	E i-iii. Objectives re design and development standards for promenade site (MIX 1).	No impacts identified.	n/a
	F. Objective re urban design along Buenos Aires Drive (MIX 2 and MIX 3)	No impacts identified.	n/a
	G i-iii. Objectives re elements to be incorporated into development proposals for MIX 2 (existing Council car park).	No impacts identified.	n/a
	H. Objective re urban design for existing property at MIX 3.	No impacts identified.	n/a
	I i-ii. Objectives re urban design for development proposals at site MIX 4.	No impacts identified.	n/a
44.5 Transport, circulation and parking	A. Objective re land reservation for a New Airport Road.	Potential negative impact on Natura 2000 sites. Construction of New Airport Road has potential for negative impact on Natura 2000 sites due to site preparation, road construction, future management and use/introduction of invasive species. Future road development should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level.	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC
	B. Objective to reserve land for the creation of New Burma Road.	No impacts identified.	
	C. Objective to extend Promenade in a northerly direction to link with existing airport road as indicated on the Objectives Map, while incorporating coastal protection measures.	Potential negative impact on Natura 2000 sites arising from promenade development and associated coastal protection measures. Initiatives which increase human use and access to the coastal zone have the potential to give rise to impacts on habitats and cause disturbance to birds and other	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC Ballysadare Bay cSAC

		species generally. At present there is erosion of the dune systems at Strandhill. The proposed transport hub at TRANS 2 will add further to existing recreational pressure on habitats and species. Construction of a promenade and link road have potential for negative impact on Natura 2000 sites due to construction, future management and use/introduction of invasive species and by increasing recreational pressure within Natura 2000 sites. Future promenade and link road development should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level.	
	D. Objective re provision of footpaths and public lighting throughout the village.	No impacts identified.	n/a
	E. Objective to upgrade Golf Club Road.	No impacts identified.	n/a
	F. Objective requiring all new developments to provide for special mobility needs.	No impacts identified.	n/a
	G. Objective to improve traffic flow on existing promenade.	No impacts identified.	n/a
	H. Objective to reserve land along Burma Road for a Public Transport Node (TRANS 1).	No impacts identified.	n/a
	I. Objective re road junction improvements.	No impacts identified.	n/a
44.6 Community Facilities	A. Objective to support improvement and further development of existing sports facilities adjoining the Airport Road.	No impacts identified.	n/a

	B. Objectives requiring any proposed development of community facilities at the Greenfield site at CF1 to provide a range of facilities.	Potential negative impact on Natura 2000 sites. Construction of Community Facilities at CF1 has potential for negative impact on Natura 2000 sites due to site preparation, construction, future use and management and use/introduction of invasive species. Future development should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level.	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC Cummeen Strand SPA
	C. Objective to require flood risk assessment for any proposed development at CF1.	No impacts identified.	n/a
44.7 Tourism Development	A. Objective to promote tourism related-infrastructure to increase visitor numbers and local employment.	Potential negative impact on Natura 2000 sites. Initiatives which increase human use and access to the coastal zone have the potential to give rise to impacts on habitats and cause disturbance to birds and other species generally. Future tourism related infrastructure development should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level.	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC Ballysadare Bay cSAC Cummeen Strand SPA Ballysadare Bay SPA
	B. Objective to Provide a public parking and picnic area to the north of the caravan park in conjunction with the new road (TRANS 2).	Potential negative impact on Natura 2000 sites. Initiatives which increase human use and access to the coastal zone have the potential to give rise to impacts on habitats and cause disturbance to birds and other	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC Ballysadare Bay cSAC

		species generally. At present there is erosion of the dune systems at Strandhill from recreational use. The proposed transport hub at TRANS 2 will add further to existing recreational pressure on protected habitats and species. Future transport hub development should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level. Obj 44.2 A (Coastal Management Plan) and Obj 44.7 C (Development of a Trail Network) will have positive impacts on Natura 2000 sites in protecting the existing soft coast environment and providing a dedicated trail network for sustainable recreational use of Natura 2000 sites.	
	C. Objective to maintain existing trails and and establish further looped recreational trails (1)-(3). Refer to objectives map.	Potential negative and positive impact on Natura 2000 sites. Initiatives which increase human use and access to the coastal zone have the potential to give rise to impacts on habitats and cause disturbance to birds and other species generally. At present there is erosion of the dune systems at Strandhill from recreational use. The proposed recreational trail network will add further to existing recreational pressure on protected habitats and species. Obj 44.2 A (Coastal Management Plan) and Obj 44.7 C (Development of a Trail Network) will have positive impacts on Natura 2000 sites in protecting the existing soft coast	

		environment and providing a dedicated trail network for sustainable recreational use of Natura 2000 sites.	
44.8 Business and enterprise	A. Objective to support the continued operation of Sligo Airport.	No impacts identified.	n/a
	B i-ii. Objective relating to the protection of existing flight paths.	No impacts identified.	n/a
44.9 Buffer zone	A. Objective to encourage landowners to manage land sustainably in buffer area which will remain principally in low-intensity agricultural use.	Potential negative impact on Natura 2000 sites.	
	B. Objective to require all new and replacement agricultural structures to be designed sensitively.	Potential negative and positive impact on Natura 2000 sites. Future agricultural development adjacent to Natura 2000 sites should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level. Appropriate siting and design of structures will have positive impact on Natura 2000 sites.	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC Ballysadare Bay cSAC Cummeen Strand SPA Ballysadare Bay SPA
44.10 Wastewater treatment	A. Upgrade of waste water treatment plant (WWTP) to cater for c. 3000 (Population Equivalent).	Potential positive impact on Natura 2000 sites. The Strandhill WWTP is located on undesignated lands within the Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC. The existing plant has a design PE (population equivalent) of 1,500 and is operating at capacity. The existing treatment process comprises primary treatment (screening) and secondary treatment (activated sludge, oxidisation ditch and final settlement). At present waste water and surface water are	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC Cummeen Strand SPA Ballysadare Bay SPA

		combined in the drainage network and coupled with limited capacity this has led to the WWTP not operating optimally on occasions. Strandhill WWTP is included in the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2013. Significant work has taken place to improve the efficiency of the plant pending the proposed upgrade. An application for a wastewater discharge license is currently being considered by the EPA. Deterioration of water quality could affect habitats (mudflats) upon which species for which the adjoining SPAs are designated are dependent. However, increasing nutrient inputs may also have beneficial impacts by increasing invertebrate availability for birds. Taking this into account and given the distance of the discharge point to the nearest mudflat areas of the SPAs, it is considered that the proposed WWTP upgrade will have a positive impact on winter feeding/roosting sites for birds and water quality generally. The provision of an upgrade for the Strandhill WWTP is currently being planned for delivery. Future WWTP upgrade should be undertaken in consultation with NPWS, DAHG and should be subject to appropriate assessment at project level.	

