0 0.01 0.01 0.03 km
Maxar, Microsoft

Includes Ordnance Survey (Ireland) data reproduced under OSI Licence number Galway County Council(2020)OSI_NMA_090.

3.5 Sensitivity of Receptors

The adjacent maritime environment (SAC) and coastal ecosystem is the principal receptor. Nutrient enrichment, coastal development and hydrologic disturbance are activities that may affect the coastal area locally. The scale of a project would determine whether there would be long term negative influence.

4. Impact of the Development.

Impacts which have occurred.

Construction: June 2020 Road upgrade with permission. Erection of building frame work.

Operation Phase: Not operational

Impacts which are occurring. Nothing perceptible.

Impacts which are likely to occur to end of operational phase. Not significant.

Decommissioning. Unlikely to have negative effects with appropriate mitigation.

Table 1. Description of effects

Impact characteristics	Degree/Nature	Description
Quality	Positive	There is potential in the project to improve the ecological value of the project area. Refer to the NPWS Ecological Farm Plan.
	Neutral	The project in the main will have no or imperceptible effects on the conserved area that is West Connacht coast SAC
	Negative	No negative effect on the quality of the environment
Significance	Imperceptible	There is no perceivable effect at this stage.
	Not significant	Changes caused during installation of the project are not significant.
	Slight	There is no change to the sensitivities of the environment.
	Moderate	There is no alteration to the baseline character of the conserved area.
	Significant	The project has not altered the character, magnitude, duration or intensity of any sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very significant	Not applicable. This is where a project alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound	Not applicable. An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
Extent & Context	Extent	The project is small and confined to the site area.
	Context	The project is unlikely to interfere with the baseline conditions of the adjacent aquatic conserved area. In conjunction with the NPWS Farm Plan ecological quality should improve.

Probability	Likely	There are no effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely	Damaging effects can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented
Duration	Momentary	These may have occurred during installation of the culvert on the drainage channel. No lasting effect.
	Brief	Water disturbance effects from the laying of the culvert would be gone in 1 day.
	Temporary	The effect of laying new broken stone in the access lane was temporary with greening up taking place in one year. Refer to photographs.
	Short-term	Visual. No ecological effect
	Medium -term	Visually faded becoming norm.
	Long-term	None.
	Permanent	None
	Reversible	Removal Remedial. Natural restoration. Nature always repairs itself when human interference is removed.
	Frequency	Not applicable. An effect that will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually)

5. Cumulative Impacts.

The cumulative effect of the Farm Project together with other existing and/or approved projects has been considered. The details of the project are considered above. There is no other unstarted project locally.

6. Magnitude of effect.

The magnitude of any effects on the baseline situation area not significant and temporary except for visual. There was/is nothing of any significance released into the conserved area. The scale of the project is very small. It is based on improving the biodiversity and ecological situation locally.

6. Remedial (Mitigation) Measures and Monitoring

(a) Remedial Measures & Monitoring for significant effects Mitigation.

Mitigation and Remedial Measures. Mitigation measures, as described in the EPA EIAR Guidance are measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the applicant for substitute consent to avoid, reduce, remedy (through remedial actions) or offset impacts of any significant adverse effects on the environment. The Planning and Development Act 2000 and as amended refers to the provision of details of any remedial measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the applicant for substitute consent to remedy any significant adverse effects on the environment. The term remedial measures are referred to throughout the report where such remedial measures have been identified as required. As there is little apparent that needs to be remediated mitigation measures are identified to prevent, reduce or offset likely significant adverse environmental effects, these are identified.

The NPWS Farm Plan Scheme as designed by Piaras O Giobuin of the Agri ecology unit is remedial in its intent and will result in an enhanced environment to positive effect. Control of the invasive species *Gunnera* should continue until eliminated as outlined in the NPWS Farm Plan. In addition, measures which have the potential to

prevent, reduce or offset adverse effects which are not considered significant but where it is considered that such measures are appropriate are also identified.

(b) Mitigation Measures for non-significant effects.

