AA Mandated
under F.I.



AA MEMBER

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023

6 messages

Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net> Tue, Sep 20, 2016 at 7:11 PM
To: Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net>
Cc: Pat Fallon <impactsligo@gmail.com>, Corey Whyte <whytecorey@gmail.com>, Tim <timmulcahy3@gmail.com>, Joe McGowan <joemcgowan@sligoheritage.com>, annmckirdy@gmail.com, David O'Hara | SUP For All <david@supforall.ie>, Fiónа Gallagher <fionagallaghersligo@gmail.com>, Frevin West <frevin_west@eircom.net>, Fiónа Gallagher <fiona.gallagher@iolfree.ie>, Gerry McCanny <Gerry@mccannysolicitors.com>, gregoryjdaly@yahoo.ie, rogertgarland@gmail.com

The Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 and associated documents are now available to view or download on the Council's website at www.sligococo.ie/cdp from **21 September 2016.**

The Draft CDP package consists of the following documents:

A – Draft CDP 2017-2023 – Volume 1 (Main Written Statement)

B – Draft CDP 2017-2023 – Volume 2 (Mini-Plans)

Note: Volume 2 comprises a General Policies chapter (Chapter 1) and 32 Mini-Plans grouped by Municipal District, for your convenience.

C – Landscape Characterisation Map with proposed changes to Scenic Routes

D – Housing Strategy supporting the Draft CDP 2017-2023

E – County Retail Strategy supporting the Draft CDP 2017-2023

F – Proposed Changes to the Record of Protected Structures

G – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of the Draft CDP 2017-2023

I – Non-Technical summary (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

The following associated documents will be available shortly

H – Environmental Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

J – Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (Habitats Directive)

The Draft CDP 2017-2023 will be placed on public display for a period of 10 weeks from **21 September to 30 November 2016.** During this period, written submissions or observations will be invited from the public

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Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 6:03 PM
To: Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net>

Dear Declan,
Thank you for forwarding to Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023.
I believe there are a number of issues regarding development in Strandhill that need to be addressed.

The Ballysadare Bay 00622 threats to site includes ; Recreational/ Amenity use, Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Tourism Related development , Introduction of invasive species and illegal dumping.



2016
Killaspugbrona

 Killaspugbrone

The looped trail from Carrowbunnan through Killaspugbrone and around to Dorrins strand should never have been approved based on the Requirements for Special Areas of Conservation. I have read the Council prepared Assessment for this site, it is not an accurate assessment as it is based on the false premise that there was an existing looped trail in use over this site. I have documentary evidence and local knowledge shared with me by the older residents of Strandhill.

Specifically in the new 2017-2023 development the stated plan is to maintain existing trails and further establish looped trails. The current trail, the Killaspugbrone loop contravenes the Habitat Directive for this SAC.

According to the Council's plan, OCP 3, p 123 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and carry out appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions subject to availability of resources and compliance with Habitat Directive. Where appropriate continue to employ soft engineering techniques, ie. Dune stabilisation and planting.

There has been some fencing of the dunes to prevent walkers tramping the dunes, however, to date there has been no replanting, unless there is replanting of Marram Grass, this effort to stabilise the dunes is futile.

OCP - Identify, prioritise and implement Coastal protection works within the coastal zone where considered necessary subject to the availability of resources and compliance to habitat directive.

OCP 4 Beach bye laws, protection of the Dunes.

The residential development of 34 new homes on Top Road contravenes the Councils directive that no new dwellings will be permitted until the new sewage treatment plant is operational.

'Strandhill's Archaeological Gem,' so described in the previous Mini Plan 'the ecclesiastical site at Killaspugbrone is of immense heritage value.' I am surprised that this gem is not listed as one of the Protected Structures in Strandhill, The Post Box is, Rathcarrick House is, yet this incredibly important historical structure and site is not.

There is also the issue of Infrastructure, specifically the proposed new road linking Airport Road, R277 with R292, this plan was rejected based on an environmental impact in the former plan 2013-2017.

I appreciate you sending me the document, it is a very lengthy document, I have focused on Strandhill and trust you will follow up on the above mentioned objections with the County Council.

Many thanks,
Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy
[Quoted text hidden]

Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net> Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 6:23 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Dear Ann

Many thanks for your email.

You don't appear to be making any specific recommendations with regard to amending the Draft Plan.

The draft Development Plan is out for public consultation so as to allow members of the public to make suggestions/recommendations in regard to amending the Draft.

If you believe a section needs to be amended by way of adding or deleting text, or indeed by including new paragraphs, you have the right to make a submission, which must by law be considered by the Council.

I would recommend that you be specific in terms of the suggested amendments.

You might also please copy me with any amendments you are recommending.

With kind regards.

I remain, yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR DECLAN BREE

ps The ecclesiastical site Killaspugbrone is a National Monument and is therefore protected by the State. In this context local authorities do not include national monuments in their lists of protected structures.

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 7:44 PM
To: Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net>

Dear Declan,
Many thanks for your prompt email reply, I will do as you suggest and copy you.
Kind regards,
Ann
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 2:22 PM
To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 5:14 PM
To: Gerry McCanny <Gerry@mccannysolicitors.com>

Dear Mr McCanny,
I am writing to ask you if there is any possibility you might have downloaded the 2017-2023 Draft Amendment **B – Draft CDP 2017-2023 – Volume 2 (Mini-Plans)**

I am specifically looking for the Draft Proposal for that year and the Maps for Strandhill.

Looped Trails 2016

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2016 at 3:04 PM
Subject: Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo National looped walk
To: jboydell@sportireland.ir

>
> Cc: June Boydell, National Trails and Walks
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>
> Dear Michael,
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> I am writing to follow up on my query yesterday regarding the Environmental
> Impact Report I had requested to see regarding the development of the
> National Looped Walk in the Special Conservation Area of Killaspugbrone. I
> had requested to view this report as I have seen an alarming degradation of
> this Special Conservation Area due to the increase in walkers since the new
> National Looped Walk has opened. I was very surprised and disappointed to
> learn that no Environmental Impact Report had been undertaken in spite of
> the fact that this area is designated under EU law as a Special Area of
> Conservation.
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> According to the County Sligo Development Plan 2011-2017 Natura Impact
> Report 2013 there are specific requirements and obligations on the County
> Council to ensure that no development will take place in these SAC's
> without appropriate assessment.(National Parks and Wildlife Service
> Ballysadare Bay SAC; http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000622)
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> Preservation Project contradicts this, its report states 'In 2005/2006
> consultations were held with the Sligo County Council to establish which
> paths should be used. Grant aid and Project funds financed the erection of
> finger-posts on the paths and this greatly helped the protection of the
> dunes.' Local resident, Deirdre Foley, who is in her 80's and has lived
> here all her life and whose family is buried in Killaspugbrone says access
> to the church was always by the shore.
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> Sligo County Council's mandate is to protect this area, your own report has
> highlighted the necessity for a raised board walk if this area was to be
> further developed for tourism. To re state the importance of this SAC and
> quote from the Council's own report, 'The Department recognises that this
>
> ----- Message truncated -----
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Michael Carty <mcarty@sligococo.ie> Fri, May 13, 2016 at 2:45 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>, "dkennedy@sligoleader.com" <dkennedy@sligoleader.com>, "Cllr. Sinead Maguire" <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>, Cllr Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net>, "cgonley@sligoleader.com" <cgonley@sligoleader.com>, "jboydell@sportireland.ie" <jboydell@sportireland.ie>
Cc: Deirdre Kennedy <dkennedy@sligoleader.com>

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

looped Trails
2016

Thank you for your mail.

May 2016 Michael Carty Sligo Co.Co

I wish to apologise, clarify and correct any confusion which may have arisen during our telephone conversation. An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report was carried out ,as required under the Habitat's Directive was for the Killaspugbrone Loop walk. It is available in hardcopy at the Sligo County Council offices, City Hall for review upon request.

I welcome your concept idea of a raised boardwalk, and will investigate potential funding opportunities in this regard.

Yours,

Michael Carty

Michael Carty

Senior Executive Engineer

Sligo County Council

City Hall

Quay St.

Sligo

mcarty@sligococo.ie

tel. (w) 0719114403

Sligo

Sets your spirit free

2016

Sligo Leader

Deirdre Kennedy

From: Ann McKirdy [mailto:annmckirdy@gmail.com]
Sent: 12 May 2016 13:21
To: dkennedy@sligoleader.com; Cllr. Sinead Maguire; Cllr Declan Bree; cgonley@sligoleader.com; jboydell@sportireland.ie; Michael Carty
Subject: Fwd: Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo National looped walk

cc: Chris Gonley

cc: Sinead Maguire

cc: Declan Bree

cc: Michael Carty

cc: June Boydell

Dear Deirdre,

You may recall that I spoke with you some weeks ago regarding my concern for the extensive damage being done to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by walkers on the Killaspugbrone loop. I am forwarding the emails I have sent to Michael Carty, Sligo County Council and June Boydell, Irish Trails regarding my concerns for the Special Area of Conservation in Strandhill, since this has been included in the Lúb Náisiúnta.

No AA

I was very surprised to learn that there was no environmental impact report undertaken prior to opening this National Loop on a European Union designated SAC protected site. This area has a special designation under EU law, the Sligo County Council (on behalf of the Irish Government) have an obligation to protect this area.

I apologise for omitting to send this to you yesterday. I will forward all emails pertaining to this that I have sent to Michael Carty and June Boydell.

I am not opposed to tourism, I believe it is a wonderful boost to the local economy, and to Sligo in general. The area I am concerned about is of national importance as a heritage site (Killaspugbrone Church dates back to the 5th Century) and a Special Area of Conservation.

Maaram Grass

It is important to note the history of unstable sand and the damage unstable sand caused in the past. Maaram grass was planted in the 19th Century to stabilise shifting sands blowing over the original settlement. At that time the thatch cottages were inundated by sand causing the roofs to cave in. The inhabitants were forced to move to the slopes of Knocknarea.

Marram grass can stabilise up to 40 meters of sand, it was planted for this purpose in Strandhill over 100 years ago. It has also been used extensively in the Netherlands to reclaim land from the sea. It is essential that we maintain this grass to stabilise our protected dune systems. The grasses are also home to the dune nesting birds, specifically the sky lark and the tern which are on the EU Amber List for protected species.

We are custodians of this beautiful place, it is our responsibility to ensure this Special Area of Conservation is protected. There should be a raised board walk to keep walkers from destroying this delicate ecosystem.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

2016 looped Trail

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo National looped walk

8 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Wed, May 11, 2016 at 3:04 PM
To: jboydell@sportireland.ir

2016 looped Trails

> Cc: June Boydell, National Trails and Walks
>
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> further developed for tourism. To re state the importance of this SAC and
> quote from the Council's own report, 'The Department recognises that this
>
> ----- Message truncated -----
>

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com> Wed, May 11, 2016 at 3:04 PM
To: annmckirdy@gmail.com

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

jboydell@sportireland.ir

Technical details of permanent failure:
DNS Error: 220493353 DNS type 'mx' lookup of sportireland.ir responded with code NXDOMAIN
Domain name not found: sportireland.ir

----- Original message -----

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=gmail.com; s=20120113;
h=content-transfer-encoding:from:mime-version:subject:message-id:date
:to;
bh=wlfEdNIXsdynt53iOZLh/56PqPezfbwbR+LcYN9X9o0=;
b=wM1Vd2+Pf0c/d/dlVo+mAXOoQfWH8BZ+1xzpki5U5xavTTJw2HKTXvRLrAf1qsIFwg
vzyJTk+3i++Owb2yENHDmRj/2zeei9w6bpbPCLpDWF28RHh9Wpwn3amHdvJe43FVfUjj
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ur+EXgt+vQkBW+34g473JiI2wGZ58xb1OXb3tcULfYvHzZCSxm2pTX+dk/aTszenGnNg
FK2WqikD1EJJp9SXscmJtHcoMVFXdrWHECf1wq7XdR8/hiPNICIuUOGZc/dAsZ0orL/4
MAKQ==
X-Google-DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=1e100.net; s=20130820;
h=x-gm-message-state:content-transfer-encoding:from:mime-version
:subject:message-id:date:to;
bh=wlfEdNIXsdynt53iOZLh/56PqPezfbwbR+LcYN9X9o0=;
b=SX59pCRSb9hZZ62w2xm2kegR2iqTzMKlEvs/xcBFm8P7sovAcf5wn/869wUsp6eqAL
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oNA+y03Lje5okSxNtV7QNpTv6mDtZ1mrUIHplYHm5xVZYFqPi0+u7iruGYcutx3veBes
oKRw==
X-Gm-Message-State: AOPr4FX/TD/NMZtHjxJii2iEDlVws83QrldvwaQZafoXlYdaL0n+htAlWGWy4S6iL0QE4g==
X-Received: by 10.194.14.130 with SMTP id p2mr4236050wjc.173.1462975457324;
Wed, 11 May 2016 07:04:17 -0700 (PDT)
Return-Path: <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Received: from [10.72.65.169] ([213.233.150.28])
by smtp.gmail.com with ESMTPSA id a207sm8746435wma.8.2016.05.11.07.04.16
for <jboydell@sportireland.ir>
(version=TLSv1/SSLv3 cipher=OTHER);
Wed, 11 May 2016 07:04:16 -0700 (PDT)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset=utf-8
From: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0 (1.0)
Subject: Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo National looped walk
Message-Id: <E1CB38AF-21A1-43D2-8B10-1EB53AC5DB3B@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 11 May 2016 15:04:15 +0100
To: jboydell@sportireland.ir
X-Mailer: iPhone Mail (13E238)

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----- Message truncated -----

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Thu, May 12, 2016 at 1:21 PM
To: dkennedy@sligoleader.com, sineadmaguire@yahoo.com, dbree@eircom.net, cgonley@sligoleader.com, jboydell@sportireland.ie, mcarty@sligococo.ie

cc: Chris Gonley
cc: Sinead Maguire
cc: Declan Bree
cc: Michael Carty
cc: June Boydell

Dear Deirdre,

You may recall that I spoke with you some weeks ago regarding my concern for the extensive damage being done to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by walkers on the Killaspugbrone loop. I am forwarding the emails I have sent to Michael Carty, Sligo County Council and June Boydell, Irish Trails regarding my concerns for the Special Area of Conservation in Strandhill, since this has been included in the Lúb Náisiúnta.

I was very surprised to learn that there was no environmental impact report undertaken prior to opening this National Loop on a European Union designated SAC protected site. This area has a special designation under EU law, the Sligo County Council (on behalf of the Irish Government) have an obligation to protect this area.

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It is important to note the history of unstable sand and the damage unstable sand caused in the past. Maaram grass was planted in the 19th Century to stabilise shifting sands blowing over the original settlement. At that time the thatch cottages were inundated by sand causing the roofs to cave in. The inhabitants were forced to move to the slopes of Knocknarea.

Marram grass can stabilise up to 40 meters of sand, it was planted for this purpose in Strandhill over 100 years ago. It has also been used extensively in the Netherlands to reclaim land from the sea. It is essential that we maintain this grass to stabilise our protected dune systems. The grasses are also home to the dune nesting birds, specifically the sky lark and the tern which are on the EU Amber List for protected species.

We are custodians of this beautiful place, it is our responsibility to ensure this Special Area of Conservation is protected. There should be a raised board walk to keep walkers from destroying this delicate ecosystem.

I look forward to your response.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

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From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2016 at 3:04 PM
Subject: Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo National looped walk
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Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Thu, May 12, 2016 at 1:22 PM
To: jboydell@sportireland.ie

Michael Carty Sligo Co.Co

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

2016

Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo Lúb Náisiúnta, National Looped Walk

5 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Wed, May 11, 2016 at 1:07 PM
To: mcarty@sligococo.ie
Cc: jboydell@sportsireland.ie

Cc: June Boydell, National Trails and Walks

Dear Michael,

I am writing to follow up on my query yesterday regarding the Environmental Impact Report I had requested to see regarding the development of the National Looped Walk in the Special Conservation Area of Killaspugbrone. I had requested to view this report as I have seen an alarming degradation of this Special Conservation Area due to the increase in walkers since the new National Looped Walk has opened. I was very surprised and disappointed to learn that no Environmental Impact Report had been undertaken in spite of the fact that this area is designated under EU law as a Special Area of Conservation.

According to the County Sligo Development Plan 2011-2017 Natura Impact Report 2013 there are specific requirements and obligations on the County Council to ensure that no development will take place in these SAC's without appropriate assessment.(National Parks and Wildlife Service Ballysadare Bay SAC; http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000622)

You had mentioned during our conversation that the County Council did not do anything except signpost an existing pathway. The Killaspugbrone Preservation Project contradicts this, its report states 'In 2005/2006 consultations were held with the Sligo County Council to establish which paths should be used. Grant aid and Project funds financed the erection of finger-posts on the paths and this greatly helped the protection of the dunes.' Local resident, Deirdre Foley, who is in her 80's and has lived here all her life and whose family is buried in Killaspugbrone says access to the church was always by the shore.

Sligo County Council's mandate is to protect this area, your own report has highlighted the necessity for a raised board walk if this area was to be further developed for tourism. To re state the importance of this SAC and quote from the Council's own report, 'The Department recognises that this area is entirely within the Special Area of Conservation… Fixed Dunes with Herbaceous Vegetation (Grey Dunes), which is listed as priority habitat in the EU Habitats Directive. It should also be noted, that the present degraded/modified habitat supports the species Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior), which is a species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive and is a qualifying feature for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay Special Area of Conservation Site No. SAC 000627. This area also supports the protected flora species Round-leaved Wintergreen subsp. maritima (Pyrola rotundifolia maritima), which is a species listed in the Flora Protection Order, 1999 (SI No. 94 of 1999)."

I have included the recommendations from this report below. I feel it is incumbent upon the Council to ensure the biodiversity of this area is preserved and the delicate eco system is restored. Attached is a photo of the Nobbies Boardwalk in Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia, I believe a similar raised boardwalk system is required to preserve this SAC, otherwise the area will need to be closed off for rehabilitation

May 2016
Killaspugbrone

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

County Sligo Development Plan 2011-2017 Natura Impact Report 2013:

A 3 In Section 44.2 Coastal protection

'modify objective A as follows:

Prepare an integrated coastal management plan for Strandhill in consultation with relevant agencies and interested parties. This plan should address, inter alia, the existing and potential recreational uses of the area. The coastal management plan will ensure the protection of Natura 2000 sites through the Appropriate Assessment process.

A 4 In Section 44.2 Coastal protection

'modify objective D as follows:

Maintain and review dune management to include, where necessary, appropriate fencing, boardwalks and public information boards,in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DAHG.

A 12 - Section 44.7 Tourism development,

modify objective A as follows:

Promote the development of tourism related-infrastructure and facilities within the village in order to increase visitor numbers and to create more local employment, subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.

The County Sligo Draft Biodiversity Plan

The County Sligo Draft Biodiversity Plan, Biodiversity systems (ecosystems) provide a variety of

buffering against flooding, maintenance of soil fertility, breakdown of wastes (including toxic waste), recycling of nutrients and filtering of water.

These 'free' functions are known as 'ecosystem services' or 'ecological services' and their value to us cannot be underestimated.

The value of natural wetlands, for example in reducing downstream flooding, purifying water and helping the recharge of underground aquifers, can be viewed in financial terms since these functions would all have to dealt with if the wetland was removed. Studies on this issue have shown that, for example, if a wetland is removed or drained, while it may result in short term financial gain for a private individual, *it usually results in a larger long-term financial loss for the wider community. It therefore makes financial, as well as ecological sense, not to lose these important areas in the first place.*

.

www.sligococo.ie/media/CouncilDownloads/Heritage/Draft%20Sligo%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan.pdf

---

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com> Wed, May 11, 2016 at 1:08 PM
To: annmckirdy@gmail.com

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

jboydell@sportsireland.ie

Technical details of permanent failure:
Google tried to deliver your message, but it was rejected by the server for the recipient domain sportsireland.ie by mail.sportsireland.ie. [80.93.29.17].

The error that the other server returned was:
550 No such person at this address"

----- Original message -----

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=gmail.com; s=20120113;
h=mime-version:date:message-id:subject:from:to:cc;
bh=mj1MzoYxjgjwMjrtLREwu6JmRVuzxOaEto0D1wmGPW4=;
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RSRx6DYhGZPb9xIkxC5/RNVKu7d4i8yL9W5bWhwh4ivB/FywejjnO/jfig90WRqyExym
Fn354eutX2K6p+wNhcs9rPPlwlsIkChNXX6A7dC8Bh731sTHkOWpI7cx53YWjYvmuDZo
JysQ==
X-Google-DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=1e100.net; s=20130820;
h=x-gm-message-state:mime-version:date:message-id:subject:from:to:cc;
bh=mj1MzoYxjgjwMjrtLREwu6JmRVuzxOaEto0D1wmGPW4=;
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wtC9s7WOl4eM4H9JyLOD88BwJSZhkMNRLEspvrprjn88stylc56N/EPnT/ntZYK2sEho
WpUQ==

b519LnTVdDmTYdH/4WCbQWMcAg==
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Received: by 10.13.243.5 with SMTP id c5mr1561186ywf.40.1462968438973; Wed,
11 May 2016 05:07:18 -0700 (PDT)
Received: by 10.37.215.199 with HTTP; Wed, 11 May 2016 05:07:18 -0700 (PDT)
Date: Wed, 11 May 2016 13:07:18 +0100
Message-ID: <CAEY17v9iUcnTX=FUuLPMWcmSbYvNFKzNA_zdX93Yo1Gp3t8POg@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: =?UTF-8?Q?Killaspugbrone=2C_Strandhill=2C_Sligo_L=C3=BAb_N=C3=A1isi=C3=BAnta=2C_?=
=?UTF-8?Q?National_Looped_Walk?=
From: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
To: mcarty@sligococo.ie
Cc: jboydell@sportsireland.ie
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=94eb2c0350781f6baf05328fe295
[Quoted text hidden]
----- Message truncated -----

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Wed, May 11, 2016 at 5:06 PM
To: jboydell@sportireland.ie

Dear June,
I am forwarding the email that failed earlier due. I have also sent some photos of the trail highlighting some of the detrimental damage to the delicate ecosystem.
I will follow with photos of the signage for the area which were erected by the council.
Kind regards,
Ann
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Thu, May 12, 2016 at 1:28 PM
To: Sligo Walks <dkennedy@sligoleader.com>, cgonley@sligoleader.com, sineadmaguire@yahoo.com, dbree@eircom.net

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2016 at 1:07 PM
Subject: Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo Lúb Náisiúnta, National Looped Walk
To: mcarty@sligococo.ie
Cc: jboydell@sportsireland.ie

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 7:48 AM
To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

lub naisiunta
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2016 at 1:07 PM
Subject: Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Sligo Lúb Náisiúnta, National Looped Walk
To: <mcarty@sligococo.ie>
Cc: <jboydell@sportsireland.ie>

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

FW: Killaspugbrone Special Area of Conservation - delivered by hand on 20.07.20 - resending 29.7.20

2 messages

Stephen Ward <sward@sligococo.ie> Fri, Aug 7, 2020 at 9:55 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Dear Ann,

I refer to you recent correspondence in relation to the Killaspugbrone trail.