4.4 Zonings

The Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan, Map 1, provides the proposed Zoning Map for the Plan area. The purpose of zoning is to indicate the land use objectives for all the lands within the Plan area. Zoning aspires to promote the orderly development of the Plan area by eliminating potential conflicts between incompatible land uses, and to establish an efficient basis for investment in public infrastructure and facilities. It should be noted that the portions of Natura 2000 Sites located below the high tide mark are not zoned on the zoning map because these lie outside the remit of the Plan which ends at the high water mark. This includes the majority of the areas of Cummeen Strand SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA.

4.4.1 Zoning

Most of the zoned land within Natura 2000 Sites and most of the land immediately adjacent to them is zoned as 'Buffer zone'. The County Development Plan 2011-1017 Volume 2 Mini-Plans Chapter 13 Mini Plan General Policies provides the following in respect of buffer zones (S. 13.8) in addition to a detailed Mini Plans Zoning Matrix.

'A. Establish a buffer zone around settlements, between the plan limit and the development limit, with a view to:

- *consolidating and containing settlements within a single development limit;*
- *safeguarding land for the future expansion of settlements and for the provision of infrastructure;*
- *preserving views;*
- *protecting the integrity of archaeological sites and monuments in the area surrounding the village;*
- *protecting and enhancing designated nature conservation sites (pNHAs, SACs, SPAs etc);*
- *excluding from development those lands which are at risk from flooding.*

***B.** Reserve the buffer zone principally for agricultural use.*

***C.** Ensure that the siting and construction of new roads and buildings in the buffer zone minimize their visual and environmental impact.*

***E.** Within the Buffer Zone, proposals for one-off rural housing shall only be accommodated in cases of proven need of immediate family members of locally-resident families who wish to build on their own land and have no suitable option on their holdings outside the buffer zone.*

***F.** In relation to housing, give preference to the sensitive renovation or replacement of existing vacant or derelict structures.'*

Whilst there is potential for some forms of development to result in negative impacts on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites should they be permitted, it is considered that the Council's commitments to Appropriate Assessment that are presented in the Draft Plan, including the amendments proposed in this Report, will be sufficient to prevent inappropriate development from occurring within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites.

4.4.2 Other Zonings

Small areas of land immediately adjacent to Natura 2000 site boundaries (and therefore in locations where the risk of indirect impacts on the Sites is relatively high) are zoned in a number of ways. It is considered that the Council's commitments to Appropriate Assessment that are presented in the Draft Plan, including the amendments proposed in this Report, will be sufficient to prevent inappropriate development in these areas.

4.5 Mitigation Measures

This section presents details of proposals for mitigation to the objectives of the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan (January 2013). This mitigation, in the context of a land use plan such as the Strandhill Mini-Plan should be viewed as mitigation to ensure that the no negative impacts arise on Natura 2000 sites as a result of implementation of the Plan. It is not intended to remove the requirement (under the provisions of the Habitats Directive) for a detailed consideration of specific proposals at the project level; i.e. 'project level' AA.

Objective Emphasising the need for Appropriate Assessment Screening:

The draft Mini-Plan provides for a general commitment for appropriate assessment screening as follows:

Objective 44.1 A.

'Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the Natura 2000 sites surrounding the village. Ensure that Appropriate Assessment Screening is carried out for any plan or project within the Mini-Plan area with potential to impact on Ballysadare Bay SAC (site code 000622), Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (site code 000627), Cummeen Strand SPA (site code 004035) and Ballysadare Bay SPA (site code 004129).'

Project-Specific and Location-Specific Objectives that Require Caveats:

In undertaking the assessment of likely significant effects of the Mini-Plan objectives on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites within the impact zone there were a number of cases where the plan objectives have the potential for negative impact on Natura 2000 sites. In most cases these objectives are specific to either a particular project or a particular location and it is considered very likely that some level of conflict will arise between the objective and the need to protect the Natura 2000 sites. Accordingly in these specific cases it is considered appropriate that caveats should be amended to those objectives to ensure no negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites arise from the implementation of the Mini-Plan.

The following amendments to objectives are therefore recommended.

Section 44.1 Landscape, natural heritage, open space

Obj. G *'Provide for a number of incidental public open spaces, notably:*

i. the Sligo entrance to the village, between the new and old R292, where a floral or shrub display might be developed, possibly in conjunction with a piece of public art (location marked OS1 on Objectives Map);

ii. a strip of land to the east of the Airport Road, which would lend itself to a tree and shrub belt for amenity and shelter purposes (location marked OS2 on Objectives Map).'

iii. *Require any development on the site of Seaview House on Upper Buenos Ayres Drive to retain and landscape a substantial element of open space at the eastern end of the existing garden (location marked OS3 on Objectives Map).*

Should be amended to:

'Provide for a number of incidental public open spaces whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment, notably:

i. *the Sligo entrance to the village, between the new and old R292, where a floral or shrub display might be developed, possibly in conjunction with a piece of public art (location marked OS1 on Objectives Map);*

ii. *a strip of land to the east of the Airport Road, which would lend itself to a tree and shrub belt for amenity and shelter purposes (location marked OS2 on Objectives Map).'*

iii. *Require any development on the site of Seaview House on Upper Buenos Ayres Drive to retain and landscape a substantial element of open space at the eastern end of the existing garden (location marked OS3 on Objectives Map).*

Section 44.2 Coastal Protection

Obj. A *'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.'*

Should be amended to:

'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.'

Obj. D 'Maintain and review dune management, to include, where necessary, appropriate fencing, boardwalks and public information boards.'