Table 2. Environmental Impact and Mitigation Measures

Environmental		Potential Impacts
	Soil Erosion and Geology	The project is confined to the existing site area. Excavation was minimal confined to the building pillars, 8 in all. There is no soil stock piled. No further excavation required.
	Water Contamination and Flood Risk.	There appears to be no change to the land drain after installation of a pipe to renew a culvert over which the approach laneway crosses. This did not lower the watertable in the adjacent meadows. Out of necessity for health and safety (as described in welfare facilities csp1-2.pdf), there will be a chemical/composting toilet for on-site workers' convenience (of cartridge type found in caravans, for example). This would be emptied at a sanitation facility on an as-needed basis. There will be no waste products discharged locally. Any potentially hazardous substances will be handled per DAFM guidelines .
	Soil Contamination	The area where the building is positioned is dry. There is no evidence of soil contamination.
	Flora and Fauna	<p>There is no loss of any qualifying interest habitat within the project area itself. There is no evidence of any protected species on site. The approach area supports a naturally generated grassland habitat. The area around the unfinished building is regenerating grass habitat naturally. It is a relatively quiet area with a defined route. And it is close to the coast.</p> <p>Remedial and mitigation measures should include natural re-colonisation of areas of bare ground, retention of remaining semi-natural areas outside of the construction area. Elimination of invasive <i>Gunnera tinctora</i> should continue as per the NPWS Farm Plan. Refer to the NPWS Farm Plan</p> <p>The proposed project is unlikely to have had or to have in the future an indirect impact on any mammal species locally.</p>

	Landscape and Visual Impacts	The proposed project area lies within a landscape of High Value. A ruined stone building and small stone shed store is already a feature of the Landscape on the site. The proposed new building is higher. Impacts on views can be minimised with building design. There is no predicted effect from the discharge of any waste from the proposed building.
	Loss of vegetation	Loss of vegetation was short term as the approach lane has greened with the regeneration of natural grasses. A local Authority grant was attained to upgrade the approach lane. Landscape any bare areas with native flora.
Social impacts		
	Human and Socio-Economic	Family dwellings and Farm buildings are long established in the landscape, visually assimilated into it with good design. Tourism and small farm home industry and retention of employees in the community is of socio-economic benefit essential to Rural Life.
	Noise and Vibrations	The area is somewhat removed from neighbouring dwellings. There is no proposal to create any noisy activity.
	Traffic and Transportation	The site is an existing site with overland green access route. Minimise impact by using light weight machinery and small loads.
	Air and Climate	Generation of dust emissions are not likely.
	Cultural Heritage	The desk-based study, walk over survey and field based visual assessment found that there are no known monuments within the site area and nothing of archaeological significance identified.
	Material Assets	There are no predicted impacts on material assets. It is a small-scale project close to existing development. The long-term aim is to improve the environment and biodiversity locally.
	Interaction between the Foregoing	There are no additional negative issues raised. The proposal to date is not considered to have had a significant negative impact on the Natura area. It is unlikely to interfere with the adjacent Conserved area that is West Connacht Coast SAC into the future. There will nothing disposed of to the local environment.

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(c) Consideration of Alternatives.

Annex IV(2) of the amended Directive states that an EIAR is required to contain: “A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.” . The proposed project is located close to the old ruined dwelling in an area that is dry. The farmstead holding is generally wet grassland otherwise. Building height could be considered to lessen visual impact.

7. Residual Impacts.

The significance of effects is considered in **Table 1** above.

The project is limited in scale and extent and the potential zone of influence is restricted to the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. There is no proposal to produce any waste.

In the context of the NPWS Farm Plan the ecological quality of the site and plot area will be enhanced significantly with the maintenance of the surrounding wet grassland habitat, stone walls, control of invasive species and establishment of native honeybee colonies.

The visual effect will be reduced once appropriate cladding is added to the building structure.

4.References.

Planning and Development Act 2000.

Section F841 Planning and Development act (Amendment 2011) 177G: Remedial Natura impact statement.

Existing records. NPWS, OSI. Field study.

EU Habitats Directive, and EU 2002Assessment of projects affecting Natura sites.

DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Project in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.

Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossit.J.)Habitat Survey Guidelines (The Heritage Council)Commission notice "Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC"

Emmet Mc Gloin. 29/04/ 2024.

Appendix A



Termini Skyrim Farm
NPWS plan 2022_GY