Prior to the carrying out of the works, this project was screened for the requirement for Appropriate Assessment. However, having regard to the nature and scale of the works, it was deemed that Appropriate Assessment was not required in this case.

Regards,

Stephen Ward
Senior Executive Planner

Sligo County Council

Planning Section, City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, F91 PP44

+353-71-9114491
sward@sligococo.ie
sligococo.ie | sligo.ie

Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh
Sligo.

From: Ann McKirdy [mailto:ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday 29 July 2020 23:18
To: Suzanne Siberry; Enforcement
Subject: Killaspugbrone Special Area of Conservation - delivered by hand on 20.07.20 - resending 29.7.20

Dear Suzanne and the officers of environment enforcement,

I am forwarding herewith the letter I submitted by hand delivery on the 20.7.2020 to the Senior Planners regarding the Killaspugbrone Looped Trail. I have not received a response. I would appreciate if you could follow up on my behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 4:00 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Killaspugbrone

Larass,

Strandhill,

Sligo

Date: 20/07/20

Att: Leonora McConville – Executive Planner and Stephen Ward – Senior Executive Planner

Re: Killaspugbrone Looped Trail, Lúb Naisiúnta

Dear Ms McConville and Mr Ward,

I am writing to you with regards to the Killaspugbrone Looped Trail and the proposed development of future trails in the Strandhill/Coolera area specifically the development of looped trails in or near special areas of conservation.

I have grave concerns for the damage that has been done to this sensitive site since the opening of a National Looped Trail on this Special Area of Conservation. I alerted the County Council in May 2016 of my concerns before this trail was opened upon seeing the sign for a Lúb Naisiúnta.

I have requested on numerous occasions to view the Appropriate Assessment, initially I was informed it was available to view in hard copy at the Planning Office. Subsequently I was told that this Appropriate Assessment screening had not taken place due to the fact that there was always a looped trail on this site. I have done extensive research, this is categorically not true. Even if it were true, an existing path would not constitute permission to deviate from the legal requirement to complete a Natura Impact Statement and an Appropriate Assessment on this site.

I have been sending photos on almost a weekly basis to the environment office to document the destruction of this SAC.

This issue needs urgent attention. This trail constitutes 'unauthorised development' and planning enforcement action is now required by the planning authority either locally or through An Bórd Pleanala.

I have enclosed some historic pertinent email communications to the Sligo County Council and the Appropriate Assessment guidance for planning authorities, 2009.

Yours sincerely,

_____

Ann McKirdy

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

looped trail letter resent 29 7 20

1 message

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 4:24 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

looped trail letter resent 29 7 20.docx
14K

Larass,

Strandhill,

Sligo

Date: 20/07/20

Att: Leonora McConville – Executive Planner and Stephen Ward – Senior Executive Planner

Re: Killaspugbrone Looped Trail, Lúb Naisiúnta

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I have enclosed some historic pertinent email communications to the Sligo County Council and the Appropriate Assessment guidance for planning authorities, 2009.

Yours sincerely,

_____

Ann McKirdy

Killaspug brone

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Killaspugbrone Special Area of Conservation - delivered by hand on 20.07.20 - resending 29.7.20

4 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 11:18 PM
To: Suzanne Siberry <ssiberry@sligococo.ie>, enforcement@sligococo.ie

Dear Suzanne and the officers of environment enforcement,
I am forwarding herewith the letter I submitted by hand delivery on the 20.7.2020 to the Senior Planners regarding the Killaspugbrone Looped Trail. I have not received a response. I would appreciate if you could follow up on my behalf.
Yours sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

2 attachments

Killaspugbrone Planning .docx
20K

looped trail letter resent 29 7 20.docx
14K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 10:41 AM
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

21-253-11-OPR

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

Killaspugbrone Planning .docx
20K

looped trail letter resent 29 7 20.docx
14K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 4:25 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 29 Jul 2020 at 23:18
Subject: Killaspugbrone Special Area of Conservation - delivered by hand on 20.07.20 - resending 29.7.20
To: Suzanne Siberry <ssiberry@sligococo.ie>, <enforcement@sligococo.ie>

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

Killaspugbrone Planning .docx
20K

looped trail letter resent 29 7 20.docx
14K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 4:26 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 29 Jul 2020 at 23:18
Subject: Killaspugbrone Special Area of Conservation - delivered by hand on 20.07.20 - resending 29.7.20
To: Suzanne Siberry <ssiberry@sligococo.ie>, <enforcement@sligococo.ie>

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

Killaspugbrone Planning .docx
20K

looped trail letter resent 29 7 20.docx
14K

Natura 2000 permits for new plans and projects

Regarding new developments in and around Natura 2000 sites, Article 6 of the Habitats Directive establishes a permitting procedure for any plans or projects that are likely to have a significant effect on one or more sites either individually or in combination with other plans and projects.

Potentially damaging projects must undergo an appropriate assessment to determine the precise nature and extent of the potential impacts on the species and habitats of EU importance present. It is then up to the competent national authorities to decide whether or not to approve the plan or project. This can only be done after they have ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of that site. The onus is on proving the absence of effects rather than their presence.

Under the **Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland**, Guidance for Planning Authorities -guidelines 2009.

The Birds and Habitats Directive set out various procedures and obligations in relation to nature conservation management in Member States in general and of the Natura 2000 sites and their habitats and species in particular.

A key protection mechanism, [...] is the requirement to consider the possible nature conservation implications of any plan or project on the Natura 2000 site network before any decision is made to allow that plan or project to proceed. Not only is every new plan or project captured by this requirement but each plan or project, when being considered for approval at any stage, must take into consideration the possible effects it may have in combination with other plans and projects when going through the process known as appropriate assessment.

The obligation to undertake appropriate assessment derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats directive and both involve a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order. Article 6(3) is concerned with the strict protection of sites, while Article 6(4) is the procedure for allowing derogation from this strict protection in certain restricted circumstances.

The test to establish whether in relation to a particular plan or project appropriate assessment is required. This is termed AA screening. Its purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Nature 2000 site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The need to apply the precautionary principle in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of AA has been confirmed by European Court of Justice case law. Therefore, where significant effects are likely, uncertain or unknown at screening stage, AA will be required.

AA is focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of the plan or project alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

Date and information on the project and on the site and an analysis of potential effects on the site must be obtained and presented in a Natura Impact Statement.

Ecological experts will be required to undertake the surveys, research and analysis with input from other experts as necessary to prepare the Natura Impact Statement. It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to have the NIS Prepared for submission to the competent authority.

If it can be concluded on the basis of AA that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, the plan or project can proceed to authorisation , where the normal planning or other requirements will apply in reaching a decision to approve or refuse.

The duty to undertake AA, having considered the NIS, and to ensure that the stringent evaluation and decision making procedure is applied correctly lies with the competent authority.

2.3 Likely to have significant effect thereon.

Any plan or project that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a site must be subject to AA of its implications for the Natura 200 site in view of the site's conservation objectives 'if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, it will have a significant effect on that site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.' (EC 2006.

The precautionary principle, derived from the EU Treaty and developed in the case law of the ECJ, is one of the foundations of the high level of protection pursued by EU community policy on the environment and underpins the Habitats Directive. Where doubt exists about the risk of significant effect, an AA must be carried out. In assessing the risk of such effects, the significance must be established in the light of, among other things, the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned, and the likely effects of the plan or project.

If a plan or project is likely to undermine any of the site's conservation objectives (i.e. objectives that relate to the Birds of Habitats Directives) it must be considered likely to have a significant effect on that site (ED 2006).

Appropriate Assessment.

The requirements for AA derive directly from Article 6(3). AA is an impact assessment process that fits within the decision -making framework and tests of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) and, for the purposes of this guidance, it comprises two main elements. Firstly a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) – a statement of the likely and possible impacts of the plan or project on the Natura 2000 site must be prepared. This comprises a comprehensive ecological impact assessment of a plan or project, it examines the direct and indirect impacts that the plan or project might have on tis own or in combination with other plans and projects, on one or more Natura 2000 sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

Secondly, the competent authority carries out the AA, based on the NIS and any other information it may consider necessary.

The AA process encompasses all of the processes covered by Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive i.e. the screening process, the NIS, the AA by the competent authority an the record of decisions made by the competent authority and the record of decisions made by the competent authority at each stage of the process, up to the point at which article 6(4) may come into play following a determination that a plan or project may adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

2.6 Competent National Authorities

The competent authorities in Ireland are the national, regional or local authorities that are charged with or responsible for consenting, authorising, adoption or deciding to proceed with a plan or project.

It is the competent authority's responsibility to obtain the information to enable it to screen a plan or project for AA and if required obtain from the proponent of the plan or project the NIS. If the project is being proposed by a competent authority itself, the competent authority will be responsible for the production of the NIS.

The competent authority is then responsible for carrying out AA and for maintaining a compete audit trail of the AA process.

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Unprecedented

1 message

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 4:05 AM


NOTICE
Due to the popularity of this loop walk, some remedial works will be ongoing for some time. Please follow the new path lines and observe the directional signage.
It is important to stay clear of the Runway strip at all times. Thank you for your co-operation.

Aine

●●●●○ vodafone IE 00:07 1%
eventbrite.ie

Killaspugbrone Looped Walk Launch

by Sligo Tourism Development Association

Thursday, 9 April 2015 at 14:30
Sligo Airport
Airport Rd, Strandhill
Strandhill, Sligo IE

Ticket sales have ended.

Event Details

Launch of this stunning family-friendly coastal walk through the North of the dune system in the busy seaside village of Strandhill. The trail brings walkers through a variety of coastal habitats including sand dunes, salt marsh and pine woodland. It passes by Killaspugbrone Church, an early Christian site with historic and legendary associations. The route features some magnificent views of Benbulben and Knocknarea and out over Sligo Bay.
From the promenade at the sea-front, the trail leads the walker in a loop along the shore line, past the airport run-way, over to Killaspugbrone and back to the village via Dorrins Strand. There are longer and shorter options along the route – including the 'Via headland' route which takes the walker along the exposed Killaspug point, which is 6.8km in total or

the shorter option along the end of the run-way (6.2km in total)

This project was undertaken by Sligo Tourism Development Association with funding from Sligo

04:05 4G 87

Strandhill - Killaspugbrone

12 May 2016 18:52



Gmail

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Looped trail Strandhill

4 messages

Flooded Killaspugbrone looped Trail Councillor Declan Breen's response

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@me.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 29, 2017 at 12:40 AM

6 attachments



IMG_0697.JPG
540K



IMG_0698.JPG
560K

Flooded
Killaspugbrone
Loop Trail
Carrigallen Leitrim Ireland

Flooded
Killaspugbrone
2017



IMG_0708.JPG
503K



IMG_0709.JPG
452K



IMG_0713.JPG
614K



IMG_0714.JPG
642K

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Sat, Apr 29, 2017 at 12:54 AM
To: Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net>

Dear Declan,
I hope all is well. I want to bring to your attention the problem I and other users of the Killaspugbrone Looped Trail encountered this evening. Upon exiting the woods near The Lodge on the trail by the airstrip the Dorrins Strand path was completely impassible. It was flooded by high tide for as far as the eye could see. I have attached photos of both access points to this path.
We were left with no option but to climb the 10 ft vertical 'private' gate as the entire length of the area was fenced by a tall 10-11 ft fence with a 1ft overhang and barbed wire on top.
The gate we climbed is as far as I am aware a former disputed 'right of way'.
I believe this is a big problem for users of this trail which at certain times with high tides is dangerously and unpredictably impassible. It was almost dusk when we came upon this, it would have been too dark to return to Strandhill on an unlit and uneven pathway.
I have an additional photo I will send separately.
I would appreciate it if you could let me know if this is something you can bring to the council's attention on behalf of the community.
Many thanks,
kind regards,
Ann McKirdy

On Sat, Apr 29, 2017 at 12:40 AM, Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@me.com> wrote:

Declan Bree <dbree@eircom.net>
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 29, 2017 at 7:02 PM

Dear Ann

Thank you for your email.

I would assume that the Council is aware that high tides affect the area in question occasionally.

I suppose that the price one pays when a walkway is provided adjacent to the shore.

Kind regards

DECLAN

D. Bree
Sligo Elected Councillor
Shocking !

The Price one pays !

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 2:16 PM
To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Sligo County Council

Strandhill Public Realm Enhancement Appropriate Assessment Screening

Final report
February 2025

LUC

Luc Appropriate Assessment

Exhibit C

Excellent

Info on Guiding Principles of EU Law.

(1) legal error in screening the WWTP. This AA Luc screening fails to account for the incombination effects by excluding the WWTP & the Killaspugbrone looped Trail

(2) Breach of Precautionary Principle under EU Law Case C-258/11 if doubt exists

(3) Failure of Assessment Contradicts OPR Practice Note PN01 and NPWS Guidance 2009 - failing to identify Zone of Influence for Public Realm

Sligo County Council

Strandhill Public Realm Enhancement
Appropriate Assessment Screening

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1.	Draft for comment – outstanding design / delivery matters highlighted	EM, LB, SS	DG, SS	LT	02.06.2022
2.	Draft 02 for comment	EM, SS	DG	LT	21.06.2022
3.	Issue – integrating final consultation and client/design team comments	EM	SS	LT	04.02.2023
4.	For Planning	CC	LT	LT	24.04.2024
5.	For planning	cc	LT	LT	07.02.2025

Bristol
Cardiff
Edinburgh
Glasgow
London
Manchester

landuse.co.uk

Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number 2549296
Registered office:
250 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8RD

100% recycled paper

Landscape Design
Strategic Planning & Assessment
Development Planning
Urban Design & Masterplanning
Environmental Impact Assessment
Landscape Planning & Assessment
Landscape Management
Ecology
Historic Environment
GIS & Visualisation

FS566056
EMS566057
OHS627041

Landscape Institute Registered Practice

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Habitats Directive Assessment: An Overview 2
Part 8 Planning Applications: An Overview 2
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Guidance Documents 6

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Consultation 8
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Screening Assessment Method 10
Screening Conclusion Statement 13

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Appendix A
Development Design Drawings A-1

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Chapter 1
Introduction

Aims

1.1 LUC has been appointed by Sligo County Council to provide an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening report in support of the Part 8 application public realm enhancement at Strandhill.

1.2 The scheme will re-address the balance between vehicles and pedestrians for current user levels and to improve the character, views and heritage of the coastal village. The project is currently going through preliminary RIBA Stage 3 design, which incorporates the design layout and surface finishing. The Planning Section aim to commence a Part 8 consultation process later in 2025. Further refinement of design will follow, subsequent to the planning process.

1.3 Under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended), it is a requirement that before planning consent can be granted, each project submitted must undergo assessment of its implications on any European site. This process is referred to as Habitats Directive Assessment. The full assessment process includes four stages, of which Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening is the first.

1.4 This Screening report is based on current design information.

1.5 The aims of this report are to:

- Assess the potential for the public realm enhancement works to incur likely significant adverse effect/s on the qualifying interests[1] of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)[2] and Special Protection Areas (SPA)[3] within the zone of influence, either alone or in-combination;
- Collate all Screening information for the competent authority to determine whether full Assessment will be required to test whether the works proposed will adversely affect the integrity of European Sites either alone or in-combination;

[1] 'Qualifying Interests' relate to the habitats and/or (non-bird) species for which an SAC or SPA is selected. Specifically, 'Special Conservation Interests' relate to bird species for which an SPA is selected. For the purposes of this report, the term 'qualifying interest' is used collectively to all.

[2] Including candidate SAC (cSAC)

[3] Including proposed SPA (pSPA)

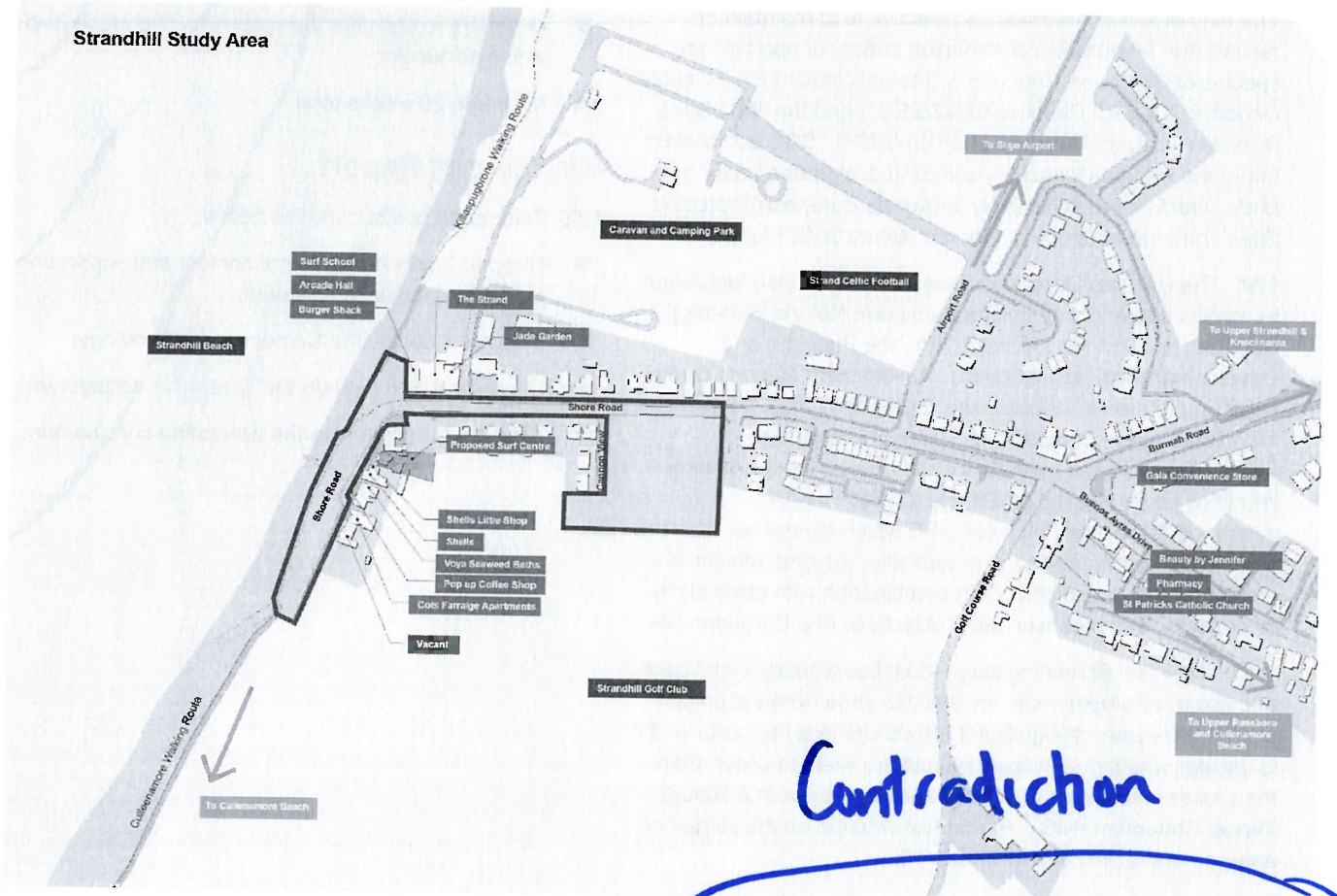
- Inform evolving project designs in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.

1.6 This report has been prepared by Ellie Mayhead, BSc (Hons) and Lucy Beagley BA (Hons) MSc. Reviews were completed by Sofie Swindlehurst BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM CEnv and David Green BSc (Hons) MCIEEM in accordance with the internal Quality Assurance procedures of LUC.

Project Overview

1.7 Strandhill village lies within Sligo Bay. The 1.75ha project area is located at OSiGR: G 60357 35875. It sits on the shore front promenade of Sligo Bay extends along Shore Road, from the existing shore front parking to the council car park (see Figure 1.1). The project area comprises existing hardstanding (highway, pavement and car parking). No vegetated habitats currently occur within the red line boundary.

Figure 1.1: Strandhill public realm enhancements site location plan



Contradiction

1.8 Proposed public realm enhancement seek to:

- Maintain patterns of pedestrian movement without conflict with motor vehicles;
- Enhance legibility, connectivity and movement through consistent use of materials, signage and wayfinding;
- Create a series of connected high quality public realm spaces that cater for different users including families and people of all ages; and
- Create a public realm that responds to the challenges of climate change including provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and vegetation to improve air quality and temperature regulation.