Should be amended to:

'Maintain and review dune management, to include, where necessary, appropriate fencing, boardwalks and public information boards while taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites and on species protected by law.'

Section 44.4 Mixed Use Zones

Obj. D. 'Encourage the redevelopment of the Promenade 'Corner' on the sea front (MIX 1, Objectives Map) currently comprising shops, dwellings and a public open space, subject to any necessary coastal protection measures.'

Should be amended to:

'Encourage the redevelopment of the Promenade 'Corner' on the sea front (MIX 1, Objectives Map) currently comprising shops, dwellings and a public open space, subject to any necessary coastal protection measures whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.'

Section 44.5 Transport, circulation and parking

Obj. A. *'Reserve land for a New Airport Road linking the R292 to the existing Airport Road (R277).'*

Should be amended to:

'Reserve land for a New Airport Road linking the R292 to the existing Airport Road (R277) whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.'

Obj. C *' Extend the Promenade in a northerly direction and link up with the existing Airport Road as indicated on the Objectives Map, to include for the upgrading of the existing lane from the caravan park to the Airport Road. All necessary coastal protection measures should be incorporated into such a project. This extension should be developed in a similar fashion to the existing Promenade whilst also preserving as much as possible of the seafront area as a public amenity.'*

Should be amended to:

' Extend the Promenade in a northerly direction and link up with the existing Airport Road as indicated on the Objectives Map, to include for the upgrading of the existing lane from the caravan park to the Airport Road whilst taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites and on species protected by law. All necessary coastal protection measures should be incorporated into such a project. This extension should be developed in a similar fashion to the existing Promenade whilst also preserving as much as possible of the seafront area as a public amenity.'

Section 44.6 Community Facilities

Obj. B *'Require any development proposed on the greenfield site CF1 (refer to the Objectives Map) to provide a range of facilities such as a citizens' advice point, social services, tourist information, skate park and indoor sports. A youth centre and childcare facilities may be provided within the same building or in a separate structure.'*

Should be amended to:

'Require any development proposed on the greenfield site CF1 (refer to the Objectives Map) to ensure the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level. Any proposed development shall provide a range of facilities such as a citizens' advice point, social services, tourist information, skate park and indoor sports. A youth centre and childcare facilities may be provided within the same building or in a separate structure.'

Section 44.7 Tourism Development

Obj. A. *'Promote the development of tourism related-infrastructure and facilities within the village in order to increase visitor numbers and to create more local employment.'*

Should be amended to:

'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'

Obj. B. *'Provide a public parking and picnic area to the north of the caravan park, in conjunction with the new road (See Section 44.5). This area will be located adjacent to the existing caravan park entrance, from where two-way traffic movements will operate (location marked TRANS 2 on the Objectives Map). In addition, adequate provision will be made for alternative circulation arrangements within the caravan park.'*

Should be amended to:

'Provide a public parking and picnic area to the north of the caravan park, in conjunction with the new road (See Section 44.5), subject to Appropriate Assesment under the Habitats Directive and the implementation of a Coastal Management Plan (Obj. 44.2 A) and a Management Plan for the Council lands at Killaspugbrone (Obj. 44.1 B.). This area will be located adjacent to the existing caravan park entrance, from where two-way traffic movements will operate (location marked TRANS 2 on the Objectives Map). In addition, adequate provision will be made for alternative circulation arrangements within the caravan park.'

Section 44.9 Buffer Zone

Obj. B 'Require all new and replacement agricultural structures to be designed in such manner that they do not interfere with the character of the landscape.'

Should be amended to:

'Require all new and replacement agricultural structures to be designed in such manner that they do not interfere with the character of the landscape, whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level'.

Section 44.10 Wastewater Treatment

Obj. A. 'Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant at Killaspugbrone to cater for a population equivalent (PE) of circa 3,000.'

Should be amended to:

'Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant at Killaspugbrone to cater for a population equivalent (PE) of circa 3,000, whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through undertaking Appropriate Assessment at project level.'

5. CONCLUSION

This Natura Impact Report presents the findings of a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment undertaken on the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening (Stage 1) identified that there was potential for likely significant effect arising from the adoption and implementation of the draft Mini-Plan. Accordingly, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (this Natura Impact Report) was undertaken to identify potential likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the Draft Mini-Plan.

Where it was identified that some elements of the Draft Mini-Plan had potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, mitigation measures in the form of amendments to the Mini-Plan have been proposed in this report. The mitigation measures seek to prevent inappropriate development that could result in significant negative impacts on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites from occurring within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites, or adjacent to such sites.

Together with the Council's commitments to the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment that are presented in the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 and this Draft Mini-Plan it is concluded that these measures will be sufficient to ensure that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the Draft Mini-Plan.

Prepared by

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6. References

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Various Years. Natura 2000 Site Synopses.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.

European Communities. 2000. Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxemburg.

European Communities. 2002. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxemburg.

Appendix B

Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan/Variation of Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017

Prepared by the Heritage Office of Sligo County Council

1 August 2013

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Legislative Context

Sligo County Council intends to vary the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 (CDP) by incorporating a mini-plan for the village of Strandhill (replacing the Strandhill Local Area Plan 2003-2012) as Chapter 44 in Volume 2 Mini-Plans of the CDP.

An important aspect of the Development Plan is how the Plan may impact on European Sites designated for nature conservation, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are SACs and SPA's designated under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive (Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC)).

In accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans, and proposed amendments to these, on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (Natura 2000 sites[3]), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan. This is to determine whether or not the implementation of the proposed plan or its amendments could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called an Appropriate Assessment (AA) and must be carried out on all stages of the plan making process including; the draft Plan, any proposed amendments and the final Plan as adopted.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

> Article 6(3): *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In 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."*
>
> Article 6(4): "*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the*

[3] Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction, or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands.

compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

This document provides a record of the Appropriate Assessment process of the proposed amendments to the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017.

Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017

Sligo County Development Plan came into force on 13 June 2011. It will remain operational for a period of maximum six years. The Plan sets out the Council's policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County of Sligo.