1.9 Sligo Bay supports three estuaries that are designated as the following European Sites:

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- Ballysadare Bay SAC and SPA to the south of the project area (130m at the closest point);
- Cummeen Strand SPA and Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay SAC to the north (320m at the closest point); and
- Drumcliffe Bay SPA in the north of Sligo Bay (5.7km north of the project area).

Habitats Directive Assessment: An Overview

1.10 The European Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest listed in the 'Habitats Directive' (Council Directive 92/43/EEC[4]) and the 'Wild Birds Directive '(Council Directive 2009/147/EC[5]). SAC established under the Habitats Directive, and SPA designated under the Birds Directive are collectively known as European Protected Sites and form a framework for the Natura 2000[6] network.

1.11 The Habitats Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). Assessment focuses on the qualifying interests[7] of qualifying (European) sites. It is completed by the competent authority[8], informed by information provided by the applicant. The initial Screening identifies Likely Significant Effects (LSE). Full AA subsequently focuses on those LSE which cannot be screened out, assessing the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in isolation or in-combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site.

1.12 The initial Screening stage identifies whether significant effects on a European site are likely to arise from the project or plan assessed. If significant effects are likely to occur or if it is unclear whether significant effects are likely to occur, then the process moves on to full AA, and is reported in a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Further information on the stages of assessment is provided in Chapter 3.

1.13 AA is an iterative design process with application of the mitigation hierarchy to avoid impacts at source. If impacts are not avoided by alterations in design or construction process, then mitigation must be applied.

Part 8 Planning Applications: An Overview

1.14 The Part 8 process includes several stages as follows:

- Public consultation – minimum six weeks (four weeks public display plus two weeks for submissions to be accepted);
- Chief Executive report to be submitted to the Members of Sligo County Council within eight weeks (unless modifications/variations are to be made);
- Members to consider the proposals and make decision – within six weeks;
- Minimum 20 weeks total.

Structure of Report

1.15 This report is structured as below.

- Chapter 2 sets out the legal context and supporting guidance for this assessment;
- Chapter 3 details the Screening methodology;
- Chapters 4 to 6 provide the Screening assessment.
- Chapter 7 summarises the Screening conclusions.

[4] Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, available: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

[5] Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, available: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

[6] Pan-European network of all sites designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives, to which the requirements for appropriate assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive apply.

[7] The designation features of SACs are referred to as **Qualifying Interests (and the designation features of SPAs are referred to as Special Conservation Interests** which comprise bird species as well as wetland bird habitats. The term **'qualifying interests' will however** be used throughout this report for simplicity to encompass both.

[8] The 'competent authorities' are those charged with or responsible for consenting, authorising, adopting or deciding to proceed with a plan or project; typically considered to be the planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála (Irish Planning Appeals Board).

Chapter 2
Legislative Context

2.1 This Screening report is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. It follows the approach outlined in current legislation and case law, guidance documents and Departmental Circulars as set out below.

Legislation

European Legislation

2.2 The 'Habitats Directive'[9] (Directive 92/43/EEC) is the principal legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity within the European Union and lists certain habitats and species that must be protected within wildlife conservation areas. The 'Birds Directive'[10] (Directive 2009/147/EC) provides for a network of sites within the European Union which protect birds at their breeding, feeding, roosting and wintering areas. The Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive form the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy.

2.3 The requirement for AA is set out in Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) which states:

"…Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public…"

National Legislation and Case Law

2.4 The Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive are transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011[11], and Part

[9] Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

[10] Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

[11] S.I. No. 477 of 2011 – European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended[12].

2.5 This AA Screening Report has been prepared with regard to relevant rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the High Court, and the Supreme Court, including but not limited to the following rulings. The rulings have been grouped into relevant topics.

Interpretation of 'Likely Significant Effect' (LSE)

- *European Court of Justice 7th September 2004 by Advocate General Kokott; Case C-127/02 Waddenzee -v- Secretary of State for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries* – The CJEU ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive:
  - An effect should be considered 'likely', if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on a European site.
  - An effect should be considered 'significant', if it undermines the conservation objectives of a European site.
  - Where a plan or project has an effect on a site but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Interpretation of Direct, Indirect and In-combination Effects

- *European Court of Justice Opinion 22nd November 2012 by Advocate General Sharpston; Case C-258/11 Peter Sweetman and Others-v- An Bord Pleanála* – The CJEU ruled that in determining whether a project or plan has an adverse effect on the integrity of a site (to which Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive applies), an effect which is permanent or long lasting must be regarded as an adverse effect.
- *European Court of Justice 7th November 2018; Case C 461/17; Holohan & Others v. An Bord Pleanála* – The CJEU ruled that:
  - All the habitats and species for which a European site is protected must be catalogued.
  - An AA must identify and examine the implications of the proposed project for species present on the European site, including species for which the site has been listed and those for which it has not, provided those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.
  - An AA must identify and examine the implications of the proposed project for species and habitats outside the boundaries of the European site, provided those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.
- *High Court Ruling 2nd December 2020 by Mr. Justice Denis McDonald; Neutral Citation [2020] IEHC 622; High Court Record No. 2020 238 JR; Highlands Residents Association and Protect East Meath Limited -v- An Bord Pleanála, Ireland and The Minister For Culture Heritage and The Gaeltacht, Ireland and The Attorney General* – The High Court ruled that An Bord Pleanála (the competent authority) erred in law in screening out (in the course of the Stage 1 screening exercise carried out by the competent authority) the possibility of significant effects on four European sites in relation to potential risk arising from the mobilisation of silt and pollutants from the development site in this particular Strategic Housing Development application, where the relevant application documentation (Environmental Impact Assessment Report, AA, Construction Environmental Management Plan) referenced protection of the River Boyne within the context that the proposed development site has a relatively close hydrological connection to the four relevant European sites.

Application of the Precautionary Principle

- *European Court of Justice Judgement 11th April 2013 by the Third Chamber; Case C-258/11 Peter Sweetman and Others -v- An Bord Pleanála* - The CJEU ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that a project not directly linked to it is not immediately necessary for the management of a site to prejudice the integrity of that site if it is likely to prevent the preservation of the constituent characteristics of the site concerned in relation to the presence of a natural priority habitat whose purpose is to maintain gave the reason for registering that site in the list of sites of Community importance within the meaning of that directive. Therefore, the precautionary principle must be applied throughout.

Application of Mitigation / 'Best Practice Measures'

- *European Court of Justice Judgement 12th April 2018 by the Seventh Chamber; Case C 323/17; People Over Wind & Sweetman -v- Coillte Teoranta* - The CJEU ruled that measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a proposed project on a European site may no longer be taken into account by competent authorities at

[12] Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

the Stage 1 screening stage when judging whether a proposed plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European designated site.

- *European Court of Justice 19th April 2018; Case C 164/17; Grace & Sweetman -v- An Bord Pleanála* – The CJEU ruled there is a "*distinction to be drawn between protective measures forming part of a project and intended [to] avoid or reduce any direct adverse effects that may be caused by the project in order to ensure that the project does not adversely affect the integrity of the area, which are covered by Article 6(3), and measures which, in accordance with Article 6(4), are aimed at compensating for the negative effects of the project on a protected area and cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of the project*". The CJEU held that it is only when it is sufficiently certain that a measure will make an effective contribution to avoiding harm, guaranteeing beyond all reasonable doubt that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the area, that such a measure may be taken into consideration when the appropriate assessment is carried out under Article 6(3). Article 6 of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning:

  "Where it is intended to carry out a project on a site designated for the protection and conservation of certain species, of which the area suitable for providing for the needs of a protected species fluctuates over time, and the temporary or permanent effect of that project will be that some parts of the site will no longer be able to provide a suitable habitat for the species in question, the fact that the project includes measures to ensure that the part of the site that is likely to provide a suitable habitat will not be reduced and may actually be enhanced may not be taken into account for the purpose of the appropriate assessment under Article 6(3)."

- *High Court Ruling 2nd February 2019 by Mr. Justice Barniville; Neutral Citation [2019] IEHC 84; High Court Record No. 2017 883 JR; Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála & Anor*- The High Court ruled that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are not mitigation measures which a competent authority is precluded from considering at the Stage 1 Screening stage.

- *High Court Ruling 21st June 2019 by Mr. Justice Simons; Neutral Citation [2019] IEHC 450; High Court Record No. 2019 20 JR; Heather Hill Management Company clg & anor -v- An Bord Pleanála & Anor* – The High Court ruled that a competent authority is not entitled to rely on 'best practice measures' for the purposes of a Stage 1 screening determination where the legal test is whether measures are intended to avoid and/or reduce a potential harmful effect on a European site.

- *High Court Ruling 31st January 2020 by Mr. Justice Denis McDonald; Neutral Citation [2020] IEHC 39; High Court Record No. 2019 33 JR; Peter Sweetman -v- An Bord Pleanála , Ireland and The Attorney General* – The High Court ruled that the competent authority was not entitled to take the measures described in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to protect the Blackwater River SAC into account in carrying out the Screening exercise in this particular solar farm development case.

Appropriate Assessment

- *High Court Ruling 25th July 2014 by Ms. Justice Finlay Geoghegan; Neutral Citation [2014] IEHC 400; High Court Record No. 2013 802 JR; Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála* – The Hight Court ruled that for Assessment to be lawfully conducted it:
  - Must identify, in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field, all aspects of the plan or project which can, by itself or in-combination with other plans or projects, affect a European site in the light of its conservation objectives. This requires both examination and analysis.
  - Must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions and may not have lacunae or gaps. The requirement for precise and definitive findings and conclusions appears to require analysis, evaluation and decisions. Further, the reference to findings and conclusions in a scientific context requires both findings following analysis and conclusions following an evaluation each in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.
  - May only include a determination that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any relevant European site where upon the basis of complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions made the Board decides that no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of the identified potential effects.

- *High Court Ruling 25th February 2016 by Mr. Justice Barton; Neutral Citation [2016] IEHC 134; High Court Record No. 2013 450 JR; Balz & Heubach -v- An Bord Pleanála* – The High Court ruled that an assessment made under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive cannot be regarded as appropriate if it contains gaps and lacks complete, definitive and precise findings, and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the plan or project on a European site.

- *Supreme Court Ruling 17th July 2018 by Mr Justice Clarke; Neutral Citation [2018]; Supreme Court Record No. 2014/488 JR; Connelly -v- An Bord Pleanála* – The Supreme Court ruled with the decision of the High Court that An Bord Pleanála (ABP)had breached its obligations regarding the recording of the Screening stage, the AA itself and the EIA in its decision to g rant planning permission for the wind farm. The AA was found to be invalid due to the failure of ABP to ma ke complete, precise and specific scientific findings which justified its conclusion . The Supreme Court found that thedecision by ABPnor the materials referred to in ABP's decision could be *"shown to contain the sort of complete, precise and definitive findings which wou ld underpin a conclusion that no reasonable scientific doubt remained as to the absence of any identified potential detrimental effects on a protected site having regard to its conservation objectives"*.
- *European Court of Justice 7th November 2018; Case C 461/17; Holohan & Others v. An Bord Pleanála* – The CJEU ruled that:
  - where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, Assessment must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the wo rk envisaged on the site concerned.

Developer's Responsibilities

- *European Court of Justice 7th November 2018; Case C 461/17; Holohan & Others v. An Bord Pleanála* – The CJEU ruled that:
  - the competent authority may grant consent for a plan or project that leaves the developer free to determine certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, if the competent authority is certain (i.e., no reasonable scientific doubt) that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.
  - Article 5(1) and (3) of, and Annex IV to, Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, must be interpreted as meaning that the developer is obliged to supply informatio n that expressly addresses the significant effects of its project on all species identified in the statement that is supplied pursuant to those provisions.
  - Article 5(3)(d) of Directive 2011/92/EU must be interpreted as meaning that the developer mu st supply information in relation to the environme ntal impact of both the chosen option and of all the main alternatives studied by the developer, together with the reasons for his choice, taking into account a t least the environmental effects, even if such an alternative was rejected at an early stage.

G uidance Documents

2.6 This Screening Report has been prepared with regard to the following European and national guidance documents. The list is ordered by publication date.

European

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC[13]
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive[14]
- Managin gNatura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the' Habitats' Directi ve92/43 /EEC[15]
- Commission guidance on streamlining environmental assessments conducted under Article 2(3) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU)[16]

[13] European Commission (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (pdf) Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/methodological-guidance_2021-10/EN.pdf

[14] European Commission (2021) Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (online) Available at: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a17dbc76-2b51-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search

[15] European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (online) Available at: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/11e4ee91-2a8a-11e9-8d04-01aa75ed71a1

[16] European Commission (2016) Commission guidance document on streamlining environmental assessments conducted under Article 2(3) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) (online) Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2016.273.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2016%3A273%3ATOC

- 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[17]
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle[18]

National

- OPR Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management[19]
- Guidance on the strict protection of certain animal and plant species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland[20]
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities[21]
- Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities[22].
- Circular SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08. Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans[23].
- Circular PD 2/07 & NPWS 1/07. Compliance conditions in respect of developments requiring (1) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); or (2) having potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites[24].

[17] European Commission (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 (pdf) Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf

[18] European Commission (2000) Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle (online) Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52000DC0001

[19] Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management OPR Practice Note PN01 (pdf) Available at: https://www.opr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/9729-Office-of-the-Planning-Regulator-Appropriate-Assessment-Screening-booklet-15.pdf

[20] Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2021) Guidance on the strict protection of certain animal and plant species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland (pdf) Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/strict-protection-of-certain-animal-and-plant-species.pdf

[21] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, revised 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (pdf) Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf

[22] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities (pdf) Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/Circular%20NPW1-10%20%26%20PSSP2-10%20Final.pdf

[23] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2008) Circular SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans (pdf) Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf

[24] [24] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2007) Circular PD 2/07 & NPWS 1/07. Compliance conditions in respect of developments requiring (1) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); or (2) having potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites. (pdf) Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-pd-02-07.pdf

Chapter 3
Assessment Methodology

Purpose

3.1 The function of this Screening assessment is to determine the potential of the public realm enhancements at Strandhill to result in LSEs that could undermine the conservation objectives of European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. It has been undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3).

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

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for a particular habitat[25] or species[26] at that site have been considered.

Consultation

Pre-application

3.3 To inform this Screening report, consultation with the Council Heritage Officer and Executive Planner was opened in January 2022 to agree the outline scope of the Screening and any key concerns or design considerations at this early stage. Determination of whether a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) would be required as additional mitigation to avoid LSE was highlighted as fundamental to the outcome of the Screening and whether, accordingly, full Assessment would be required. As the promenade at Strandhill overtops during storm conditions, the requirement to

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

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

consider climate change within the proposed design was also highlighted.

3.4 Additional consultation with the Executive Planner and engineer responsible for drainage and design at the shore front promenade provided further detail on any interface with / the existing wall that separates the shore front promenade from the natural coastline, and regarding drainage (including risk of pollution, silt-laden run off and seawater overtopping). Whilst the modes of transport – from vehicular to active (pedestrian and cycling) forms a key driver to the project, the forecasted number of users (local and visitors) was confirmed to be 'no net change'.

3.5 Consultation with NPWS Northern Region (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) was opened in April 2022 to introduce the project to the Western Division Ecologists. Discussion on 05 July[27] was held to (i) present the development in context of existing infrastructure (ii) agree the Zone of Influence (ZoI) distances used in the assessment, and (iii) outline the principal conclusions. The following key points were also raised:

- General recommendation to 'future proof' the scheme against the implications of a changing climate, notably the opportunity to maximise SuDS and porous surfaces within the scheme was strongly encouraged by NPWS.
- Whilst it was recognised that the proposed works are not predicted to increase recreational use, historic pressure on the SAC and SPA through use of informal paths was highlighted as a concern.
- Importance for sensitive lighting design, with particular attention to avoid light spill and glare from high intensity LED sources. Recommendation for design to utilise the amber light spectrum and light levels capped in accordance with current best practice.
- Considering broader benefit to biodiversity, use of a locally appropriate species-rich planting was recommended, informed by relevant local Biodiversity Action Plan actions[28]. Examples include:
  - Native boundary hedgerows to include a range of species that offer roosting and foraging opportunities for the urban bird assemblage;
  - Tree planting of locally-appropriate species such as hawthorn, elder and willows.

The Four Stages of Habitats Directive Assessment: An Overview

3.6 Assessment is a four-stage process with tests at each stage, as summarised in Table 3.1. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

3.7 This report delivers the Stage 1 Screening.

Table 3.1: The four stage Habitats Directive Assessment process

Stage	Process	Output
Stage 1: Screening	Identifies whether the proposed project is directly connected to, or necessary for, the management of a European site(s). Identifies whether the project may have significant impact/s upon European site/s. either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.	The output from this stage is a determination of not significant, significant, potentially significant, or uncertain effects. The latter three determinations will cause the project to be brought forward to Stage 2.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment	Assesses impact/s of the proposed development on the integrity of a European site(s), either alone or in-combination. Integrity is assessed with respect to: (i) site conservation objectives; and (ii) site structure, function and overall integrity, and considers the role of mitigation.	The output from this stage is an Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This document must include sufficient information for the competent authority to carry out the appropriate assessment. If the assessment is negative, i.e. adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded despite incorporation of measures to avoid or reduce the

[27] Telephone discussion with Miriam Crowley 05.07.22.

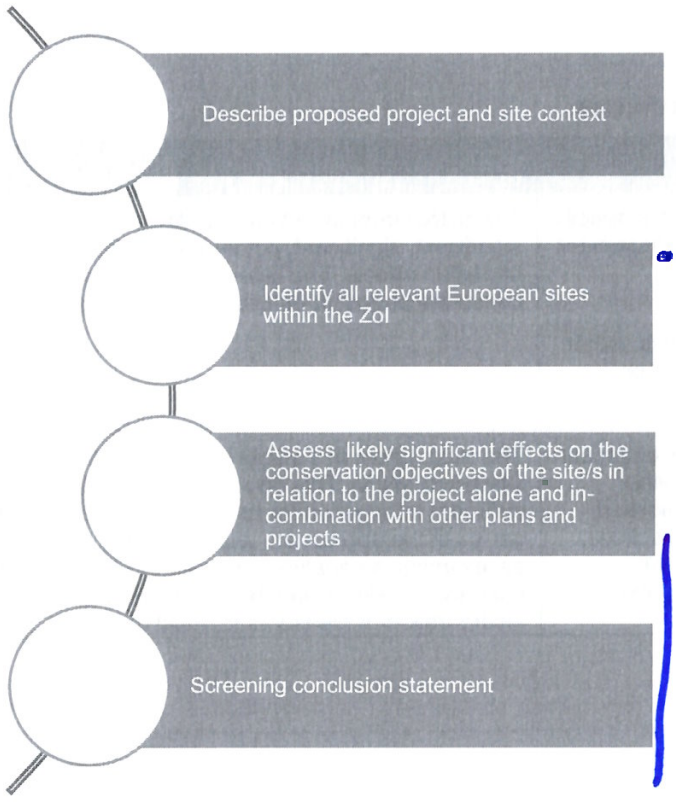
[28] Further to this, guidance may be sourced from the Further guidance may be found in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, available: https://pollinators.ie/

Stage	Process	Output
		adverse effects, then the process must consider alternatives (Stage 3).
Stage 3: Assessment of Alternatives	Assesses alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site. May be carried out concurrently with Stage 2 in order to find the most appropriate solution.	If no alternatives exist or all alternatives would result in negative impacts to site integrity, then the process either moves to Stage 4 or the project is abandoned. Also reported in the NIS.
Stage 4: Assessment where Adverse Impacts Remain	Undertaken when it has been determined that a project will have adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, but where no alternatives exist. Identifies compensatory measures where, in the context of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous. Also reported in the NIS.

Screening Assessment Method

3.8 Figure 3.1 illustrates the four steps of Screening. The method for each is described under the subsequent subheadings, and the results in Chapters 4 to 7 respectively.

Figure 3.1: The four steps of Screening



Project Description and Site Context

3.9 To inform a robust assessment of the potential impacts as a result of the proposed project, construction and operation are described (see Chapter 4). The spatial scope of the assessment and any temporal phases relevant to the European Sites are also identified.

3.10 Maps are provided of the project in relation to European Sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) to provide context of landscape and ecological character of the area.

S patal Scope: Identificati onof Relevant European Sites

3.11 When assessing impact, qualifying interests of conservation interest are only considered relevant where a credible or tangible source-pathway-receptor link exists between the proposed development and qualifying species or habitats. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk initiated by having a 'source' (e.g. construction works), a 'receptor' (e.g. a protected species, associated aquatic or riparian habitats), and an impact pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects the proposed development site to the site designated for the protection of a species).

3.12 If there is no pathway or the qualifying interests of the European site are not vulnerable (either directly or indirectly) to any impact predicted from the proposed development then a site has not been screened in.

3.13 European sites are taken to include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and candidate SAC designated under the Habitats Directive for

particular habitat types (Annex I) and species (Annex II); and

- Special Protection Areas (SPA) and proposed SPA designated under Article 4(1) of the Birds Directive for rare and vulnerable birds listed in Annex I, or Article 4(2) for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I;
- Ramsar sites identified as internationally important wetland habitat under the 1971 Ramsar Convention[29] are also considered in the assessment despite being at the wider international level.

Zone of Influence

3.14 The Zone of Influence (ZoI) for a project is the area over which qualifying interests may be subject to significant effects as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. The ZoI is likely to extend beyond the project site where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries which may result in an impact upon qualifying interests, in line with the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. The ZoI will vary for different ecological features depending on their sensitivity to an environmental change[30]. Note that distances are measured as 'direct lines' on digital mapping; in reality as a result of topography, distances may be greater, for example taking into account slope or cliff height.

3.15 Adopting the precautionary principle, an initial 15km ZoI was applied to identify a 'long list' of sites for consideration within the Screening (see Table 5.1 and Figure B-1 (Appendix B)). The 15km distance relates to specific qualifying species that rely on habitats that are outside of, but functionally linked to, the designation (referred to functionally linked land). Examples include golden plover and pink-footed goose which can rely on foraging habitats up to this distance. None of the European sites within the initial 15km ZoI include such bird species as a qualifying interest.

3.16 A 2km ZoI was therefore applied to the Screening[31] [32] to consider potential impacts on mobile species, including all other birds (Figure B-1).

3.17 A 500m ZoI was also applied for hydrological pathways (Figure B-1). There are no freshwater pathways landward of the project location so this 500m ZoI was applied to the seaward side to a distance of 500m reflecting potential pollution impacts that may result from construction and/ or operation.

3.18 A 200m ZoI was applied for potential species disturbance impacts resulting from noise, light or human activity as a result of construction activities (Figure B-1). This distance reflects the nature and small scale of the works which all occur within existing areas of developed or intensively managed land used frequently by the public.

3.19 Spatial mapping of European sites was downloaded from NPWS. Qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the sites concerned were determined from the NPWS designated site website[33]

Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

3.20 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle was adopted in the assessment of LSE, such that a conclusion of 'no significant effect' has only been reached where it is considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a proposal would not have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site. The screening assessment identifies assumptions that have been applied to enable specific impacts on European sites to either be screened in or out.

Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives Potentially Affected

3.21 Knowledge of the proposed construction and operation was used to determine which qualifying interests/conservation objectives could be affected by the proposed development. Consideration has been given to the potential for the development proposed to result in significant effects associated with:

- Physical loss of/damage to habitat (including functionally linked land);
- Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light);
- Changes to hydrology (water quality and quantity);
- Air pollution (including those resulting from changes in vehicular traffic, dust);
- Recreational pressure; and
- Climate change.

[29] Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971
[30] CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
[31] Wilson, S., Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants & Land Use Consultants (2006). Appropriate Assessment of Plans.
[31] National Parks & Wildlife Service. Designated site data
[32] Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2010). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Second Edition
[33]

3.22 As Strandhill has experienced significant coastal erosion and flooding, consideration of predicted climate change impacts on the proposed design are also addressed using best available evidence. A comprehensive desk study was completed including the 2013 Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study[34] and Coastal Erosion Study[35] to identify the principal vulnerabilities of the qualifying interests concerned which may relate to the potential impacts listed above, either directly or indirectly.

In-Combination Effects

3.23 In-combination assessment considers potential impacts of the project that may not be significant but, in-combination with other plans or projects, may collectively become so (see Chapter 6 impacts of 'No LSE'). It focuses on the qualifying interests that may be affected during construction, operation and/or decommissioning.

3.24 In-combination assessment is completed as part of th e Screening if none of the potential impacts identified have LS E. However, where LSE are concluded, in-combination assessment is conducted as part of the Natura Impact Statement.

3.25 In-combination assessment is not completed if no potential impact (of any scale) is identified.

3.26 An initial list of Plans and projects for consideration in - combination were identified by the LUC team (see Table 3 .2) The list includes adopted and finalised draft plans where t hese are formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

3.27 Projects that may affect the same European sites at which potential impact is identified as a result of this Screening assessment (Chapter 6) were assessed in-combination, taking into account the nature and scale of potential impacts on qualifying features.

Table 3.1: Plans and Projects to be considered in-combination

Plan / Project Name	Description
Project Ireland 2040[36]	Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all and to build a more resilient and sustainable future. The strategy ensures the alignment of investment plans with the stated National Strategic Objectives for 2040 in a considered, cohesive and defined manner. Project Ireland 2040 comprises of the National Development Plan and the National Planning Framework. The Public Realm Enhancement at Strandhill funded by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund will contribute towards this Strategy through developing plans for pedestrian friendly village centres through re-designed public realm areas, walkways and addressing dereliction.
National Planning Framework[37]	A planning framework to guide development and investment over the coming years. It does not provide every detail for every part of the country; rather it empowers each region to lead in the planning and development of their communities, containing a set of national objectives and key principles from which more detailed and refined plans will follow.
National Development Plan[38]	Sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. The NDP is to work in parallel with the National Planning Framework to ensure that the investment strategy supports spatial planning.

[34] OPW. 2013. Irish Coastal Protection Strategy. https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/eed0fb-irish-coastal-protection-strategy-study-icpss/#:~:text=The%20Irish%20Coastal%20Protection%20Strategy%20Study%20%28ICPSS%29%20is,risks%20associated%20with%20coastal%20flooding%20and%20coastal%20erosion.

[35] RPS (2012) Coastal Erosion Study Strandhill Beach for Sligo County Council

[36] Government of Ireland (2020) Project Ireland 2040 Northern and Western Regio: 2020 update [online] Available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/3baee-project-ireland-2040-regionalreports/#2020

[37] Government of Ireland (2020)'The National Planning Framework:. Available at: https://npf.ie/project-ireland-2040-national-planning-framework/#:~:text=The%20National%20Planning%20Framework%20About%20The%20Department%20of,social%2C%20economic%20and%20cultural%20development%20of%20our%20country.

[38] Government of Ireland (2021) National Development Plan. Available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/774e2-national-development-plan-2021-2030/

Plan / Project Name	Description
Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)[39]	The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund was established to deliver on the National Strategic Objective in the National Development Plan of Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities. The Fund provides investment to support suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas, which will deliver on the this objective and achieve sustainable economic and social development in these areas. This Fund is the principle funder of this project.
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly[40]	Policies and projects with potential impacts: ■ RPO 3.7.51 - Cycleways and walking routes – expansion throughout the urban area and outwards to the satellite villages of Ballysadare, Strandhill and Rosses Point, linking into established and planned recreational trails such as Union Wood, Knocknarea etc. ■ RPO 3.7.56 - Tourist attraction – support the development of a major attraction in Sligo Town, as well as further expansion in the tourism functions of villages Strandhill and Rosses Point.
Rosses Point Public Realm Enhancement Project	Public realm enhancement to introduce safe and connected pedestrian and cycle access, rationalised car parking and traffic calming, landscape planting and street furniture. No predicted impacts on the qualifying interests were identified in the AA Screening (LUC, 2023) for the Rosses Point project, at any scale. As such, there are no impacts to consider in combination.

Screening Conclusion Statement

3.28 To support the decision-making of the competent authority, a clear statement of the conclusion reached, and the basis upon which it was reached is provided in Chapter 7. Where significant effects cannot be excluded – either alone or in-combination – full appropriate assessment would be required to inform determination of the planning decision.

[39] RRDF (2022) https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/c77144-rural-regeneration-and-development-fund/#:~:text=The%20Rural%20Regeneration%20and%20Development%20Fund%20%28RRDF%29%20is,population%20of%20less%20than%2010%2C000%2C%20and%20outlying%20areas.

[40] Northern & Western Regional Assembly (undated) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly [pdf]. Available at: https://www.nwra.ie/wpcontent/ uploads/2020/01/adpoted-rses.pdf

Chapter 4
Project Description and Site Context

Project Objectives

4.1 The aim of the public realm enhancements at Strandhill is to "*strengthen Strandhill's position as a unique coastal destination enjoyed by the existing user capacity from the local and wider community. The proposed works seek to re-address the balance between vehicles and pedestrians, creating a safer environment for social interaction and engagement within the unique landscape*" [41].

4.2 Key objectives for the project, as defined by the Planning Section and LUC design team are to:

- Ensure pedestrian safety;
- Strengthen pedestrian connectivity;
- Rationalise parking and traffic movements;
- Reduce traffic speeds;
- Enhance the character, views and heritage; and
- Increase the amount of civic space.

Direct Connection with, or Necessary to, Conservation Management of European Site

4.3 The proposed works at Strandhill are not in direct connection with, nor are they currently considered necessary to, the conservation management of any nearby European sites.

4.4 The proposed project lies entirely within existing areas of hard standing. No Activities Requiring Consent (ARCs) (i.e. specific activities which have the potential to damage a European site[42]) apply to the proposed works.

[41] LUC (2022) Draft Part 8 Report, January.

[42] A list of 38 ARCs has been established, including 'construction or alteration of tracks, paths, roads, bridges, culverts or access routes' and 'works on, or alterations to, the banks, bed or flow of a drain, watercourse or waterbody'. ARCs are not prohibited activities but before being carried out, require consent from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage or by another relevant public authority to which the consent function for that activity falls. It is an offence to carry out an ARC without prior consent. This requirement ensures that the Minister (or relevant competent authority) carries out the necessary environmental assessment to determine if the activity can take place and if any conditions should be attached to any consent given. https://www.npws.ie/farmers-and-landowners/activities-requiring-consent

Project Locations and Site Context

4.5 Located in the village of Strandhill, Carrowbunnaun, Knockaree (OSiGR: G 60357 35875), the project sits on the shorefront of Sligo Bay, between two coastal and estuarine areas of designation:

- the estuary of Ballysadare Bay SAC and SPA lies 200m to the south of the proposed project;
- Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA lies 330m north.

4.6 The project area comprises existing hardstanding (public highway, pavement and car parking); no natural habitats currently occur within the red line boundary. The project will increase the area of vegetated habitats in the form of biodiverse planting, including trees and ornamental shrubs integrated to the public realm at the car park and along the promenade.

4.7 Strandhill beach lies immediately west of the project area (existing shore front promenade), with coastal and estuarine habitats beyond. The existing shore front promenade is separated from the natural coastline by the boundary wall which will remain; the proposed enhancements avoid contact with the existing rock armour.

4.8 Strandhill Golf Course lies to the south, and village residential and commercial properties to the east and north. Outside of the village built environment and road infrastructure, the land use is dominated by rural land uses.

4.9 Drawings describing the nature and extent of the proposed development which will be put on display as part of this Part 8 public consultation process are provided in Appendix A of this report.

Proposed Development Works

Construction

4.10 The date of commencement and duration for construction are yet to be confirmed. For the purposes of assessment, it is assumed that the works will avoid the peak periods in the year when storm surges and overtopping are likely to occur.

4.11 Temporary construction access, storage areas and working widths will all fall within the red line boundary, which lies behind the existing shore front promenade wall. Works will be permitted only where noise and other disturbance are managed within the limits required to avoid nuisance to immediately adjacent residential properties. It is assumed that the successful contractor appointed by the council will be required to adhere to current best practice measures regarding the safe use of chemicals on site, provision of emergency response procedures, dust suppression, silt prevention, etc.

4.12 Proposed enhancements are described below for each of the three project areas – the shore front promenade, Shore Road, and the council car park. Throughout, SuDS measures are embedded within the project design and, as such, are not assessed as 'additional mitigation'. These measures will take into account coastal processes and predicted climate change to ensure the design is fit for purpose in the long term.

4.13 Car parking spaces are being reallocated to the main Council car park from the Promenade. The main Council Car Park will be reconfigured to facilitate this increase in spaces. When compared to pre-covid times, this scheme will provide 44 more car parking spaces to Strandhill. 42 car parking spaces will remain in place on the Shore Front. These will be made up of 10 designated disabled spaces and a mix of age-friendly spaces, unrestricted spaces and short-stay spaces. The exact composition of these spaces will be determined at detailed design stage. The main council car park will have 306 car parking spaces plus 17 disabled spaces and 6 motorbike spaces. Rationalised turning circles, a pedestrian-priority civic space incorporating historic features, and biodiverse planting are proposed including rain gardens along the promenade which will capture and filter surface water run-off.

4.14 The proposed works do not include any changes to the boundary wall which separates the existing promenade from the natural coastline. The works avoid contact with the existing rock armour.

4.15 The focus along Shore Road is the enhancement of the walking route from the main council car park to the sea front. Measures to achieve this include narrowing the entrance point to Shore Road to 3m and providing clear signage of vehicular parking availability. Wider pedestrian footways and quality street furniture along footways are also proposed; all within the existing hard standing. As the enhancement works are surface level, existing site drainage remains i.e. roadway drainage with silt / pollution traps to current highways standards.

4.16 Lighting columns will be installed along Shore Road (detailed design yet to be confirmed). Overhead wires will be removed.

4.17 The works include an enhanced bus stop / shelter at the main car park.

Operation

4.18 Transitioning from vehicular access will improve connectivity for active transport modes – pedestrian and cycle – through the town. No significant net change in the number of users of the site is predicted by the client team.

4.19 Consideration of climate change effects during the operational phase are addressed in Chapter 6.

Decommissioning

4.20 The proposed works will be maintained to support public access and use in perpetuity. Decommissioning is not therefore assessed.

Chapter 5
Identification of Relevant European Sites

5.1 Relevant European Sites were identified using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model, and information on the qualifying interests and conservation objectives. This information was used to conduct a high level assessment with consideration of the nature, extent and programme of work in order to screen out European sites.

5.2 Table 5.1 lists designated SACs and SPA screened into the assessment, including their proximity to the works location. Figure B-1 shows European Sites within each ZoI. There are no Ramsar sites within the ZoI assessed.

Table 5.1: European Sites identified within each ZoI assessed

European site	Direction and distance from each project site	Site Screened into assessment			
		Initial 15km ZoI	2km ZoI	500m ZoI (hydrological connectivity)	200m ZoI (construction related species disturbance)
Ballysadare Bay SPA	SPA located 130m south	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ballysadare Bay SAC	SAC located 260m south	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay SAC	SAC located 320m north	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Cummeen Strand SPA	SPA located 1.4km north	Yes	Yes	-	-
Drumcliff Bay SPA	SPA located 5.7km north	Yes	-	-	-
Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	SPA located 7.5km north-west	Yes	-	-	-
Lough Gill SAC	SAC located 8.6km east	Yes	-	-	-
Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	SPA located 8.8km north-west	Yes	-	-	-
Unshin River SAC	SAC located 8.6km north-west	Yes	-	-	-

European site	Direction and distance from each project site	Site Screened into assessment			
		Initial 15km ZoI	2km ZoI	500m ZoI (hydrological connectivity)	200m ZoI (construction related species disturbance)
Aughris Head SPA	SPA located 10.1km west	Yes	-	-	-
Knockalongy and Knockaree Cliffs SAC	SAC located 10.1km north-east	Yes	-	-	-
Union Wood SAC	SAC located 10.2km north-west	Yes	-	-	-
Ben Bulben, Glenriff and Glenade Complex SAC	SAC located 11.8km north-east	Yes	-	-	-
Sligo/ Leitrim Uplands SPA	SAC located 11.8km north-east	Yes	-	-	-
Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	SAC located 12.9km north-east	Yes	-	-	-
Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	SAC located 13.9km north	Yes	-	-	-

Summary

5.3 Sixteen European sites were identified within the initial 15km ZoI, of which only four occur within the 2km ZoI and therefore considered further. Three sites occur within the 500m ZoI assessed for hydrological impacts (Ballysadare Bay SAC and SPA, and Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay SAC). A single European site (Ballysadare Bay SAC) lies within the 200m ZoI for construction related disturbance.

Chapter 6
Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

6.1 The maintenance of habitats and species within individual European sites at favourable conservation condition contributes to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national and international level. It is therefore necessary to identify any potential impacts of the proposed development on the conservation status of European sites.

6.2 In this section potential impacts associated with the proposed development will be identified before an assessment is made, as to whether these theoretical impacts are likely to cause significant impacts on the European sites listed in Table 5.1 above, in view of those sites' conservation objectives.

6.3 Identification of a theoretical risk does not constitute a prediction either that it will occur, or that it will cause or create an adverse impact. However, identification of the risk does mean that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

Direct and Indirect Impacts of Public Realm Enhancements at Strandhill

6.4 There is no land take from any of European Sites as a result of the proposed works at Strandhill. Potential impacts are identified in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Potential ecological impacts associated with the project

Description of elements of the project likely to give rise to potential ecological impact	Likely changes to arise as a result
Temporary disturbance during construction ■ Movement of construction vehicles and staff, use of construction equipment within the project area (behind and separate to the existing shore front promenade wall) may incur localised noise and visual disturbance. ■ As works will be permitted only within the limits required to avoid causing nuisance to residential properties adjacent to the project area, no marked disturbance on species in the immediate vicinity is predicted.	Risk of potential impact during the working day on species where these occur on the beach in proximity to the work site (within 200m). This theoretical risk is assessed further in Table 6.2.
Construction related pollution ■ Consideration of this risk principally relates to temporary construction works at the shore front promenade (rather than also Shore Road or the council car park) which overtops with seawater during inclement weather conditions and where the distance from potential receptors lie within 500m. As construction is	No predicted impact

Description of elements of the project likely to give rise to potential ecological impact	Likely changes to arise as a result
assumed to avoid the peak periods in the year when storm surges and overtopping are likely to occur, the likelihood of such impact is negligible. ■ Risk of accidental pollution (such as release of fuels or oils to the aquatic environment) or accidental surface run-off laden with sediment/s (such as cementitious material/concrete wastewater resulting from laying substrates to create new road surfaces) would be avoided through compliance with standard best practice construction, to which all council contractors are expected to adhere.	
Operational pollution ■ No change in the quality or quantity of surface water run-off is predicted over and above existing levels. ■ Reduction in motorised vehicle parking may translate to a small-scale beneficial impact on surface water run-off, although the degree of change is not measurable. Existing levels are not identified to pose constraint to the qualifying interests of conservation objectives of any European site within the ZoI. ■ LED lighting columns will be installed along Shore Road, targeted on the public realm areas to avoid light spill or reflection that may affect local nocturnal or crepuscular wildlife.	No predicted impact
Local recreational activity during operation ■ The reduction in vehicular activity through the project area is predicted to be met with an increase in pedestrian and cycle activity. This will incur a shift in the nature and extent of noise and human disturbance from those currently experienced, although no net change in the overall level of use is predicted.	No predicted impact

Consideration of Climate Change

6.5 The 2013 Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study identified Marley's Point to Strandhill as one of three potentially significant areas of coastal erosion in Sligo[43]. Existing rock revetments, coastal paths, sand dunes and the Strandhill Golf Course (fairway at hole 7) have all been recorded as being at risk[44].

6.6 Analysis of the wave climate inshore shows that the wave heights approaching the beach at Strandhill are sensitive to tidal levels with the larger waves approaching at times when the water levels are high[45]. Within Sligo there is a significant risk associated with increasing sea levels as a result of climate change, which will result in significant new areas of flooding from those predicted to be affected in current risk scenarios[46].

6.7 Climate change is predicted to increase sea levels and wave heights and increase the occurrence of extreme winds and extreme storms in Sligo[47]. Consultation with the council teams acknowledge wave overtopping in Strandhill. Although flood risk from wave overtopping was not identified as a significant source of flood risk for Sligo in the Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study, the report does acknowledge there is a significant risk associated with increasing sea levels as a result of climate change which will result in significant new areas of flooding from those predicted to be affected in the current risk scenario[48]. Climate-related threats to qualifying interests particularly

[43] OPW. 2013. Irish Coastal Protection Strategy. https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/eed0fb-irish-coastal-protection-strategy-study-icpss/#:~:text=The%20Irish%20Coastal%20Protection%20Strategy%20Study%20%28ICPSS%29%20is,risks%20associated%20with%20coastal%20flooding%20and%20coastal%20erosion .
[44] RPS. 2012 Strandhill Coastal Erosion Study Economic Appraisal.
[45] RPS. 2012. Strandhill Beach Coastal Erosion Report
[46] Western CFRAM Unit of Management 35 Final Preliminary Options Report: Volume 1 - Overarching Report
[47] Sligo County Council. 2019. Sligo Climate Adaptation Strategy.
[48] JBA Consulting. 2016. Western CFRAUnit of Management 31Final Preliminary Options Report: Volume 1 - Overarching Report

related to loss of sand dunes, especially fixed dunes which usually occur where the wind speed is reduced and the vegetation is removed from the influence of tidal inundation and salt spray. Warmer and more acidic oceans may disrupt coastal and marine ecosystems causing algal blooms or saline intrusion on freshwater habitats/estuaries may occur. This may reduce the quality of foraging habitat for wading and wintering birds. Drier and warmer weather will also likely see an increased in beach tourism and marine activities which would exacerbate existing known recreational pressure.

6.8 Flooding or related impacts such as siltation or urban run-off are not referenced as threats in the conservation objectives or supporting documents for Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay SAC[49], Ballysadare Bay SAC[50] or Lough Gill SAC[51].

6.9 The proposed works will not increase hard standing or alter current drainage regimes. No changes to permeability and thus increase in the presence of standing water or sewerage is expected as a direct consequence of the project. New areas of soft landscape along the shorefront are likely to aid the drainage of the site.

6.10 Increase in visitor capacity is not expected as a result of the public realm enhancements, therefore no further recreational pressure is expected as a direct consequence of the proposed works in warmer and longer climate scenarios.

Potential Effects on European Sites

6.11 To confirm whether there is risk of any LSE as a result of the proposed development, this section considers the European sites identified in Chapter 5.1 within the 2km, 500m and 200m ZoI, assessing each qualifying interest in turn against the impacts identified in Table 6.1.