The undertaking of Appropriate Assessment (AA) is mandatory in the case of development plans. The AA of the CDP 2011-2017 was undertaken by environmental consultants CAAS on behalf of Sligo County Council. The resultant Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was published alongside the CDP 2011-2017.

The Appropriate Assessment informed the policies and objectives of the Plan and also suggested appropriate mitigation measures, which were incorporated in to the relevant chapters of the Plan upon its adoption in 2011.

This Natura Impact Report of the proposed amendments to the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan should be read in conjunction with the CDP 2011-2017 and the associated Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.

Sligo CDP and its associated Appropriate Assessment Screening Report are available at www.sligococo.ie/cdp.

1.2 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This document has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission Environment DG document "*Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*", referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document". The guidance document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive, and is viewed as an interpretation of the EU Commission's document "*Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*", *referred to as "MN2000*". In addition, "*Appropriate Assessment Guidance for Planning Authorities*" was published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2009 (DEHLG, 2009) and amended in March 2010. Cognisance has been taken of this document in carrying out this assessment. In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and with reference to the guidance documents mentioned above, this AA has been broadly structured as follows:

1) Stage 1 – Screening for Appropriate Assessment

- Description of the plan;
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;

- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result from implementation of the Plan;
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects.

2) Stage 2 –Appropriate Assessment

- Description of the Natura 2000 sites that will be considered further in the AA;
- Description of significant impacts on the conservation features of these sites likely to occur from the Plan;
- Mitigation Measures; and
- Conclusions.

3) Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions

4) Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and Compensation Measures)

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. In the first instance, the Plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Following that, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the Plan is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the Plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

4.2 Terminology

A number of different terms have been used in the recent past to describe the process and outputs associated with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. These include Appropriate Assessment (AA), Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), Habitats Directive Assessment Report, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Natura Impact Report (NIR).

In an effort to provide consistency and transparency in the planning process and to come into line with the terminology used in the most recent DEHLG guidance, it has been decided to use just two terms throughout this document.

For the purposes of this report the following terms have been adopted:

- **Appropriate Assessment (AA)** has been used to refer to the process and includes the various stages outlined in Section 1.2 above.

- **Natura Impact Report (NIR)** has been used to refer to the output from the AA process and includes the information necessary for the competent authority to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications of the Plan.

It should also be noted that the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 also uses the term Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) in addition to the term Appropriate Assessment to describe the process and outputs associated with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

Appropriate Assessment of the draft Mini-Plan proposed amendments was undertaken and the findings of the assessment are presented in this Natura Impact Report. The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows *European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, 2002*, and on *Local Government and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009*. As the Mini-Plan progresses through the plan making process the appropriate assessment process will continue in tandem and will inform the decision making process in terms of any likely significant impacts arising from the Mini-Plan on Natura 2000 sites.

2.2 Data Sources

The appropriate assessment of potential impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites in this Natura Impact Report is based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. References and data used are cited in the back of this report.

2.3 Consultation

This report will be placed on public display with the draft Mini-Plan proposed amendments and will be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process. Submissions on same will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final plan and accompanying Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement or Natura Impact Report.

3 STAGE 1 – SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Description of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Strandhill Variation/Mini Plan

The proposed amendments to the Draft Strandhill Variation/Mini Plan are outlined in Tables 4 and 5 of this document.

3.2 Features of the Proposed Amendments that could impact on Natura 2000 Sites

Impacts arising from the implementation of objectives of the draft plan which could cause significant impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites include activities which give rise to:

- direct impacts on habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive and for which the site is designated;
- reduction in the area of any habitats within the site;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) in the Natura 2000 site;
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
- direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated;
- activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.

All of the proposed amendments were reviewed as part of the screening process. Consideration was given to direct and indirect impacts which may arise from activities which could be encouraged by objectives contained in the draft plan. Such activities could include new residential, commercial, infrastructural, recreational or other development which may give rise to direct impacts on habitats or species (loss of habitat, disturbance to species); as well as activities which could have indirect impacts (e.g. activities which could affect water quality or hydrology which could in turn affect the status/health of populations of water dependant habitats or species).

3.3 Brief Description and Identification of the Natura 2000 sites to be screened

Four Natura 2000 sites were identified during the screening of the Draft Mini-Plan that could potentially be impacted by the draft Plan. These were:

- Ballysadare Bay Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000622)
- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000627)
- Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area (Site Code 004035)
- Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code 004129)

Screening of the proposed amendments also focuses on these sites. Screening is based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. Figures 1 and 2 below provide the locations of the SACs and SPAs immediately adjoining or within the Plan boundary, respectively. These sites along with their qualifying interests are listed in Table 1 (SACs) and Table 2 (SPAs) below.



Fig. 1 **Special Areas of Conservation immediately adjoining or within the Plan boundary.**



Fig.2 **Special Protection Areas immediately adjoining or within the Plan boundary.**

Table 1 List of Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation) immediately adjacent to Strandhill

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature		Documented Potential Threats*
		Annex I Habitat	Annex II Species	
000622	Ballysadare Bay	Estuaries (1130), Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140), Embryonic shifting dunes (2110), Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) (2120), *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (2130), Humid dune slacks (2190),	Phoca Vitulina (Common Seal) (1365), Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) (1014).	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay	Estuaries (1130), Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140), Embryonic shifting dunes (2110), Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) (2120), *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (2130), *Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (7220), Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (5130).	Phoca vitulina (Common Seal) (1365), Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) (1014).	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture

Note Priority Habitats are present in Ireland and are present within the Natura 2000 Sites adjoining Strandhill. These are prefixed with an asterisk (for example, '*Fixed Dunes (2130)') in **Table 3.1** and in subsequent tables in this report. The importance of Priority Habitat is emphasised at several places in the Directive (Articles 4 and 5 and Annex III), not only in terms of the selection of sites, but also in the measures required for site protection (Article 6).