[49] NPWS (2013) Ballysadare Bay SAC (site code 622) Conservation objectives supporting document -coastal habitat. Weblink: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Ballysadare%20Bay%20SAC%20(000622)%20Conservation%20objectives%20supporting%20document%20-%20coastal%20habitats%20[Version%201].pdf

[50] McCorry, M. & Ryle, T. (2009) Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2009. Weblink: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/McCorry_&_Ryle_2009_Saltmarsh_survey_V4.pdf

[51] NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives Series Lough Gill SAC. Weblink: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001976.pdf

Table 6.2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effect

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	1130	Estuaries	Yes	The Strandhill project area is located 250m south-west of the SAC. However, there are no designated habitats of qualifying interest within the site boundary as confirmed by coastal and marine habitat mapping (NPWS 2013a [52], NPWS 2013b [53]). No loss of habitat or changes to the distribution or quality of intertidal and coastal community complexes will result from the proposed project. The principal vulnerabilities of tidal estuaries are pollution from nutrient enrichment or input of contaminants, invasive non-native species and physical modifications of the watercourse or its flood capacity[54]. The proposed project incurs no increase in risk associated with these vulnerabilities. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect

[52] NPWS (2013a) Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (site code 627) Conservation objectives supporting document -coastal habitats. Pg. 16
[53] NPWS (2013b) Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (site code: 627) Conservation objectives supporting document - Marine habitats and species. Pg. 19-21
[54] European Commission Freshwater Habitat Group (2016) C2.4 Tidal river, upstream from the estuary. Weblink: https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/european-red-list-habitats/library/terrestrial-habitats/c.-freshwater/c2.4-tidal-river-upstream-estuary-1

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
	1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Yes	The Strandhill project area is located 250m south-west of the SAC. However, there are no designated habitats of qualifying interest within the site boundary, nor within 250m of the site boundary, as confirmed by coastal and marine habitat mapping (NPWS 2013a [55], NPWS 2013b [56]). No loss of habitat or changes to the distribution or quality of intertidal and coastal community complexes will result from the proposed project. In Ireland, the overall status of the habitat is inadequate and deteriorating due to decline in habitat area and partly by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster[57]. The proposed project incurs no increase in risk associated with these vulnerabilities. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect

[55] NPWS (2013a) Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (site code 627) Conservation objectives supporting document -coastal habitats. Pg. 16
[56] NPWS (2013b) Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (site code: 627) Conservation objectives supporting document - Marine habitats and species. Pg. 19-21
[57] NPWS (2019) Article 17 Volume 1: The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland 2019. Weblink: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
	2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	No	Presence of these dune habitats are not found within, or directly connected to, the project area. The proposed project will not result in change to the structure and function of vegetation communities. No catchment-level changes to sedimentation or frequency of tidal inundation will result from the proposed works. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect
	2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	No			
	2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	No			
	5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	No	Presence of these terrestrial habitats are not found within, or connected to, the project area. The proposed project will not result in change to the structure and function of vegetation communities. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect
	6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates	No			

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
		(Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)				
	7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	No	Presence of this habitat is not found within, or connected to, the project area. The proposed project will not result in change to the structure and function of vegetation communities. No catchment-level changes to sedimentation or frequency of tidal inundation will result from the proposed works. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect
	1014	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior*	No	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail is restricted to the sand dune habitat at Killaspugbrone, over 500m to the north of Strandhill. No potential construction or operational, direct or indirect impacts are predicted on this species or its habitats, as a result of the proposed public realm enhancement interventions.	N/A	No Effect

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
	1095	Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	Yes	Sea lamprey migrate along the estuary, whjch is located over 1.5km north of the project boundary. No potential construction or operational, direct or indirect impacts are predicted on this species or its habitats, as a result of the proposed public realm enhancement interventions.	N/A	No Effect
	1099	River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*	No	River lamprey is restricted to the upper sections of the SAC river, upstream of Strandhill and as such is not connected to the project area.	N/A	No Effect
	1365	Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*	Yes	Harbour seal breeding and haul-out sites are located over 6km north of the project area. No potential construction or operational, direct or indirect impacts are predicted on this species or its habitats, as a result of the proposed public realm enhancement interventions.	N/A	No Effect
Cummeen Strand SPA	A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*	No	The principal supporting habitat of the qualifying species are intertidal mud and sand flats. This habitat is not located within the project area, nor within 250m of the site boundary, as confirmed by coastal and marine habitat mapping (NPWS 2013a, NPWS 2013b). The subsite of the SPA nearest to the project area (Killaspug Pt - Dorrins Strand West)	N/A	No Effect
	A130	Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*	No			

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
	A162	Redshank *Tringa totanus*	No	is used for roosting and foraging but these are located over 2km from the project area [58]. The project area lies landward of the boundary wall separating the existing promenade from the natural coast. Construction will be manged to ensure potential disturbance impacts will, as a minimum, not incur nuisance to local residential properties and as such, are not predicted to adversely impact the qualifying species populations or the qualifying assemblage. The principal cause of disturbance to birds in the subsite of the SPA nearest the project area was by aircraft, which will not be influenced by the proposed scheme. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.		
	A999	Wetland and Waterbirds	No			
Ballysadare Bay SAC	1130	Estuaries	Yes	There are no designated estuarine habitats of qualifying interest within the site boundary[59]. No loss of habitat or changes to the distribution or quality of intertidal and coastal community complexes will result from the proposed project. The principal vulnerabilities of tidal estuaries are pollution from nutrient enrichment or input of	N/A	No Effect

[58] NPWS (2013) Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area. (Site Code 4035) Conservation Objectives Supporting Document Version 1. Pg 53-55
[59] NPWS (2013c) Conservation Site Objectives SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC 000622. Pg. 20-21

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
				contaminants, invasive non-native species and physical modifications of the watercourse or its flood capacity[60]. The proposed project incurs no increase in risk associated with these vulnerabilities.		
	1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Yes	There are no designated habitats of qualifying interest within the site boundary, nor within 250m of the site boundary[61]. No loss of habitat or changes to the distribution or quality of intertidal and coastal community complexes will result from the proposed project. In Ireland, the overall status of the habitat is inadequate and deteriorating due to decline in habitat area and partly by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster[62]. The proposed project incurs no increase in risk associated with these vulnerabilities. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect

[60] European Commission Freshwater Habitat Group (2016) C2.4 Tidal river, upstream from the estuary. Weblink: https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/european-red-list-habitats/library/terrestrial-habitats/c.-freshwater/c2.4-tidal-river-upstream-estuary-1

[61] NPWS (2013c) Conservation Site Objectives SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC 000622. Pg. 20

[62] NPWS (2019) Article 17 Volume 1: The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland 2019. Weblink: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_...cle17.pdf

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
	2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	No	These dune habitats are not present within, or directly connected to, the project location. The proposed project will not result in change to the structure and function of vegetation communities. No catchment-level changes to sedimentation or frequency of tidal inundation will result from the proposed works. There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.	N/A	No Effect
	2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	No			
	2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	No			
	2190	Humid dune slacks	No			
	1365	Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*	Yes	Harbour seal breeding and haul-out sites are located over 2km south-west of the project area[63]. No potential construction or operational, direct or indirect impacts are predicted on this species or its habitats, as a result of the proposed public realm enhancement interventions.	N/A	No Effect

[63] NPWS (2013c) Conservation Site Objectives SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC 000622. Pg. 24

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
				There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project, such that may impact breeding sites or haul out sites.		
	1014	Narrow-mouthed *Whorl Snail Vertigo angustior*	No	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail has restricted distribution within sand dune habitat at Strandhill, over 200m from the project area. No potential construction or operational, direct or indirect impacts are predicted on this species or its habitats, as a result of the proposed public realm enhancement interventions.	N/A	No Effect
Ballysadare Bay SPA	A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*	Yes	The SPA is located 200m from the Strandhill project area. The principal supporting habitat of the qualifying species are intertidal mud and sand flats. This habitat is not located within the project area, nor within 200m of the site boundary[64]. No roosting sites were found in the subsite of the SPA nearest the project area (area 0C452 - Strandhill)[65].	N/A	No Effect
	A141	Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*	Yes			
	A149	Dunlin *Calidris alpina*	Yes			

[64] NPWS (2013c) Conservation Site Objectives SAC Ballysadare Bay SAC 000622. Pg. 20-21
[65] NPWS (2013d) Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code 4129).Conservation Objectives Supporting Document Version 1 Pg 58

European Site	Code	Qualifying Interest	Potential functional or physical connectivity between qualifying interests and location of proposed works	Justification	Potential source-pathway-receptor identification	Likely Significant Effect/s
	A157	Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*	Yes	There is no anticipated increase in recreational pressure on the designation associated with the project.		
	A162	Redshank *Tringa totanus*	Yes			
	A999	Wetland and Waterbirds	Yes			

Chapter 7
Screening Conclusions

Screening Conclusion Statement

7.1 This Screening has been undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project are summarised in Table 7.1.

7.2 Individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site. An Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required.

Table 7.1: Screening Conclusion

European Site	Qualifying interest	Significant Effects	Potential Impact Pathway(s)
Ballysadare Bay SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose	No Effect	N/A
	Grey Plover	No Effect	N/A
	Dunlin	No Effect	N/A
	Bar-tailed Godwit	No Effect	N/A
	Redshank	No Effect	N/A
	Wetland and Waterbirds	No Effect	N/A
Ballysadare Bay SAC	Estuaries	No Effect	N/A
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	No Effect	N/A
	Embryonic shifting dunes	No Effect	N/A
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	No Effect	N/A
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	No Effect	N/A
	Humid dune slacks	No Effect	N/A
	Harbour Seal	No Effect	N/A

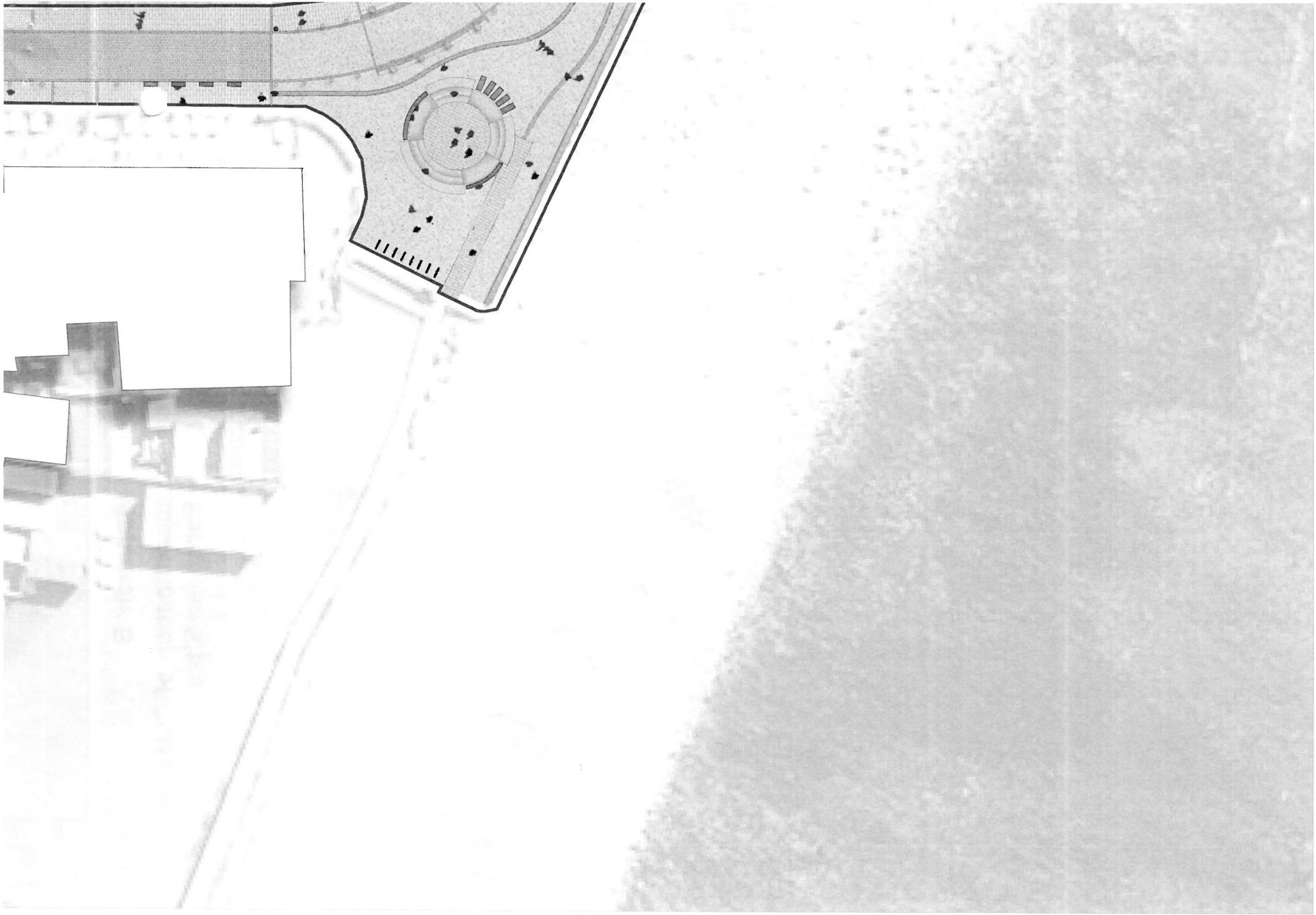
European Site	Qualifying interest	Significant Effects	Potential Impact Pathway(s)
	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail	No Effect	N/A
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Estuaries	No Effect	N/A
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	No Effect	N/A
	Embryonic shifting dunes	No Effect	N/A
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)	No Effect	N/A
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	No Effect	N/A
	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	No Effect	N/A
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (*important orchid sites)	No Effect	N/A
	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)	No Effect	N/A
	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior*	No Effect	N/A
	Sea Lamprey	No Effect	N/A
	River Lamprey	No Effect	N/A
	Harbour Seal	No Effect	N/A
Cummeen Strand SPA	Light-bellied Brent	No Effect	N/A
	Oystercatcher	No Effect	N/A
	Redshank	No Effect	N/A
	Wetland and Waterbirds	No Effect	N/A

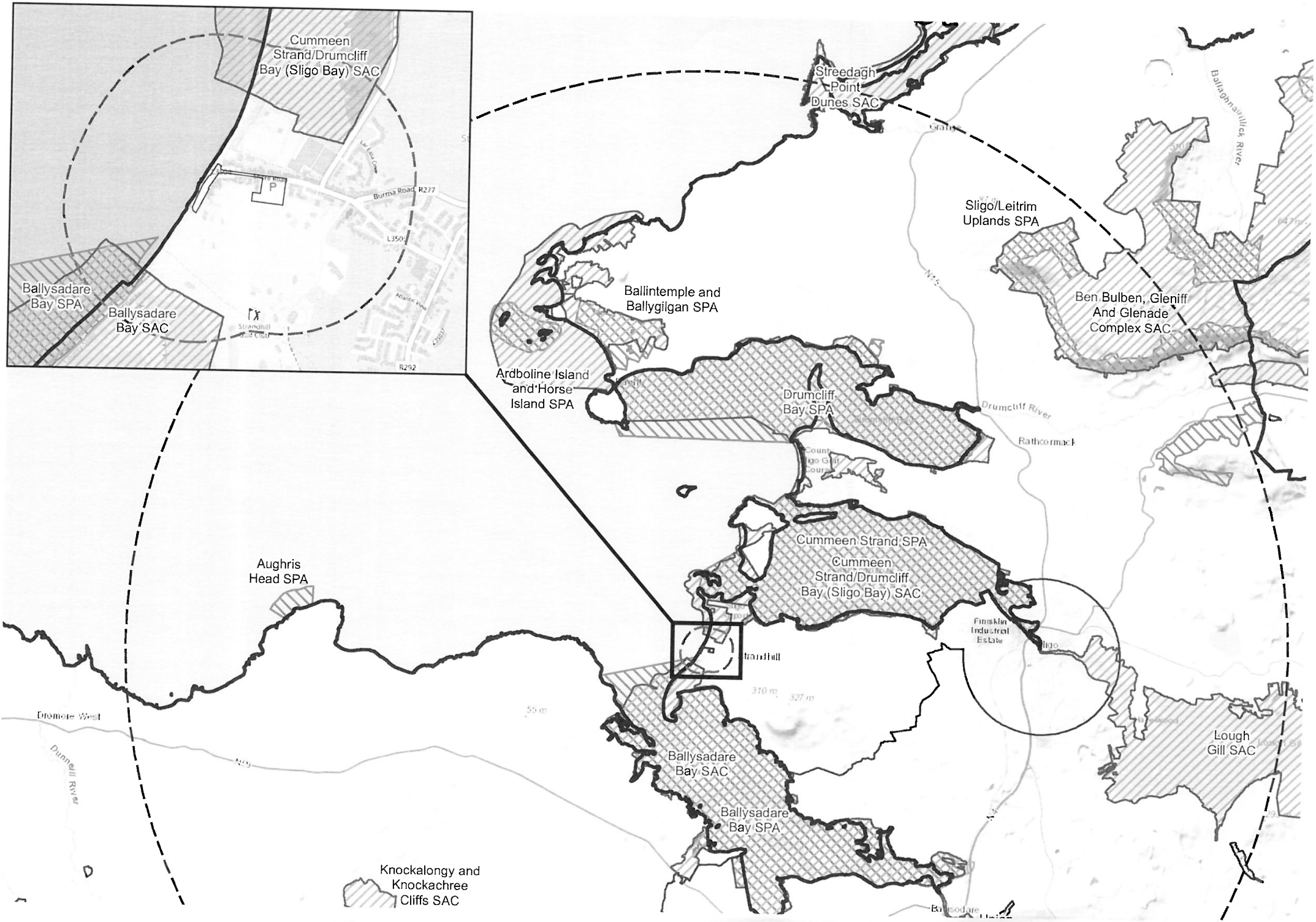
Appendix A

Development Design Drawings

Appendix B

Identification of Relevant European Sites




Cummeen
Strand/Drumcliff
Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC
Ballysadare
Bay SPA
Ballysadare
Bay SAC
Burma Road R277
L3502
R292
Streedagh
Point
Dunes SAC
Sligo/Leitrim
Uplands SPA
Ben Bulben, Gleniff
And Glenade
Complex SAC
Ballintemple and
Ballygilgan SPA
Ardboline Island
and Horse
Island SPA
Drumcliff
Bay SPA
Drumcliff River
Rathcormack
Cummeen Strand SPA
Cummeen
Strand/Drumcliff
Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC
Aughris
Head SPA
Finisklin
Industrial
Estate
Sligo
Strandhill
Dromore West
Dunneill River
Ballysadare
Bay SAC
Ballysadare
Bay SPA
Lough
Gill SAC
Knockalongy and
Knockachree
Cliffs SAC

Procedural Obstruction

Exhibit D

Corporate Services Section *Tel: (071) 91 11111* *Fax: (071) 91141119*
Email: foi@sligococo.ie

ALL FOI's REFUSED

20th January, 2022

VIA EMAIL
ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Dear Ms McKirdy

I refer to the appeal which you made under the Freedom of Information Acts 2014 in response to our correspondence of 22nd December 2021

I am a more senior member of staff than the original decision maker in this case. I have decided today, 14th January 2022, to affirm the original decision made in relation to your request. This review of your request is an entirely new and separate decision.

From my investigations I have established that we received 55 Freedom of Information requests from you 2021, including 8 requests received over the weekend of 18th December.

The volume of requests submitted has impacted significantly on the work programme of the sections concerned and represents a pattern of manifestly unreasonable requests as provided for in the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Having regard to the foregoing, I have decided to affirm the decision made by the original decision maker in relation to your request, and enclose for your information a copy of the relevant sections of the Act which this decision relies on.

You may make an 'application for review' of this decision to the Information Commissioner no later than 6 months from the date of this notification. There is a fee of €50 Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque: crossed and made payable to the 'Office of the Information Commissioner'.

Alternatively you can make payment on-line which can be located at: https://www.oic.gov.ie/en/Apply-for-Review/Fees-Payable/ .

Should you wish to make such an 'application for review' in writing, please use the details below:

Office of the Information Commissioner,

6 Earlsfort Terrace,

Dublin, 2.

DO2 W773

Alternatively you may appeal using the Office of the Information Commissioner on-line application form which can be located at:

https://www.oic.gov.ie/en/apply-for-review/apply-for-review-online/

If an appeal is made by you and accepted, the Information Commissioner will fully investigate and consider the matter and issue a fresh decision.

Yours sincerely,

Jo... Moran
Senior Executive Officer

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
E info@sligococo.ie
W www.sligococo.ie

sligo.ie

Exhibit D

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Withholding Dune / Erosion Report

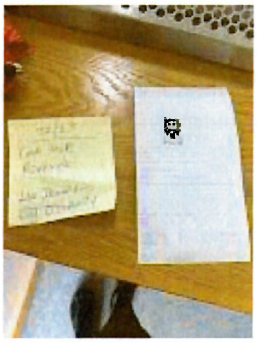
Ray O'Grady FOI 32/23

4 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com> Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 10:06 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

2 years

Sent from my iPhone



IMG_5774.jpg
527K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 10:14 AM
To: Ray O'Grady <rogrady@sligococo.ie>

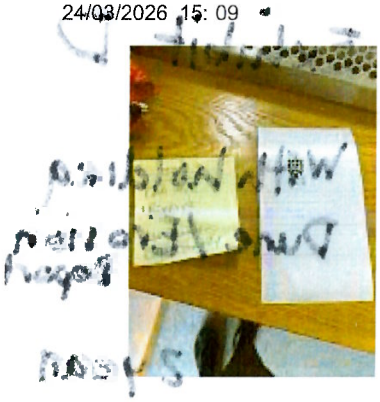
Dear Mr O'Grady,
I'm writing to request the fulfilment of my FOI. I paid the requisite fee on July 28th.
I have spoken to the Freedom of Information head office and they have advised that under the terms of Environmental FOI local authorities are obliged to respond within the time frame.
I look forward to receiving this.

I am alarmed that it is over eight months since Sligo Co Co received the report which took two years of research to publish on the dune system in Easkey and Strandhill and that it has still not been released.

Many thanks,
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

Attached photo of Sligo Co Co reception

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Subject: Ray O'Grady FOI 32/23
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>



IMG_5774.jpg
527K

Ray O'Grady <rogrady@sligococo.ie> Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 12:55 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Cc: Freedom of Information Sligo County Council <FOI@sligococo.ie>, Lisa Dennison <lmcgonigle@sligococo.ie>

Dear Ann,

Further to our conversation today and my conferral with The FOI Central Policy Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform please be advised that the payment of €10 submitted on the 28th of July in relation to FOI 32/23 does not comply with the requirements of the FOI Act, as search and retrieval fees are not subject to reduction as a medical card holder.

Should you wish to proceed with FOI 32/23 please pay the appropriate fees as outlined in correspondence dated 12th June 2023 and attached for ease of reference.

Regards,

Ray

Ray O'Grady,
A/Senior Executive Planner,
Local Enterprise Office,
Sligo County Council,
City Hall,
Quay Street,
Sligo.
F91PP44

+353-71-9114404
rogrady@sligococo.ie
sligococo.ie | sligo.ie

Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

Sligo.

[Quoted text hidden]

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2 attachments

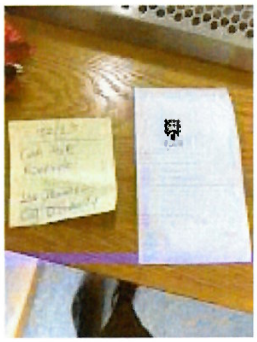
Section 27 Freedom of Information Act 2014.docx
17K

Notification of fees that are within the range for payment and require a deposit - Ann McKirdy - FOI 32-23.docx
2493K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 3:53 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: Tue, 22 Aug 2023 at 10:06
Subject: Ray O'Grady FOI 32/23
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone



IMG_5774.jpg
527K

Exhibit D

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

CCTV

Fwd: C -20-10-343 - data deleted

1 message

Ann McKir ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann Mc <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 11 Dec 2020 at 06:30
Subject: RE: C -20-10-343
To: DPC Info <info@dataprotection.ie>

Dear Mr. Doherty,

I am writing to request that you follow up. I am very very upset that I have been denied access to this CCTV. This is a time sensitive issue which the Sligo Co. Dat
do not add up. I have been thwarted by Sligo Co. Co in every possible manner as I have tried to access information regarding the controversial rezoning and subseq
and historically and ecologically sensitive area. It is in the corridor of an SAC in a Zone of Archaeological Potential, in a visually vulnerable area of National Histori
has gone in blocking my entire view of Sligo Bay, Benbulben and Coney Island.
The purpose of my visit to the Planning Office on August 10th was to see the Development Plan, the original variation when this site was purportedly rezoned. (This
access to it. I asked for the CCTV to prove my request was denied
it had fottage of the Planning Officer, Stephen Ward interrogating me as to why I should want to see an 'old plan'.
That evidence of my visit and the refusal by the Sligo Co Co to honour their legislative commitments to keep these records indefinitely has now disappeared.
I trust you will follow up on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

ATTACHED BELOW ARE THE ITEMS REQUESTED

new FOI

---------- Forwarded message ---------

From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 7:39 AM

Subject: FOI - New Request

To: Sharon Malone <smalone@sligococo.ie>, <foi@sligococo.ie>

Dear Sharon,

Please submit a new FOI.

1-I would like to see CUBE Security's work order from August 24th when they were onsite.

2 -I would like to know who the engineer was and why Brenda Kilgallon Data Protection Officer was not present while data surveillence was being accessed.

3- I would like to know who was present for this secure data retrieval.

4- I would like to know to whom this USB card was given?

5. I would like to know why when it was discovered that the USB key was blank that the Data Protection Officer did not follow up immediately.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

MY FOLLOW UP EMAIL _ received a telephone call in response to my FOI request

Hangouts CCTv Data Request SAR1520 / FOI 57/2

Meet New meeting
Join a meeting

Brenda Kilgannon <bkilgannon@sligococo.ie>

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

City Hall Superintendent <CityHallSuperintendent@sligococo.ie>

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Brenda Kilgannon

Inbox

to me, Sharon

RE: Subject Access Request (SAR1520) for CCTV footage for Ann McKirdy

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I am writing regarding your subject access request for the copy of CCTV footage of you from August 10th, 2020.

Firstly, let me apologise for the delays with regard to my promised response to provide you the chronological details surrounding your request. I wanted to have a full picture

Please find an account of the full details below;

- August 17th, 2020 – The City Hall Superintendent, Davis McLoughlin, received your request for a copy of your CCTV footage by email.
- August 21st, 2020 – David McLaughlin passed the request along to myself (DPO) and sent a confirmation email to you.
- August 21st, 2020 – I asked David to have the security company download the requested footage and we would review it for any needed redaction.
- August 24th, 2020 – Cube securities were asked to retrieve the footage from August 10th. They were onsite and downloaded the footage to a USB key.
- September 7th, 2020 – Due to Annual Leave in the interim, David and myself planned to review the footage for any necessary redaction on this date. David lo
- A request was made to Cube to fix the issue. The security company once again came onsite to try to download and were unable to make a copy of the recor
- September 30th, 2020 – I spoke to the director of Cube and insisted they try to restore the USB as the recording was now past 30 days and could no longer b
- October 9th, 2020 – Cube sent a qualified technician to look at the system and try to retrieve the footage. Both David and I were in attendance. On this date n system fully. Please find attached the work docket from Cube which describes the system issues.
- 21st October, 2020 – David wrote to Cube once again requesting corrective action for the system.
- 23rd October, 2020 - Cube came onsite and made corrective updates to the systems software.
- 11th November, 2020 –David confirmed to me that the system was updated and now operating effectively. Please note the following extract from his correspc "Corrective action was completed on 23/10/20.
  Unknown to us, up until then we did not have a retrieval capacity due to a technical fault with the software. This was only realised when the first request to retrieve f date she requested could not be retrieved due to the fault."

I hope this detail explains the situation. Unfortunately, due to these circumstances, we could not fulfil your data request.

to Tom, Brenda

Dear Brenda,

I am very disappointed by how my request has been handled. It is now November 24th, my request was submitted on August 17th. I wrote to you immediately following our received an email from Sharon Malone to advise me that you would follow up with me. I never gave my phone number to you. I recall how surprised you were when we spo displayed. This was replaced promptly following our conversation.

I am shocked that sensitive GDPR data protection is dealt with by the building superintendent and not the designated data protection officer.

I would like to see CUBE's work order from August 24th when they were onsite. I would like to know who the engineer was and why you were not present as Data Protectior I find it incredible actually that a USB was 'recorded' but returned blank.

This is a huge breach of data protection, moreover, it is unacceptable that David McLoughlin is communicating electronically to update staff on technical details using my na

The dates and details you describe do not match David McLoughlin's account per email below.

I am copying Mr. Tom Kilfeather on this email because it is completely unacceptable that there is a CCTV camera over the public desk, directly above and pointed at the des

The reason I requested this CCTV is that I was denied access to view the original Strandhill Mini Plan, 2011-2013, Variation 1, October 2013. I was interrogated by Barry W Development Plans. This is in breach of the Planning Act 2000.

Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

to dpofficer, me

Ann,

We have contacted our CCTV Service Provider to retrieve the requested footage. Once this is provided to us we will then need to have all images of persons and/ or materi reliant on other parties timeframes. Therefore, I am not in a position to advise when this will be issued but we will endeavour to have it furnished to you at the earliest conve

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this request is processed.

to City

Thank you, there was no other member of the public in the office at the time. The staff were behind the glass screened counter.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

5 Attachments

11 attachments

image026.png
2K

Sligo County Council Comhairle Chontae Shligigh Sligo. **image027.jpg**
6K

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image024.png
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icon.png
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image019.jpg
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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
E info@sligococo.ie
W www.sligococo.ie
Corporate Services Section *Tel: (071) 91 11111 Fax: (071) 91141119 Email: foi@sligococo.ie*

Our Ref. FOI 20/21

20th April 2021

By e-mail

ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Dear Ms McKirdy,

I refer to your request received under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 for records held by Sligo County Council.

In this regard, I wish to advise that I am unable to grant this request under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act which states than an FOI request may be refused if:

'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken'

In regards to the first part of your request which states;
Extract

'I'm writing to request all details of the Environmental Assessment (1. when it was carried out, 2. by whom and 3.when was it approved by the County Manager and 4. County Councillors) which approves the creation of the Killaspugbrone Looped trail over the Strandhill Marram Grass Dunes'

Response
No EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) was prepared for the existing Killaspugbrone Looped trail in the 'Strandhill Special Area of Conservation'. There are no records or documents of the nature requested.

In regards to the second part of your request which states;
Extract

'In addition, I would all the specifics for the Environmental Assessment (1. when it was/will be carried carried out, 2. by whom and 3.when it was/ will be approved by the County Manager and 4. County Councillors) which was undertaken for the proposed new paths over the dunes in Strandhill and any future proposals to link the village to the car park with paths over the dunes.

Response
Sligo County Council are unaware of any EIA documentation available in this regard

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
E info@sligococo.ie
W www.sligococo.ie

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, F91 Y763 or by e-mail to foi@sligococo.ie You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. In relation to an appeal regarding this decision there is a fee payable in the amount of €30. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

In the event that you need to make such an 'application for review' you can do so by writing to:
The Office of the Information Commissioner
18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2, DO2 HE97

Should you write to the Information Commissioner making an appeal, please either refer to this letter or enclose a copy. Alternatively you may appeal using the Office of the Information Commissioner on-line application form which can be located at:
https://www.oic.gov.ie/en/apply-for-review/apply-for-review-online/

If an appeal is made by you and accepted, the Information Commissioner will fully investigate and consider the matter and issue a fresh decision.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Kilgannon

FOI Officer

Gmail **Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>**

Att: Damian Cahill- FOI 20_21 Response

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 9:27 AM
To: OIC Applications Shared Mailbox <applications@oic.ie>

Dear Damian,
I am writing to request guidance. My FOI has been refused. Like I have responded to Sligo Co Co, I know this document exists. It has been buried as it categorically states development of walking trails on the SAC would be detrimental to the biodiversity.
Yet, those trails are now part of a Lub Naisunta, the dunes on the seaward side of all of these trails have collapsed into the sea. This is a fragile ecosystem, and has always been.
Sligo has now revived funding from OPW to research defences for dune erosion management. Yet, their own Environment Impact Assessment was ignored. This is not correct.
Please advise how to proceed with my FOI. I've requested an Internal Review on this Foi which has been refused.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Subject: FOI 20_21 Response
To: Brenda Kilgannon <bkilgannon@sligococo.ie>

Dear Brenda,
I would like to request an INTERNAL REVIEW of my request. I have read the Environmental Impact Assessment and have noted the negative impact the proposed development of a looped trail would have on the Special Area of Conservation. I am requesting this information and all of the items specified in my FOI request.
It is a legal mandate to do an Environmental Impact Assessment for all developments in Special Areas of Conservation.
Please escalate my request.
Many thanks,
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 4:39 PM Brenda Kilgannon <bkilgannon@sligococo.ie> wrote:

> Dear Ms. McKirdy,
>
> Please find attached Sligo County Council's response to your recent FOI request.
>
> Kind Regards,
>
> *Brenda Kilgannon*
>
> *Data Protection & FOI Officer*
>
> *Sligo County Council*
>
> *County Hall,*
>
> *Riverside,*
>
> *Sligo*

PH: 071 911 1301

Email: dpofficer@sligococo.ie / foi@sligococo.ie

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 8:05 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Killaspugbrone

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

E info@sligococo.ie
W www.sligococo.ie

Corporate Services Section *Tel: (071) 91 11111* *Fax: (071) 91141119* *Email: foi@sligococo.ie*

Our Ref: FOI 20/21

24th March, 2021

VIA EMAIL
ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Dear Ms McKirdy,

I refer to your request received on 22nd March, 2021, which you made under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 for records held by Sligo County Council.

Your request sought information, specifically:

All details of the Environmental Assessment (1. when it was carried out, 2. by whom and 3.when was it approved by the County Manager and 4. County Councillors) which approves the creation of the Killaspugbrone Looped trail over the Strandhill Marram Grass Dunes. In addition, I would all the specifics for the Environmental Assessment (1. when it was/will be carried carried out, 2. by whom and 3.when it was/ will be approved by the County Manager and 4. County Councillors) which was undertaken for the proposed new paths over the dunes in Strandhill and any future proposals to link the village to the car park with paths over the dunes.

A final decision on your request would normally be sent to you within 4 weeks, where a week is defined as 5 working days excluding the weekend and public holidays. This means that you can expect a decision letter to issue not later than **21st April, 2021.**

There are some limited situations under the FOI Act which could mean that the period for a final decision may be longer than this 4 week period. If this occurs in the case of your request, you will be advised promptly in writing setting out the reason and the new decision date.

COMHAIRLE CHONTA ESHLIGIGH SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

E info@sligococo.ie
W www.sligococo.ie

Should our final decision not reach you on time, please feel free to contact the decision maker named above to discuss any problems that may have arisen. If you have not heard from us once the allotted time has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff.

In the event that you need to request such a review, you can do so by writing to FOI Unit, Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo or alternatively by sending an e-mail to foi@sligococo.ie.

You should state that you are seeking this review because an initial decision was not sent to you within the time allowed for a response. In that event, you would normally have 4 weeks (after the initial decision should have been sent to you) in which to make the appeal and is subject to a fee of €30. The Council must complete the review within 3 weeks. Consideration will be given to late applications in appropriate circumstances.

You are then entitled to seek a further independent review of the decision if you are not satisfied with the decision on the review of this case, or if you have not heard from us once the allotted time has expired.

You are entitled to appeal the matter by writing to the Information Commissioner at the following address: Office of the Information Commissioner, 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2; Tel 01 6395689; Fax: 01 6395674, email: info@oic.gov.ie .

Yours sincerely,

Pp *S Malone*
FOI Officer

Gmail Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

CCTv Data Request SAR1520 / FOI 57/20

5 messages

Brenda Kil[illegible]on <bkilgannon@sligococo.ie> Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 2:27 PM
To: Ann Mck[illegible] <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Cc: Sharon Malone <smalone@sligococo.ie>

RE: Subject Access Request (SAR1520) for CCTV footage for Ann McKirdy

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I am writing regarding your subject access request for the copy of CCTV footage of you from August 10th, 2020.

Firstly, let me apologise for the delays with regard to my promised response to provide you the chronological details surrounding your request. I wanted to have a full picture and was awaiting final confirmation from the security company.

Please find an account of the full details below;

- August 17th, 2020 – The City Hall Superintendent, Davis McLoughlin, received your request for a copy of your CCTV footage by email.
- August 21st, 2020 – David McLaughlin passed the request along to myself (DPO) and sent a confirmation email to you.
- August 21st, 2020 – I asked David to have the security company download the requested footage and we would review it for any needed redaction.
- August 24th, 2020 – Cube securities were asked to retrieve the footage from August 10th. They were onsite and downloaded the footage to a USB key.
- September 7th, 2020 – Due to Annual Leave in the interim, David and myself planned to review the footage for any necessary redaction on this date. David looked at the USB at some point prior to this meeting and found that the USB was blank.
- A request was made to Cube to fix the issue. The security company once again came onsite to try to download and were unable to make a copy of the recorded data.
- September 30th, 2020 – I spoke to the director of Cube and insisted they try to restore the USB as the recording was now past 30 days and could no longer be downloaded. I called you and explained our situation.
- October 9th, 2020 – Cube sent a qualified technician to look at the system and try to retrieve the footage. Both David and I were in attendance. On this date nothing could be downloaded from any time period. There was a technical error with the system and they needed to come back and update the system fully. Please find attached the work docket from Cube which describes the system issues.
- 21st October, 2020 – David wrote to Cube once again requesting corrective action for the system.
- 23rd October, 2020 - Cube came onsite and made corrective updates to the systems software.
- 11th November, 2020 –David confirmed to me that the system was updated and now operating effectively. Please note the following extract from his correspondence:

"Corrective action was completed on 23/10/20.

Unknown to us, up until then we did not have a retrieval capacity due to a technical fault with the software. This was only realised when the first request to retrieve footage was received, by Ann McKirdy, and was therefore highlighted and corrected as a result. This took some time to complete. Unfortunately the date she requested could not be retrieved due to the fault."

I hope this detail explains the situation. Unfortunately, due to these circumstances, we could not fulfil your data request.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Brenda Kilgannon

Data Protection Officer

Sligo County Council

County Hall,

Riverside,

Sligo

PH: 071 911 1301

Email: dpofficer@sligococo.ie

City Hall Sligo - 09_10_20 - 301059.pdf
201K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Brenda Kilgannon <bkilgannon@sligococo.ie>
Cc: Tom Kilfeather <tkilfeather@sligococo.ie>

Dear Brenda,

I am very disappointed by how my request has been handled. It is now November 24th, my request was submitted on August 17th. I wrote to you immediately following our conversation data. I was not emailed, instead, I received an email from Sharon Malone to advise me that you would follow up with me. I never gave my phone number to you. I recall how surprised instead, the mobile telephone for the building superintendent was displayed. This was replaced promptly following our conversation.

I am shocked that sensitive GDPR data protection is dealt with by the building superintendent and not the designated data protection officer.

I would like to see CUBE's work order from August 24th when they were onsite. I would like to know who the engineer was and why you were not present as Data Protection Officer. I wo I find it incredible actually that a USB was 'recorded' but returned blank.

This is a huge breach of data protection, moreover, it is unacceptable that David McLoughlin is communicating electronically to update staff on technical details using me as a refe

The dates and details you describe do not match David McLoughlin's account per email below.

I am copying Mr. Tom Kilfeather on this email because it is completely unacceptable that there is a CCTV camera over the public desk, directly above and pointed at the desk in the Plan public to view files.

The reason I requested this CCTV is that I was denied access to view the original Strandhill Mini Plan, 2011-2013, Variation 1, October 2013. I was interrogated by Barry Ward as to why Planning Office do not keep outdated Development Plans. This is in breach of the Planning Act 2000.

Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

City Hall Superintendent <CityHallSuperintendent@sligococo.ie>
to dpofficer, me

Ann,

We have contacted our CCTV Service Provider to retrieve the requested footage. Once this is provided to us we will then need to have all images of persons and/ or materials unre us we are reliant on other parties timeframes. Therefore, I am not in a position to advise when this will be issued but we will endeavour to have it furnished to you at the earliest c

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this request is processed.

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
to City

Thank you, there was no other member of the public in the office at the time. The staff were behind the glass screened counter.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments

image025.png
1K

image024.png
1K

image023.png
1K

image026.png
2K

Sligo County Council Comhairle Chontae Shligigh Sligo. **image027.jpg**
6K

Brenda Kilgannon <bkilgannon@sligococo.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Cc: Tom Kilfeather <tkilfeather@sligococo.ie>

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

Please see my response to the points made in your email below;

- Data Subjects have the right of access to their data. The normal process is that I receive all requests as the DPO and these are distributed to the relevant department for actio there is any issue.
- David did not electronically update staff regarding your subject access request. He responded directly to me, as DPO, as to whether the technical issues with the CCTV system
- The camera which is facing the desk in the planning office is there for security purposes only.

Once again, I apologise that there were technical difficulties with the equipment and there was no way for us to fulfill this request.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the response you received from Sligo County Council in relation to your request, then you are entitled to make a complaint to the Data

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner's website is www.dataprotection.ie or you can contact their Office at:

Lo Call Number: 1890 252 231

E-mail: info@dataprotection.ie

Postal Address: Office of the Data Protection Commissioner
Canal House
Station Road
Portarlington,
Co. Laois. R32 AP23.

Kind Regards,

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

City Hall Superintendent <CityHallSuperintendent@sligococo.ie>

to dpofficer, me

Ann,

We have contacted our CCTV Service Provider to retrieve the requested footage. Once this is provided to us we will then need to have all images of persons and/ or materials unre timeframes. Therefore, I am not in a position to advise when this will be issued but we will endeavour to have it furnished to you at the earliest convenience.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this request is processed.

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

to City

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 11:42 PM
To: Eoin Brady <eoin.brady@fplogue.com>

Sligo co co deleted my data after my request for a copy of my CCTV.

This is the record that I had requested first visit to office, first day open to public. My inquiry about the rezoned land in my cul de sac which never was officially rezoned.

Monahan heir to Doyle Hotel group got the land rezoned because he wanted to build on it, no record exists that it was legally rezoned.

In 2013 one site rezoned, this was requested for rezoning but not rezoned.
[Quoted text hidden]

City Hall Sligo - 09_10_20 - 301059.pdf
201K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 3:57 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

City Hall Sligo - 09_10_20 - 301059.pdf
201K

Gmail Proposal 1 opposed Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

SERIOUS CONCERN - URGENT- following the Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

11 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: natureconservation@housing.gov.ie

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:57 PM

To whom it may concern,
I am notifying the National Parks and Wildlife of another proposed path in Killaspugbrone, Strandhill. This proposal is to run a path over the SAC by the National Heritage sure to bring people to the Killaspugbrone beach and Dorrins Strand.
This is an SAC. The impact of the paths which have been installed already have caused extensive irreversible damage over these special areas of biodiversity and conservation. The dunes have been decimated by tramping. I have reported adults coming down the dunes on toboggans, up to 20 texts inside the dunes system where revellers come to party. Moreover, the Sligo Co Co gave permission to the film makers of Ireland's Fittest Family to film the challenge of timed running up the dune face in Shelly Valley, Strandhill. This was broadcast several times on National TV. I have intercepted several football teams , squads of young men, from Sligo Leitrim and Roscommon and alerted them to the SAC status of the dunes and the prohibition for tramping.
It's a disgrace that the Sligo Co Co has not done a proper appropriate assessment. They have advised that in the screening process in conjunction with the NPWS this was not seen to have an impact on the SAC due to the limited scope of potential damage to the SAC. This is outrageous.