Table 2 List of Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Areas) immediately adjacent to Strandhill

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature Annex I Species	Documented Potential Threats*
004035	Cummeen Strand	Site is selected for: Light-bellied Brent Goose . Additional Special Conservation Interests: Oystercatcher,Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Persecution (Poisoning) Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
004129	Ballysadare Bay	Site is selected for: Light-bellied Brent Goose and Bar-tailed Godwit. Additional Special Conservation Interests: Grey Plover, Dunlin, Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Diect loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management

3.4 Conservation Objectives

A Natura 2000 site's conservation objectives are defined by DAHG and are, "intended to ensure that the relevant Annex I habitats and Annex II species present on a site are maintained in a favourable condition" (DEHLG, 2010). The DEHLG guidelines state that, "The Conservation Objectives derive from the qualifying interests, the Natura 2000 standard data form, and the management plan for the site, with summary information also available in the site synopsis." Whilst the Natura 2000 standard data forms and site synopses do present details of the qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites, and list the generic threats to those features, they do not define the Conservation Objectives of the site.

For the purposes of this assessment, information on the Conservation Objectives for the sites has been gained from consultation with NPWS relating to the Border Regional Planning Guidelines and NPWS generic Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites where no Management Plan is yet available.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SPAs are as follows:

- To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which the SPA has been listed, at favourable conservation status.

For cSACs, generic Conservation Objectives are as follows:

- To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the extent species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; and

- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

The favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when:

> 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below.'

3.5 Documented Threats to the Special Areas of Conservation

Documented threats to Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species in Ireland are presented in the 'Backing documents' and 'Form' for each habitat and species which are available at: http://www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/HabitatsDirectivereport07/. Not all of these threats will apply to all cSACs in which these habitats and species are present; however gathering information on the documented perceived threats to the qualifying features of the sites (and therefore to the Conservation Objectives of the sites and the integrity of the sites) is an important prerequisite for assessing what are the 'likely significant effects' on the sites resulting from the Plan. No such information is available for Birds Directive Annex I bird species, and hence this method of inferring Conservation Objectives cannot be applied to SPAs.

Table 1 presents details of those threats, identified by NPWS, which it is considered likely will apply to the SAC's that are included in this assessment.

It is important to realise that many of these threats do not necessarily represent activities that occur within the boundary of the Natura 2000 site. This applies in particular to aquatic and marine features and systems which can be affected by impact sources that occur a large distance from the site.

3.6 Documented Threats to Special Protection Areas

Similar threats will apply to many of the SPAs that often correspond geographically to the cSACs. Generally speaking, the threats to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of the cSAC will also apply to the Annex I bird species and bird populations in general that are the qualifying features of the SPAs. However, the birds that constitute the qualifying features of the SPAs are subject to a number of additional threats that do not generally apply to the qualifying features of the cSAC such as hunting pressure (both legal and illegal); and disturbance from noise and visual cues such as movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Table 2 presents a summary of the generalised threats to the SPAs relevant to the Strandhill Mini-Plan.

3.7 Likely Changes to the Sites

The possible impacts that might arise from the Mini-Plan have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. **Table 3** below presents a summary of the findings of this exercise. **Tables 4 and 5** below provide the screening matrix for the proposed amendments to the Plan with an Appropriate Assessment Screening Response provided in each case. Those sites for which potential effects and impacts have been identified have been taken forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. Those for which no potential impacts are anticipated as a result of implementation of the Plan do not require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and are 'screened-out' at this stage of the assessment.

Table 3 Potential Impacts of Proposed Amendments on Natura 2000 Sites

Site Name	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitats or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality etc.)
Ballysadare Bay SAC	None	None	None	None	None
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts
Cummeen Strand SPA	None	None	None	None	None
Ballysadare Bay SPA	None	None	None	None	None

3.8 Screening of Proposed Amendments

Amendments have been proposed to the text of the Draft Variation/Mini-Plan (narrative and several objectives) and also to the Zoning Map. The proposed amendments to the text of the Mini-Plan are shown in blue type like this for text proposed to be inserted. There is no proposal to delete text. The amendments to the Zoning Map are indicated by a **black outline** and are accompanied by the number of the corresponding amendment.

Table 4 identifies the environmental consequences of the Managers Recommendations to the Draft Variation/Mini-Plan which were put before the Elected Members at a meeting on the 13 May 2013.

Table 5 identifies the environmental consequences of the Elected Members proposed amendments to the Draft Variation/Mini-Plan which was put before the Elected Members at a meeting on the 13 May 2013.

Table 4 **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS - MANAGERS RECOMMENDATIONS – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING**

Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Managers Recommendations	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-1	Under the heading **Population and housing** (p. 1 of the Draft Mini-Plan), include the following paragraph: *The Core Strategy of the CDP allocated to Strandhill 14.4 ha of greenfield land, which included (in 2012-2013) 4.03 ha of land with existing planning permission for residential development, comprising some 204 potential residential units. This equates to 10.37 ha which have been zoned for residential development in this Mini-Plan. Mixed-use lands are also included in the allocation based on an average of 65% residential development in the mix of uses.*	None
A-2	In **Section 44.1 Landscape, natural heritage, open space,** modify **objective G** as follows: *Provide for a number of incidental public open spaces whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment, notably: ...*	None
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.*	None

Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Managers Recommendations	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
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.*	None
A-5	In **Section 44.4 Mixed-use zones**, modify **objective B** as follows: *Discourage piecemeal, haphazard development and ensure the assembly and consolidated development of lands within the mixed-use zones on the basis of integrated design proposals/masterplans with appropriate pedestrian/cycle/vehicular links. Prospective developers shall have regard to the DECLG's Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Sustainable Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages) and to the DoT/DECLG Design Manual for Urban roads and Streets (2013).*	None
A-6	In **Section 44.4 Mixed-use zones,** modify **objective D** as follows: *Encourage the redevelopment of the Promenade 'Corner' on the sea front (MIX 1, Objectives Map) currently comprising shops, dwellings and a public open space, subject to any necessary coastal protection measures whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.*	None