The Sligo Tourism has campaigned heavily and promoted this area for tourism, the paths are overrun.

This is not a minor scale, this is decimation on a grand scale.

To whom shall I address my concern? Is this within the remit of the NPWS ? An investigation needs to be undertaken urgently. This is an environmental catastrophe.

Please advise,
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Siobhan Gillen** <sgillen@sligococo.ie>
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021
Subject: Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

15th July 2021

By e-mail:

ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

RE: Complaint to Chief Executive on 9th July 2021

Dear Ms McKirdy,

I acknowledge receipt of your complaint in relation to the development of the Killaspugbrone Looped Walking Trail. In particular, you question the lack of an Appropriate Assessment being carried out prior to undertaking this project.

Under the Habitats Directive, an appropriate assessment is required if a project has the potential to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network of designated sites. As part of the preparation of the Killaspugbrone Looped Trail in 2014, the proposed works were screened by Sligo County Council to determine whether or not they would have significant effects on either the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC or the Cummeen Strand SPA. This screening process was carried out in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and concluded that:

'Having regard to the limited scale of the proposed development and the fact that it will not impact on the qualifying interests of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC and the Cummeen Strand SPA, it can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites arising from the proposed development.'

On the basis of the above determination, a full appropriate assessment was not required to be undertaken in respect of the proposed Looped Trail project.

With regard to your wider concerns about the effects of human activities on our sensitive coastal dunes, it is acknowledged that unmanaged trampling by beach visitors places significant pressure on these vulnerable ecosystems. The use of managed trails like the Killaspugprone Looped Walking Trail combined with appropriate signage (both wayfinding and educational) are well accepted measures to reduce the negative impacts associated with the high volume of recreational usage that these areas are going to attract.

We will continue to work closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the design and ecological assessments of all future walking trails and, where planned in areas within or in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites, that we ensure that they are consistent with the conservation objectives for these designated sites.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán Gillen
Administrative Officer

Planning Section

Sligo County Council,

City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, F91 PP44

+353-71-9114440

+353-872905263
sgillen@sligococo.ie
sligococo.ie | sligo.ie

My Submission was excluded

Excluded

2023 Dev. Plan Submission

Sligo County Council Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Inbox
Search for all messages with label Inbox
Remove label Inbox from this conversation

A

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Waste Water Treatment

Dec 18, 2023, 10:21 PM

to climate

I object to the Sligo Co Climate Action Plan objectives itemised below given the fact that the WWTP in Strandhill has not been assessed for impact on the Environment.

There is a statutory requirement for the Co. Sligo Climate Action Plan to be screened to ascertain whether it has any significant impact on any natura 2000 site. Strandhill Waste Water Treatment Plant was built without having adhered to the EU Habitats Directive for Appropriate Assessment. The Part 8 - Planning - for the 2021 Development was undertaken 14 years prior, in 2007. There are huge anomalies. An environmental impact assessment cannot be undertaken retrospectively. The WWTP is located on an SAC, dumps into an SAC where surfers (bathers) are exposed to dangerous pathogens, moreover, this WWTP is located less than 1km from the Coney Island Oyster Farm.

Strategic Environmental Objectives

Climate Change : Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change - **The Draft Development Plan rezoning of lands in Strandhill for high density development bordering the dunes systems is not aligned with this objective.**

Population and Human Health - Safeguard the Sligo's citizens from environment related rpressures and risks to health and well being including air, water and noise pollution, climate change and flooding - **The proposal to develop land for high density housing in Strandhill is not aligned with this strategy. The Waste Water Treatment Plant on the SAC dumping into the SAC did not adhere to the regulations governing development on the SAC under the EU Habitats Directive - No Appropriate Assessment was undertaken. This area is a very popular surf destination and a protected Special Area of Conservation, moreover, there is an Oyster farm within 1km from this WWTP.**

Submission 2023
Excluded

Safeguard the county's citizens from environment related pressures and risks to health and well being - **again - The proposal to increase the residential population and the load on the WWTP contradicts this objective.**

Biodiversity Flora and fauna - To preserve protect, maintain and where appropriate enhance the terrestrial aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU Designated sites and protected species - The New Draft Development Plan 2024 will negatively impact on this strategic objective.

Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site with regard to its qualifying interests associated conservation status, structure and function. - **Sligo Co. Co. amendment to the designation of Strandhill as a Satellite Village for Development in the Draft Amendment will have a detrimental impact on the status of the SAC's and SPA's as well as on the UNESCO bid world heritage site, Knocknarea.**

To protect maintain and conserve the County's natural capital - **The proposal to develop on R292 which is designated visually vulnerable will have a detrimental impact on the County's Natural capital.**

Water

Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas - Again - the proposal to rezone for high density housing by St. Patrick's Church and Scoil Asicus Naofa school will have a hugely negative impact on the dunes system. The houses in the housing estate behind the proposed rezone have had huge problems with sinking due to being built on unstable sand.

AIR

To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors. The WWTP in Strandhill is emitting a noxious smell - this becomes even more exacerbated following a dry spell of weather.

Theme 5 - Environment - and Biodiversity
30 - 'Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for Co Sligo which addresses all of the relevant climate related issues and includes appropriate actions which supports green and blue infrastructure.

33 Continue to monitor coastal erosion along Sligo Shoreline and maintain existing sea defences considering application of nature based solutions and in live with conservation management objectives of European Sites.

The mission statement for Sligo County Council Climate Action is:

Sligo Co. Co. will become a leader in Climate action, by working with communities and businesses to assist them in finding the best ways for them to reduce their GHG emissions, with a focus on the opportunities in the transport and heating related areas as well as on protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
Goal 3 pg 69 LECP

In a submission to the Sligo Development Plan 2017-2023 by the **Office of the Planning Regulator** the regulator reiterated the **fact that Strandhill is *not* a Key Support Town**. This was changed in the new Co. Sligo Development Plan 2024 outside of the correct Development Planning Process. It was proposed by the David Minton, Manager of the WRA and adopted without public consultation in the Planning Process.

> Chief Executive's Report on submissions and observations received in relation to the Draft Variation No. 1 of Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 21 September 2020 - Issue no. 14 (NWRA recommendation on DA-20) "The proposed amendments are generally considered appropriate but would benefit from amending the term 'Key Support Town' to 'Support Towns' or an alternative term – to avoid confusion with the 'Key Towns' of the RSES as referred to above under No.17. Furthermore, it would be appropriate to include the villages of Ballysadare, Strandhill and Rosses Point under the heading of the Sligo RGC"

Sligo Co. Co. has a legal obligation under EU Law to comply with the protection status of the Special Areas of Conservation and undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment for every development proposal in or adjacent to the SAC.

22
Ballysadare Bay SAC
Humid dune slacks [2190], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at
low tide [1140], Narrow mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation grey dunes [2130],
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria white dunes [2120]

627
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophilaarenaria
white dunes [2120], Estuaries [1130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Narrow mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Seminatural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) * important
orchid sites [6210], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Sea lamprey
(Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [722

SPAs within County Sligo and within a
15km Buffer Zone of the County
4129 Ballysadare Bay SPA Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bartailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Light bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A674], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162]
4035
Cummeen Strand SPA
Redshank (Tringa totanus)[A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Light bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A674]
4013
Drumcliff Bay SPA
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Bartailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]

EPA'S Report 429 identified the climate change risks to Ireland's coastal communities highlighting the importance of building national resilience across socio-ecological and economic systems.

Sligo Co. Co. agreed to implement the recommendations of this report in the Draft Development Plan 2024 which identifies coastal erosion and tourism as two primary pressures along with flooding. These pressures are evident in Strandhill, particularly since 2016 saw the opening of the National Looped Trail across the Dunes and the Salt Marshes which has caused major damage to the dunes systems and biodiversity.

Yours faithfully,

Aine Nic Amhlaidh

Larass, Strandhill, Sligo

A

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Dec 19, 2023, 3:35 PM

to climate

To whom it may concern,
Please confirm receipt.
Thank you,
Ann mcKirdy

P

Pete Murtagh <pmurtagh@sligococo.ie>

Dec 19, 2023, 4:07 PM

to me

Dear Ms. Nic Amhlaidh,

We acknowledge receipt of your submission in relation to the Sligo County Council Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Regards,

Pete Murtagh
Energy Efficiency & Climate Action Officer
Environment Section
Sligo County Council
County Hall
Riverside
Sligo

"Don't waste anything"

+353-0719111254
+353-087 1306858
pmurtagh@sligococo.ie
sligococo.ie | sligo.ie

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Climate <Climate@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Re: Sligo County Council Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

A

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Dec 19, 2023, 6:22 PM

to Pete

Thank you, will you upload or do I need to upload ?
Thanks! Ann McKirdy

A

Ann McKirdy

3:33 PM (0 minutes ago)

to climate

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing to follow up on the Draft Climate Action Plan.
My submission which has been confirmed is not online nor has it been reported on.
Please send me the feedback from the Manager's Assessment of my submission.
Many thanks,
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

A

Reply Forward
Add reaction

Again My submission Excluded

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

marecasserly1@gmail.com ,dbree@eircom.net, paultaylorsligo@gmail.com, keithhenrysligo@gmail.com

9 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:27 PM
To: hubertkeaney@hotmail.com, Rosaleen O Grady <ogradyrosaleen@eircom.net>, Gino O Boyle <ginopbp@outlook.com>, Tom MacSharry <tommacsharry@hotmail.com>, Sinead Maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>, Sean Mcmanus <seanmacmanus@eircom.net>, skilgannonsligo@gmail.com, thealyt@gmail.com, queenanjoseph@eircom.net, dfmulvey@gmail.com, cllrjerrylundy@eircom.net, gormleymargaret@eircom.net, cllrmbaker@gmail.com, Michael Clarke <cllrmichaelclarke@eircom.net>

Dear Mr Keaney, Cathaoirleach and members of the Sligo County Council,

I am writing to you with regards to your request from the public to make submissions on the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Councillors, Sinead Maguire, Declan Bree, Sean MacManus, Marie Casserley and Tom MacSharry for your tireless work on behalf of the Strandhill/Coolera communities.

Accuracy of Draft Plan based on inaccurate residential numbers

I believe there are a number of issues regarding development in Strandhill that need to be addressed. First and foremost, I note that the new Census for this area will not be finalised until mid 2017. I believe that the resident population of Strandhill has increased significantly since the last census and the community is on par with larger towns of 2,000 and above. Thus, the draft plan for this area does not match the requirements for this community as the number of residents is under represented given that the plan is based on the previous census.

Community Center

I note there is mention in the Draft Plan of the need for a Community Center in Strandhill, however, there is no concrete plan to proceed with this. Given the increase in population and the development of this area and growing popularity due to the Wild Atlantic Way Promotion. The sustainability of the *community* depends on the development of this community, we desperately need a Community Center to nurture the community spirit and provide a space for young and old to come together. The Strandhill Community has seen the development of the Killaspugbrone looped trail, the Knocknarea Mountain path and the Development Plan 2017-2023 clearly outlines the intention to develop tourism further. These tourism initiatives boost tourism, however, the environmental impact has been detrimental and the impact on the community is unwelcome; increased traffic and noise, increased pollution, congestion etc. The inclusion of a Community Centre is an initiative that would serve young and old, residents and visitors. I believe it would develop the community spirit which would promote well-being and tolerance. I believe that a portion of the funding that has been allocated to Sligo Leader needs to be ear marked for the development of a Community Center in Strandhill.

Pedestrian Safety

Submission 2016
Excluded =

The Killaspugbrone Looped trail and the Knocknarea hill walk have resulted in a huge increase in the number of walkers and pedestrians on our roads, however, the village has not seen any investment in improved infrastructure for the community. There is a large population of school going children living in Dorrins Strand who walk to and from Scoil Asicus Naofa, every day. There has been no improvement in footpaths or infrastructure in spite of the increase in usage and the huge increase in traffic. This is unconscionable.

My question is, who benefits from tourism? I believe the Community should, not just businesses. It is my belief that children, vulnerable children aged 4-12 who walk to school (in semi darkness in the winter) should be prioritised over plans to develop paths for tourists. The Community needs footpaths, more pedestrian crossings (particularly at the roundabout) and improved street lighting. I acknowledge Sinead Maguire's work to promote road safety in Strandhill.

Looped Trail

Killaspugbrone Looped Trail and sustainable development

I would like to bring to your attention that there was no public consultation on the development of the Knocknarea Mountain walk or the Killaspugbrone looped trail. The latter of which is in the Ballysadare Bay Special Area of Conservation, this Killaspugbrone looped trail directs walkers across delicate dunes with a fragile ecosystem. The Sligo County Council has been tasked with the preservation of this delicate eco system and is in breach of its duty. It should never have opened a National Looped Trail across these dunes.

I have read and carefully studied the Sligo County Council's Assessment for this site, it is not an accurate assessment and is based on the *false premise* that there was an existing looped trail in use over this site. I have documentary evidence and local knowledge that contradicts this. This path cannot be sustained. The County Council own signage is admission that the level of traffic over these dunes is unprecedented.

The Council has access to the European Special Area of Conservation reports, however, the survey that was completed to assess this site was inadequate and completely flawed. Per the European Special Area of Conservation recognition of this site, '*00622, threats to the site includes ; Recreational/ Amenity use, Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Tourism Related development , Introduction of invasive species and illegal dumping.*' These dunes have been decimated by the opening of the Killaspugbrone Looped trail.

The Sligo County Council's 2017-2023 plan is to maintain existing trails and further establish looped trails. No further trails can be approved without adequate research into the environmental impact on the special areas of conservation and consultation with the community. The current trail, the Killaspugbrone loop is in severe contravention of the Habitat Directive for this SAC and if it is to remain open will need to have a raised path installed to contain walkers. This path is unmonitored and is frequently used by horseback riders.

Dune Management

There has been some fencing of the dunes to the left of the promenade in Strandhill to prevent walkers tramping the dunes, however, to date there has been no replanting. The plan must include a schedule of replanting of Marram Grass to stabilise the dunes. According to the Council's plan,

> *OCP 3, p 123 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and carry out appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions subject to availability of resources and compliance with Habitat Directive. Where appropriate continue to employ soft engineering techniques, ie. Dune stabilisation and planting.*
> *OCP - Identify, prioritise and implement Coastal protection works within the coastal zone where considered necessary subject to the availability of resources and compliance to habitat directive.*

Effective monitoring is not happening.

Sewage

Residential Property Development

The residential development of 34 new homes on Top Road contravenes the Councils directive that no new dwellings will be permitted until the new sewage treatment plant is operational. There are housing developments that were approved before the down turn in the economy. Though planning permission was approved, it has now become apparent that the Sewage Treatment Facility cannot cope with any additional waste treatment. I have read that works to improve this facility are to begin in the new year, however, given the delays and the nationwide problems with upgrading sewage treatment plants and the fact that the plant has already exceeded capacity and the noxious odour from the sewage treatment plant can be smelled from as far away as the Burma road, it is in contravention of the County Council's own directive not to approve any further residential developments until the sewage treatment facility is fully operational. I note there is planning permission for a further development in Carrowbunnaun to be decided in January 2017.

Infrastructure

There is also the issue of Infrastructure, specifically the proposed new road linking Airport Road, R277 with R292, this plan was rejected based on an environmental impact in the former plan 2013-2017. This cannot be put back on the agenda without a full external environmental impact review. I do not believe the underlying environmental concerns have changed, thus, it cannot be reinstated without consultation with the previous professionals who vetoed this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as representatives of the community for all your hard work as County Councillors and look forward to your feedback on the above suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKiray

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif

Sinead Maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 11:20 AM

Hi Anne

Thank you for your email and kind remarks.

I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the issues raised and wonder if there is a time convenient for you?

Kind regards

Sinéad Maguire

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
To: Sinead Maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>
Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 12:36 PM

Good morning Sinead,
Thank you for getting back to me. I can meet you tomorrow morning 9.45-10 am if that suits?
Otherwise next week.
Please let me know if that suits.
Thank you,
Ann
[Quoted text hidden]

Sinead Maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 2:04 PM

Hi Anne

That's perfect, where would you like to meet?

Sinéad

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
To: Sinead Maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>
Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 2:42 PM

Hi Sinead,
How does Shells Cafe sound? I'm not sure if it will be too busy, acoustics can be a challenge there when it's busy.
I'm flexible, I can meet in town if that suits you better.
Thanks
Ann
[Quoted text hidden]

Sinead Maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 4:03 PM

No that's great Ann let's go with that.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 7:39 AM

Draft amendment 2017-2023
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 7:41 AM

To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

objection 2017-2023

---------- Forwarded message ---------
Fro **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:27 PM
Subject: mariecasserly1@gmail.com ,dbree@eircom.net, paultaylorsligo@gmail.com, keithhenrysligo@gmail.com
To: <hubertkeaney@hotmail.com>, **Rosaleen O Grady** <ogradyrosaleen@eircom.net>, **Gino O Boyle** <ginopbp@outlook.com>, **Tom MacSharry** <tommacsharry@hotmail.com>, **Sinead Maguire** <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>, **Sean Mcmanus** <seanmacmanus@eircom.net>, <skilgannonsligo@gmail.com>, <thealyt@gmail.com>, <queenanjoseph@eircom.net>, <dfmulvey@gmail.com>, <cllrjerrylundy@eircom.net>, <gormleymargaret@eircom.net>, <cllrmbaker@gmail.com>, **Michael Clarke** <cllrmichaelclarke@eircom.net>

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 2:02 PM
To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:27 PM
Subject: mariecasserly1@gmail.com ,dbree@eircom.net, paultaylorsligo@gmail.com, keithhenrysligo@gmail.com
To: <hubertkeaney@hotmail.com>, **Rosaleen O Grady** <ogradyrosaleen@eircom.net>, **Gino O Boyle** <ginopbp@outlook.com>, **Tom MacSharry** <tommacsharry@hotmail.com>, **Sinead Maguire** <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>, **Sean Mcmanus** <seanmacmanus@eircom.net>, <skilgannonsligo@gmail.com>, <thealyt@gmail.com>, <queenanjoseph@eircom.net>, <dfmulvey@gmail.com>, <cllrjerrylundy@eircom.net>, <gormleymargaret@eircom.net>, <cllrmbaker@gmail.com>, **Michael Clarke** <cllrmichaelclarke@eircom.net>

[Quoted text hidden]

Dune Removal
ENF 3060

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

FW: ENF 3060- Removal of Dunes in Carrowbunnaun and clearing sensitive land

Enforcement <enforcement@sligococo.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 6:29 PM

If your email relates to a complaint regarding an unauthorised development, we advise you to submit your complaint online as per the following link which will enable the Enforcement Section to deal with the complaint more efficiently.

https://www.sligococo.ie/planning/Enforcement/EnforcementofPlanningControl/MakingaComplaint/

The matter will be investigated, and a response will issue in due course.

****

Má bhaineann do ríomhphost le gearán maidir le forbairt neamhúdaraithe, molaimid duit do ghearán a chur isteach ar líne de réir an naisc seo a leanas, a chuirfidh ar chumas na Rannóige Forfheidhmithe déileáil leis an ngearán, ar bhealach níos éifeachtaí.

https://www.sligococo.ie/planning/Enforcement/EnforcementofPlanningControl/MakingaComplaint/

Déanfar an cheist a fhiosrú, agus eiseofar freagra in am tráth.