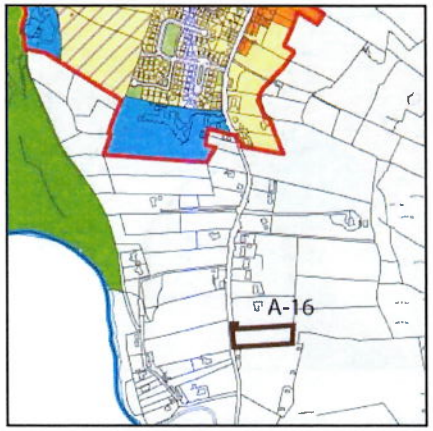
Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Managers Recommendations	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-8	In **Section 44.5 Transport, circulation and parking,** modify **objective A** as follows: *Reserve land for a New Airport Road linking the R292 to the existing Airport Road (R277) whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.*	None
A-9	In **Section 44.5 Transport, circulation and parking,** modify **objective C** as follows: *Extend the Promenade in a northerly direction and link up with the existing Airport Road as indicated on the Objectives Map, to include for the upgrading of the existing lane from the caravan park to the Airport Road whilst taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites and on species protected by law. All necessary coastal protection measures should be incorporated into such a project. This extension should be developed in a similar fashion to the existing Promenade whilst also preserving as much as possible of the seafront area as a public amenity.*	None
A-10	In **Section 44.6 Community facilities,** modify **objective B** as follows: *Require any development proposed on the greenfield site CF1 (refer to the Objectives Map) to ensure the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level. Any proposed development should provide a range of facilities such as a citizens' advice point, social services, tourist information, skate park and indoor sports. A youth centre and childcare facilities may be provided within the same building or in a separate structure.*	None

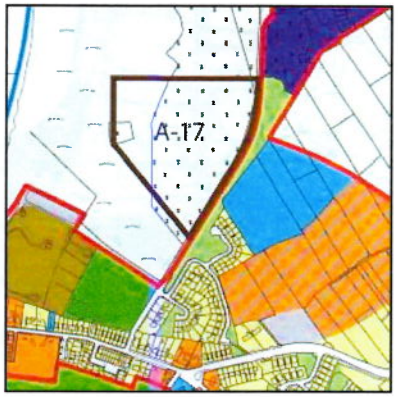
Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Managers Recommendations	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-12	In **Section 44.7 Tourism development,** modify **objective A** as follows: *Promote the development of tourism related-infrastructure and facilities within the village in order to increase visitor numbers and to create more local employment, subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.*	None
A-13	In **Section 44.7 Tourism development,** modify **objective B** as follows: *Provide a public parking and picnic area to the north of the caravan park, in conjunction with the new road (See Section 44.5), subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive and the implementation of a Coastal Management Plan (Obj. 44.2 A) and a Management Plan for the Council lands at Killaspugbrone (Obj. 44.1 B.). This area will be located adjacent to the existing caravan park entrance, from where two-way traffic movements will operate (location marked TRANS 2 on the Objectives Map). In addition, adequate provision will be made for alternative circulation arrangements within the caravan park.*	None
A-14	In **Section 44.9 Buffer zone,** modify **objective B** as follows: *Require all new and replacement agricultural structures to be designed in such manner that they do not interfere with the character of the landscape, whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.*	None

Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Managers Recommendations	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-15	In **Section 44.10 Wastewater treatment,** modify **objective A** as follows: *Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant at Killaspugbrone to cater for a population equivalent (PE) of circa 3,000, whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through undertaking Appropriate Assessment at project level.'*	None

Table 5 **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS – ELECTED MEMBERS – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING**

Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Elected Members	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-7	In **Section 44.4 Mixed-use zones**, modify objective G as follows: *Require that any development proposal on village centre site MIX 2 (Council car park) incorporates the following:* *i. a pedestrian civic square, capable of being used for events and local markets;* *ii. pedestrian and possibly vehicular linkages to the Promenade to the west, behind existing development;* *iii. the location of any car parking behind the building line.* *In recognition of the scale, and strategic location of the Council car park, the only mixed use development permitted on this site will be the enhancement of the present car parking facility, a community centre and the provision of other recreational facilities.* *Terraced buildings up to three storeys shall be permitted, subject to appropriate 'feathering', to integrate with adjoining developments, from the council car park to the existing promenade & in the existing promenade area. The community centre courtyard shall be designed to a high standard in a manner capable of enhancing the streetscape and complementing the existing village. However, any developments within the car park itself shall be restricted to two storeys.*	None

Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Elected Members	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-11 **(linked to A-17)**	In **Section 44.6 Community facilities**, insert an additional **objective D** as follows: ***D. Land west of Airport Road, including pine plantation*** *Sligo County Council owns most of the land and the pine plantation to the west of the Airport Road. Within the Southern portion of the afforested area (16.5 acres / 6.7 ha) it is an objective to accommodate sports and recreation, including any ancillary developments such as dressing rooms etc.* *Therefore the County Council-owned lands to the west of the Airport Road are zoned for 'Community, Sport & Recreation' to meet this objective and public access will be retained & enabled to continue.*	**Potential Impact – Negative** Significant negative impacts would be expected to result from the proposed amendment arising from direct and indirect impacts on habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II) listed in the Habitats Directive. Including: • Habitat loss and fragmentation. • Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology. • Increased pollution/erosion. • Disturbance to species or habitats (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity). • direct or indirect damage to the populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.
A-16	Change the zoning of the **site marked A-16** on the Proposed Amendments Map from 'buffer zone' to 'residential uses' and indicate on the Zoning Map that only one house is to be accommodated on the site. 	None

Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Elected Members	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-17 **(linked to A-11)**	Change the zoning of the **site marked A-17** on the Proposed Amendments Map from 'buffer zone' to 'community, sports and recreation' [Note: the zoning category would be CF-community facilities, as per the Zoning Matrix included in the CDP] 	**Potential Impact - Negative** Significant negative impacts would be expected to result from the proposed amendment arising from direct and indirect impacts on habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II) listed in the Habitats Directive. • Habitat loss and fragmentation. • Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology. • Increased pollution/erosion. • Disturbance to species or habitats (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity). • Direct or indirect damage to the populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.
A-18	Change the zoning of the **site marked A-18** on the Proposed Amendments Map from 'buffer zone' to 'residential uses'. 	None

3.9 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The likely impacts that will arise from the proposed amendments to the Strandhill Mini-Plan have been examined in the context of the key environmental factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, e.g. disturbance, habitat loss, etc. and the results of the Screening Assessment, as presented in **Tables 3, 4** and **5**. These tables indicate "None" for sites where no negative impact is anticipated on the Conservation Objectives or on the overall integrity of the site and "Potential Impact" for those sites where it is certain, likely or uncertain at this stage that impacts on the site may arise as a result of implementation of the Plan. Following the screening stage of the process, one SAC (Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC) was brought forward for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (**Table 6**).

Table 6 Summary of Sites Requiring Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

Site Name	Site Code	Requirement for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Ballysadare Bay cSAC	000622	Not Required
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC	000627	Required
Cummeen Strand SPA	004035	Not Required
Ballysadare Bay SPA	004129	Not Required

4. STAGE 2 –NATURA IMPACT REPORT

4.1 Overview

This section of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) records the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment carried out on proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 to the Draft Strandhill Mini- Plan, as proposed by the Elected Members at a Council meeting in May 2013 (Table 7). One Natura 2000 site (Cummeen Strand and Drumcliff Bay cSAC) was brought forward for Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment. Each of the above proposed amendments to the Draft Plan were reviewed with respect to the identified Natura 2000 site and an assessment was made of the effects of the proposed amendments on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. Table 8 provides details of the Natura 2000 site and its qualifying interests.

Table 7 **Proposed Amendments to the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan**

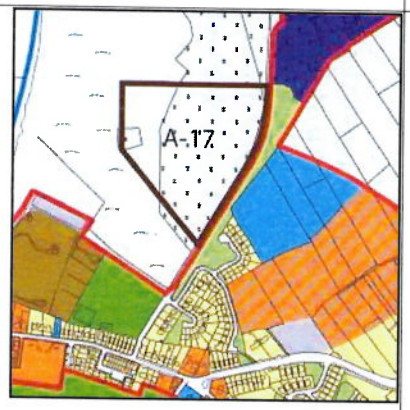
Ref.	Proposed Amendments - Elected Members	Potential for impact on Natura 2000 Sites
A-11	In **Section 44.6 Community facilities**, insert an additional **objective D** as follows: ***D. Land west of Airport Road, including pine plantation*** *Sligo County Council owns most of the land and the pine plantation to the west of the Airport Road. Within the Southern portion of the afforested area (16.5 acres / 6.7 ha) it is an objective to accommodate sports and recreation, including any ancillary developments such as dressing rooms etc.* *Therefore the County Council-owned lands to the west of the Airport Road are zoned for 'Community, Sport & Recreation' to meet this objective and public access will be retained & enabled to continue.*	**Potential Impact – Negative** Significant negative impacts would be expected to result from the proposed amendment arising from direct and indirect impacts on habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II) listed in the Habitats Directive. • Habitat loss and fragmentation. • Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology. • Increased pollution/erosion. • Disturbance to species or habitats (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity). • Direct or indirect damage to the populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.
A-17	Change the zoning of the **site marked YY** on the Proposed Amendments Map from 'buffer zone' to 'community, sports and recreation or caravan park with minimal tree removal"  [Note: the zoning category would be CF-community facilities, as per the Zoning Matrix included in the CDP]	**Potential Impact - Negative** Significant negative impacts would be expected to result from the proposed amendment arising from direct and indirect impacts on habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II) listed in the Habitats Directive. • Habitat loss and fragmentation. • Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology. • Increased pollution/erosion. • Disturbance to species or habitats (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity). • Direct or indirect damage to the populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.

Table 8 **Natura 2000 Site(s) within Impact Zone and Qualifying Interests**

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature		Documented Potential Threats*
		Annex I Habitat	**Annex II Species**	
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay	Estuaries (1130), Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140), Embryonic shifting dunes (2110), Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) (2120), *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (2130), *Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (7220), Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (5130).	Phoca vitulina (Common Seal) (1365), Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) (1014).	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture

Note Priority Habitats are present in Ireland and are present within the Natura 2000 Sites adjoining Strandhill. These are prefixed with an asterisk (for example, '*Fixed Dunes (2130)') in **Table 3.1** and in subsequent tables in this report. The importance of Priority Habitat is emphasised at several places in the Directive (Articles 4 and 5 and Annex III), not only in terms of the selection of sites, but also in the measures required for site protection (Article 6).

4.2 Likely Significant Effects of the Plan on the Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 site

Significant negative impacts would be expected to result from the proposed amendment arising from direct and indirect impacts on habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II) listed in the Habitats Directive. Such impacts would include the following:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology.
- Increased pollution/erosion.
- Disturbance to species or habitats (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity).
- Direct or indirect damage to the populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.

The Conservation Objectives for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay cSAC are as follows:

Objective: 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:

- [1014] *Vertigo angustior*
- [1095] *Petromyzon marinus*
- [1099] *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- [1130] Estuaries
- [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- [1365] *Phoca vitulina*
- [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes
- [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")
- [2130] * Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")
- [5130] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
- [7220] * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)

The proposed amendments will affect key habitats and species, which are qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 site, in the following way:

Fixed Coastal Dunes **Annex I Priority Habitat**

- Habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology.
- Increased pollution/erosion.
- Disturbance to habitats (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity).

Narrow-Mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*) **Annex II Species**

- Habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Decrease in water quantity/quality, changes in local hydrology.
- Increased pollution/erosion.
- Disturbance to species (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity).
- Direct or indirect damage to the populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated.

The integrity of the Natura 2000 (determined by structure and function and conservation objectives) is likely to be affected by the proposed amendments through loss of habitat and fragmentation, changes in hydrology, a decrease in water quantity and quality, and increased pollution and disturbance.

The permanent loss of priority Annex I habitat and likely changes to the hydrology of the Natura 2000 site from development arising from the proposed amendments to the Strandhill Mini-Plan are significant effects on the conservation objectives and integrity of the Natura 2000 site. Accordingly, mitigation measures are not considered in this report as no mitigation measures would address the adverse effect of the proposed amendments on the conservation objectives and integrity of the site.

4.3 Consultation with Environmental Authorities

Having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations 2004 and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act (2010) on 28 May 2013 the Planning Authority determined that both strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment are required in respect of the aforementioned proposed amendments of the Draft Variation/Mini-Plan, Pursuant to S. 13(6)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The proposed amendments were screened for potential environmental effects.