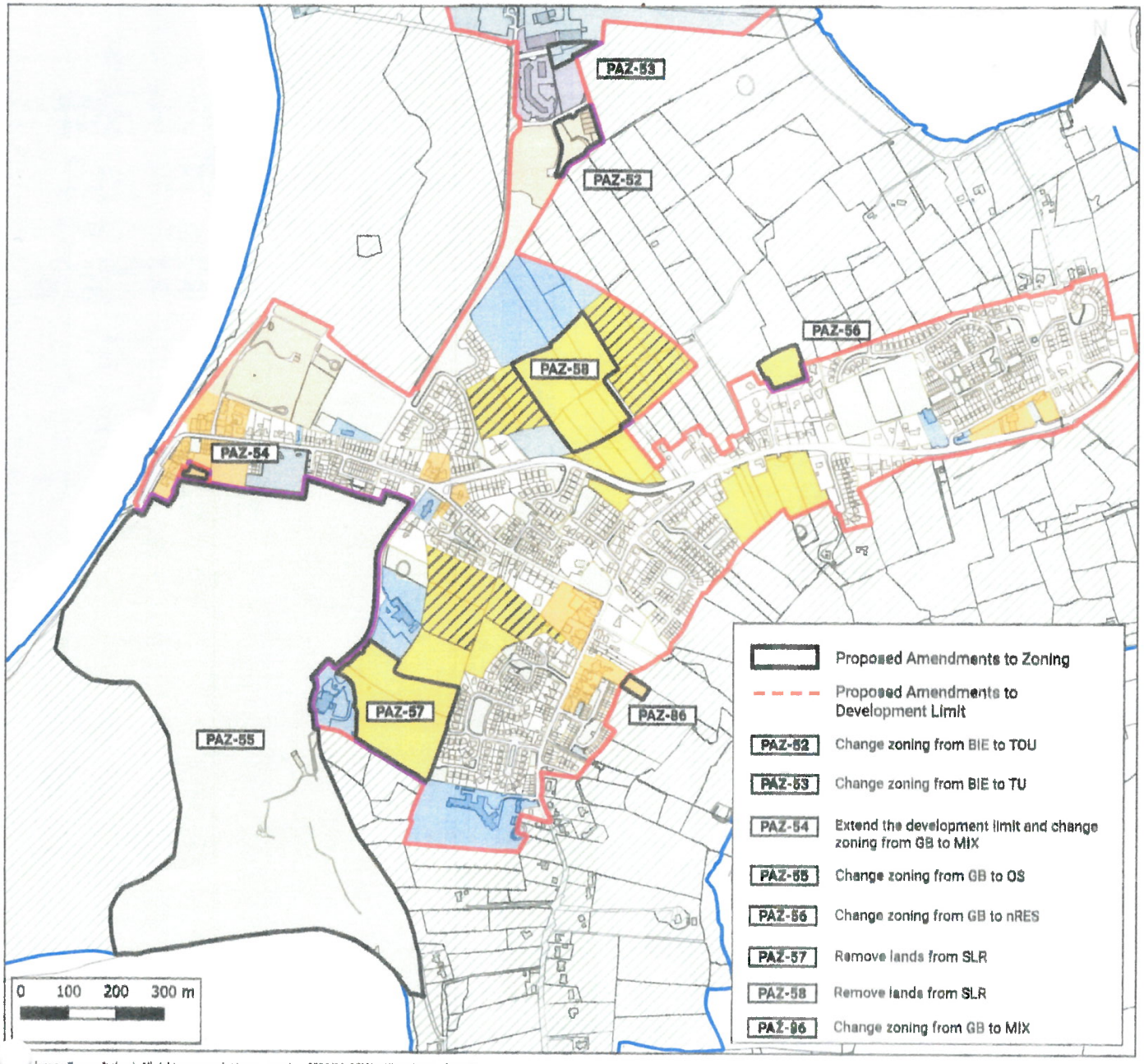
From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:28:33 PM
To: Enforcement <enforcement@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Re: FW: ENF 3060- Removal of Dunes in Carrowbunnaun and clearing sensitive land

[Quoted text hidden]

Planning Application Approved

Dune Removal
Strandhill
Application was
Approved
Feb 26
I appealed to ABP

Current Zoning



Strandhill

Proposed Amendments to Zoning

- Plan Limit
- Development Limit
- MIX - mixed uses
- eRES - existing residential areas
- nRES - new residential uses
- CF - community facilities
- BIE - business, industry, enterprise
- OS - open space and recreational amenities
- TU - transport and utilities infrastructure
- TOU - tourism
- SLR - Strategic Land Reserve
- GB - Green Belt

07.06.2024

rdnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. Licence number 2020/30 CCMA/ Sligo County Council

Controversial Rezoning

Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

Unique Reference Number: SLG-C61-76
Status: Submitted
Submission:
Strandhill public realm oppose Part 8 proposal

Author: Ain

Consultation:
Strandhill Public Realm Enhancement

Date Created: 11.04.2025 - 06:20
Date Submitted: 11.04.2025 - 06:56

Observations:

Object to Part 8 Proposal

Chapter: Public Notice

• I am writing to you with regards to this proposed PART 8 Development in Stranhdill. I believe this development necessitates An Environmental Impact Assessment given that it is within 100 m of the High Tide mark which requires that it is notified to the Department of the Marine.

• It is within 100 m of the SAC

• It is within 100 m of a National Heritage Monument – The Shelly Valley

• Recent Archaeological Assessment near the St. Patrick's National school in proximity to this development revealed a midden, which is an important archaeological find showing early settlement in this area.

• This site – Marram Grass Dunes - for the car park and the proximity to the Shelley Valley Middens, requires a full environmental and archaeological assessment

• This entire area has special orchid species and is also potentially protected habitat for whorl snail.

• This area is highly sensitive to coastal erosion.

• Strandhill has been inundated with visitors and tourists since the opening of the Lub Naisiunta Trails which cross the special areas of conservation including sensitive h tats and saltmarshes. The volume of tourist is close to half of one million. This is completely unprecedented and unsustainable.

• This also is an issue for the Waste Water Treatment as the plant is newly built however severe noxious odors and has been using unlicensed waste treatment provider to clear the excess waste two times weekly since it opened in 2021.

The Vulnerable in our community

this proposal ignores the needs of the most vulnerable in our community, the young, the elderly and disabled.

children are at risk of hypothermia given their physiology, this is highly documented and scientifically very well researched. Children's risk of hypothermia is significantly greater than that of adults given their body composition. They need to be able to get to their parents car quickly.

Adult monitoring children surfing - given our inclement wet weather and the fact that it is cold, windy and rainy most days, for families with more than only child, it is impossible to monitor the surfing children and the non surfing children without shore front access to see the sea.

National Foreshore Policy:

it is the law that access to the foreshore cannot be denied to the community. This proposal denies access . It is dishonest and disrespectful to claim that blue sticker parking will suffice. Anyone with an elderly family member can attest to the fact that the criteria for eligible for this permit is so restrictive. Furthermore, the waiting period etc excludes those temporarily disabled.
this is shameful discrimination.

Sligo County Development Plan: Strandhill is not currently listed as having a special tourism function. The removal of this designation has facilitated the council increasing the housing d sity for residential purposes. The wastewater treatment plant and the environment cannot cope with the influx of tourists.

It would appear that Sligo Co Co has a mandate to turn Strandhilll into a Tourism Industry without regard for the infrastructure or the needs of the local community, children, families, the elderly, the disabled, those who are most vulnerable.

misleading Waste Water Capacity

The current interim Development plan proposes that there is headroom capacity for the increase by 2500 PE (People Equivalent in residential terms) however, where is the waste disposal for all of the visitors calculated ?

Surely recreational waters for the surfing community must be considered for health and safety reasons? Strandhill is the location of the only National Surf Centre in the country, it is located within 300m of the waste water treatment plant. How safe is it for surfers to be in those waters? The level of Ammonia being disposed to sea has exceeded the National limit since the opening of this plant, furthermore these waters are classified as 'shellfish waters' given the fact that they support the hugely successful Oyster Shell Fish Farm also within 500 m of the water water treatment plant.

Strandhill is first and foremost a residential community. The residents have voiced their concern. Our concerns are being ignored.

European Mandate : Sligo Co Co is required under EU Habitat Protection and Birds Directive to fully environmentally assess all Development Proposals, this in hides assessing for development impact on protected species and assessing the impact on humans. The shocking devastation of the. salmon population, decimated last summer in Ballisodare bay is an indicator that the sewage and waste being disposed is a risk to human life.

Antisocial behaviour and public Safety: it is unsafe to have public areas cut off from a flow of traffic, this has been a universal concern and has been very well researched and documented is cornerstone of public realm development. This proposal will invite antisocial behaviour. There is no Garda presence in Strandhill, it has been self regulating and managed with the local community.

I trust that you will agree with the above and refuse this proposal.

Main opinion:

Strongly object to Public Realm proposal

Main requests:

Refuse this proposal

Main reasons:

Vulnerable in our community, health and safety and environmental concerns

---

Documents Attached: No
Boundaries Captured on Map: No

FOI 126/21 Visitors Killarpugbarone

FOI 126/21 Report

Reference FOi 127/21 see extract email below

Dear Sharon , Siobhan and FOI officer,

1. Please issue an FOI for the statistics of all People counters on a per month basis since date of installation in Strandhill, Coolera Peninsula and Knocknarea mountain walk access points.

2. I would also like the minutes of the County Council meeting to approve these counters- and who proposed them.

3. I request the purpose of gathering these statistics.

4 I request the funding source for these units, cost per each and funding source per each.

Sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

Report: response provided based on above;

1. Data records, as follows.

Units of monthly figures are for each time the sensor or detection beam of the counter was broken only.

Monthly figures:

Queen Maeve Trail

April 2843

May 2911

June 3696

July 4059

A 138

Sept 2500

Oct 1388

Knocknarea Trail

April 2238

May 2442

June 3967

July 4343

Aug 5594

Sept 2086

Oct 1133

Airport

April 5195

May 4666

June 4533

July 6312

Aug 4700

Sept 2465

Oct 1344

Strandhill Carrowbunnaun

April 7807

May 8449

June 11909

July 14411

Aug 16272

Sept 8813

Oct 4272

2. No records.
3. To seek to establish user numbers.
4. Sligo County Council: €2585.25/counter

Trail Gazers Meeting takes place at Sligo Airport

Posted on November 3, 2021

As part of the Trail Gazers Project which looks to develop walking trails sustainably, a group of stakeholders, business owners and members of community groups met at Sligo Airport in Strandhill yesterday, Tuesday November 2nd. The aim was to inform those in attendance of plans to develop and protect the walks and to invite input from the public.

The meeting began with a description by the Trail Gazers team of current and recent works on the Queen Maeve Trail on Knocknarea and on the coastal walk at Killaspugbrone. Those in attendance were invited to provide feedback to this presentation, and to put forward ideas and proposals for the development of these walks in a sustainable and manageable way.



Steering Group at Trail Gazers meeting at Strandhill Airport – photo SligoWalks.ie

As we have seen in recent times, with people staycationing in Ireland due to the pandemic and also because of climate change concerns, there has been a significant increase in walking numbers on these trails. Digital counters have been installed at four locations along the routes and these statistics, presented to the meeting by Sorcha Sheehy of Sligo County Council, identify trends relating to the

busiest periods for walking at the locations, and which access points are the most utilised.



Michael Carty of Trail Gazers

It was found that while both walks are very popular with locals and visitors alike, there are challenges ahead in particular in relation to the Killaspugbrone walk. The walk is located in a Special Area of Conservation, and the terrain has also been subject to coastal erosion. In addition, most walkers access the walk at the access point beside the cannon in Strandhill, which suggests that other access paths to the walk could be created to accommodate walkers and to ease congestion during the Summer.

Several other other suggestions and recommendations were put forward by those in attendance, and Michael Carty of Sligo County Council thanked the public for their input.

"We need to manage these walks, develop them in a way that will encourage people to walk to improve physical and mental health. But we also need to do so in a sustainable way which respects the landscape, creates awareness of our heritage and maintains environmental awareness. We also want to include the community in forward planning, and this includes businesses who want to better engage with the increasing numbers of people who walk on Knocknarea or at Killaspugbrone, but we all need to cooperate in a constructive and balanced way. I thank all of those who attended today and provided insight during the discussions."

The Trailgazers workshop was led by Michael Carty and Sorcha Sheehy of Sligo County Council, by Micheál Ó Domhnaill of Omedia and facilitated by the staff of Sligo Airport.



Trail Gazers organizing team Michael Carty, Sorcha Sheehy and Micheál Ó Domhnaill – photo SligoWalks.ie

Trail Gazers is an initiative which involves 10 different European partners and which aims to revitalise, regenerate and re-imagine rural communities by developing a 'shared vision' for the future sustainable development of the trail site, its natural and cultural assets and surrounding towns, villages and countryside. For more visit www.trailgazers.eu.

Photos Killaspugbrone
Lub Naisiunta

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=neil%20byrne

Photos posted by Neil Byrne from Mammy Johnston's Icecream Parlour in Strandhill today on facebook (10/1/2021)

These were the Dunes a few years ago, looking from Strandhill towards Killaspugbrone – My guess is these photos were taken approximately two years after the opening of the trail in April 2016 as fencing was only installed following numerous petitions and photos by email I submitted to Sligo Co. Co. I understand others too were seeking protection for the dunes following the evidence of significant coastal erosion.





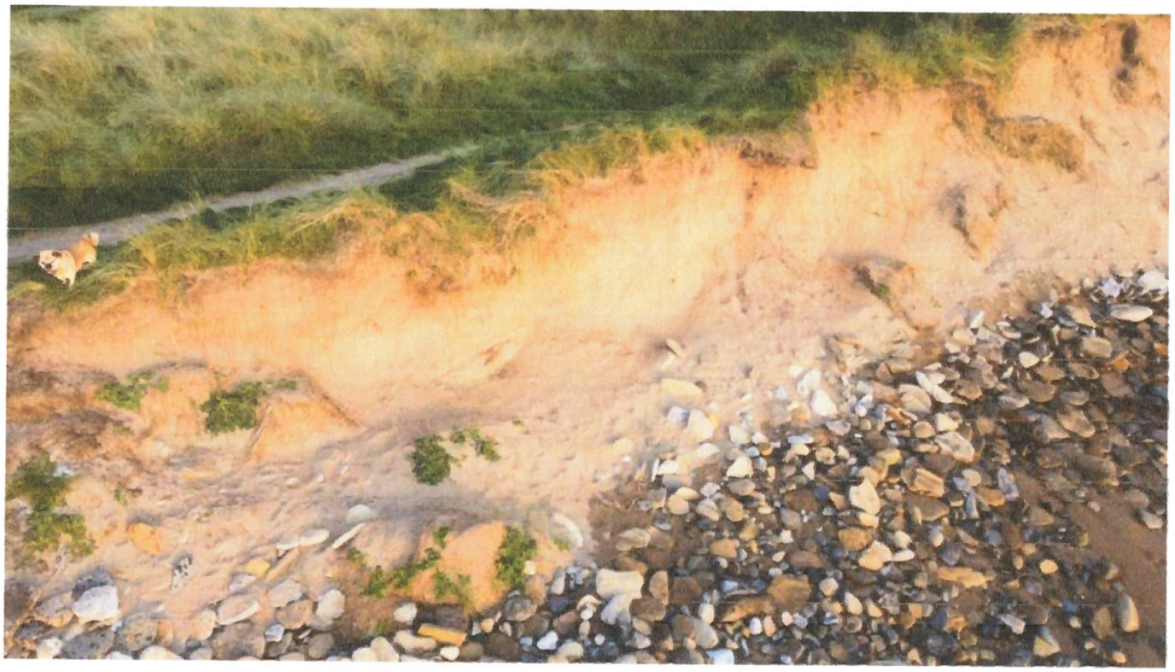
Today – Photo above – What the same area looks like January, 10th 2022. Please also note the intrusion of the two large electricity posts, this is the site of the new Waste Water Treatment plant for which the Sligo Co. Co received millions of Euro's to upgrade, NO EIA or AA or Part VIII was done.

Apparently, the EU legislation does not apply to Sligo and environs.









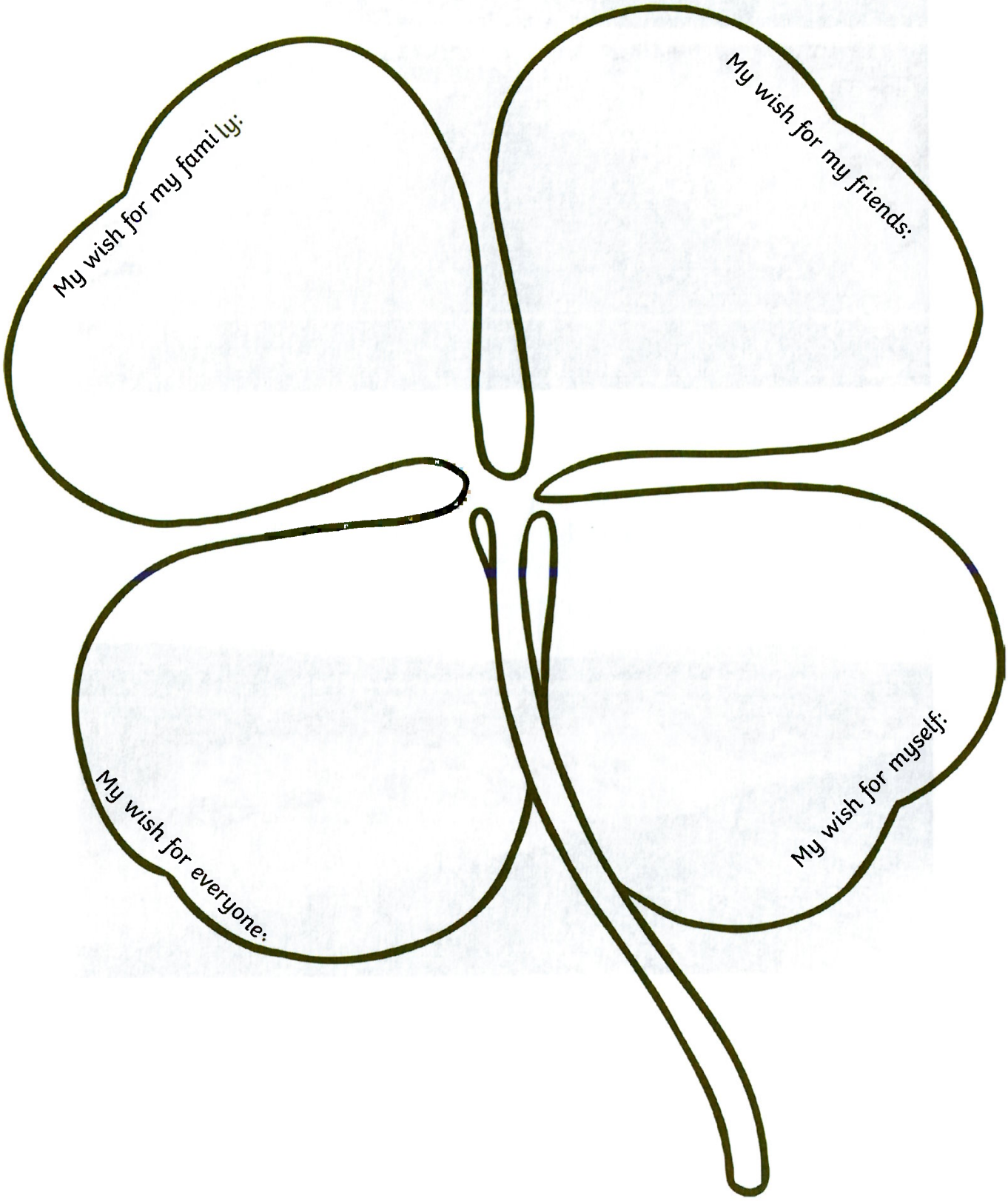








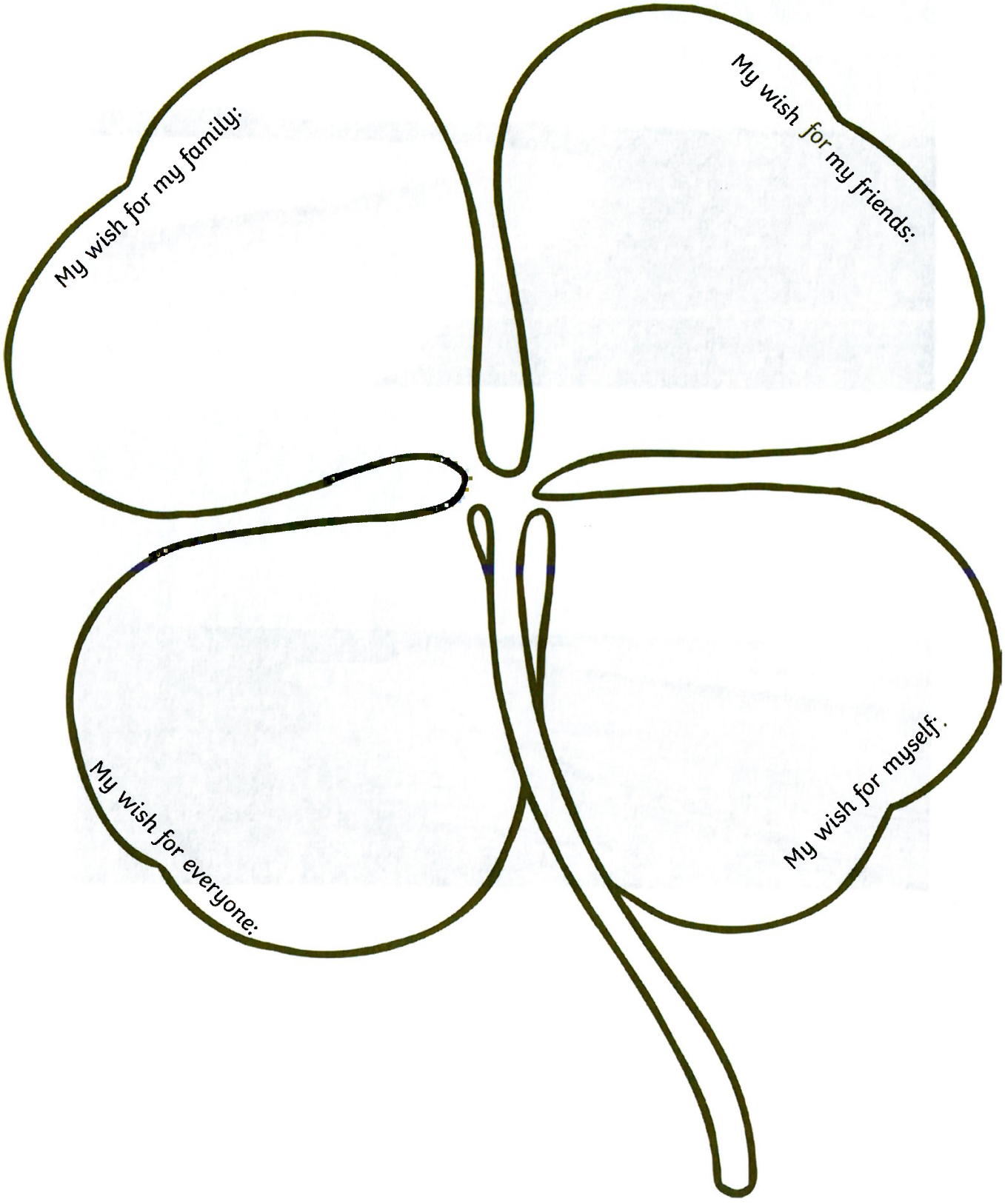
Wishing on a Lucky Clover







Wishing on a Lucky Clover







Wishing on a Lucky Clover