A **Natura Impact Report of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan** was prepared and circulated to the following environmental authorities on 28 June 2013:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)
- The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG)
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF)
- The local authorities adjoining the area under the jurisdiction of Sligo County Council

The **Natura Impact Report** concluded that:

> The proposed interconnected amendments A-11 and A-17 have the potential for significant effects on the integrity of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (site code 000627).
>
> The adoption of the proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 would conflict with the *Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment)* and the related *European and national designated natural heritage sites objectives* included in the same section of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017.

4.3.1 Response of the EPA

The EPA responded on **15 July** with the following specific comments:

A. It is noted that the SEA Screening report identifies that Proposed Amendment A-11 and A-17 in particular, as having have potential for likely significant negative effects to Cummeen Strand/Drumcliffe Bay SAC. **Clarification should be given as to whether an**

option not to proceed with A-11 and A-17 has been considered taking into account the Habitats Directive '*Precautionary Principle*'.

B. In addition, you are referred in *Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08*, to the following:

"In any case where, following screening, *it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach-*

- *an appropriate assessment of the plan must be carried out and*
- *in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out"*

C. It should be ensured that consultation is carried out with the NPWS on the scope of the Appropriate Assessment.

D. Clarification should also be given whether *Proposed Amendment A-16* is in keeping with the principles of sustainable development and seeking to avoid/discourage ribbon development. The Plan should seek to ensure that the Core Strategy approach, as advocated by the Regional Planning Guidelines, is incorporated as appropriate.

Planning Authority's comments:

A. It is noted that the decision as to whether to proceed with A-11 and A-17 is a reserved function of the elected members of Sligo County Council. The Executive of the Council can only make a recommendation in this respect. The Natura Impact Report and SEA Screening Report with its present Addendum on the Proposed Amendments have been prepared not only because the legislation so requires, but with the purpose of helping the elected members make an informed decision before adopting the Variation/Mini-Plan with or without amendments.

B. The reference is noted. An appropriate assessment has been carried out and its outcome is presented in the updated Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Proposed Amendments on public display.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment has already been carried out for the County Development Plan. The present Draft Variation, as prepared by the Planning Section of Sligo County Council, was accompanied by a SEA Screening Report, which found that the CDP, as varied, would not have any significant impacts on the environment.

The Proposed Amendments to the Draft Variation have, indeed potential for significant effects on the environment, i.e. on the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (site code 000627). The adoption of the proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 would conflict with the **Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment)** and the related **European and national designated natural heritage sites objectives** included in the same section of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017.

However, the potential impact of the "community, sports and recreation" zoning on the site subject to the proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 could, theoretically, be prevented through the rigorous application of relevant County Development Plan provisions contained in **Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment)** (p. 89-90 of the CDP) and the related **European and national designated natural heritage sites objectives** included in the same section.

Therefore, it is considered that the preparation of an Environmental Report in relation to the Proposed Amendments is not warranted at this stage, as the CDP already includes policies designed to prevent such negative impact on the environment.

C. Consultation with the NPWS of the DAHG has taken place.

D. The assessment of A-16 under Section 2.2 of this report indicates the following:

> Strandhill Mini-Plan is designed to implement the CDP's general policies and objectives, including landscape protection objectives and the policy discouraging ribbon development and urban sprawl. For these reasons, the subject site and surrounding area have been designated as buffer zone.
>
> The adoption of the proposed amendment A-16 would conflict with the above-mentioned provisions of the CDP and may result in a negative visual impact on the scenic landscape at the foot of the Knocknarea Mountain. However, the proposed amendment is unlikely to have any significant effects on the environment and, if adopted, would not change the conclusion of the initial SEA Screening.

It is considered that no further clarification is necessary.

4.3.2 Response of Leitrim County Council

Leitrim County Council replied on 16 July as follows:

> This Authority is happy to rely on your offices to ensure that the proposed Variation would, if adopted, comply with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and in particular with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Strategic Environmental Requirements.
>
> It is noted by reference to the SEA and Habitat Reports that **certain amendments would, if adopted, give rise to significant environmental impacts and would conflict with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**
>
> **Were such a conflict remain unresolved, this Authority would have serious reservations about the adoption of any such amendments. As you are aware, any decision to proceed with an amendment that would compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of a Natura 2000 site would raise serious legal issues and may expose the Council to significant costs.**

Planning Authority's comments:

The response of Leitrim County Council is noted and agreed.

4.3.3 Response of the DCENR

The Geological Survey of Ireland, part of the DCENR, replied on **18 July** with an acknowledgement of the County Council's notification of 28 June. The GSI provided information and links to datasets relating to geological heritage sites. The GSI indicated that any complementary data collected by Sligo County Council regarding karst areas should be forwarded to the Department for inclusion in the national datasets.

The GSI did not make any specific reference to the Proposed Amendments of the Draft CDP Variation/Strandhill Mini-Plan.

Planning Authority's comments:

The response of the DCENR/GSI is noted. No geological field data has been collected as part of the environmental or appropriate assessment of the Draft Variation or its proposed amendments.

4.3.4 Response of the DAHG

The DAHG replied on **23 July** as follows:

A. In relation to the Addendum to the SEA Screening Report, the conclusion states that *'the proposed interconnected amendments A-11 and A-17 have the potential for significant effects on the environment, i.e. on the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (site code 000627)'*. In light of this conclusion, proceeding to full SEA for the proposed Amendments may be required. Please consult with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for clarification on this issue.

B. In relation to the Natura Impact Report, the Department notes the Elected Members proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 to the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan. The Department has had previous discussions regarding the development of a sports community facility within the Special Area of Conservation at this location. Most of the habitat at this location has been modified (conifer plantation) and does not correspond to Annexed habitat (Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). However, the Department recognises that this area is entirely within the Special Area of Conservation. The present habitat has the potential to be fully restored into dune habitat, i.e. 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). **The Department notes the conclusion of the Natura Impact Report, i.e. the proposed amendments may result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay Special Area of Conservation Site No. SAC 000627, a Natura 2000 site. The Department supports the approach of Sligo County Council in relation to this assessment and believes that this conclusion is in line with the conservation objectives of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay Special Area of Conservation Site No. SAC 000627.**

Planning Authority's comments:

A. Noted. Consultation with the EPA has taken place.

B. The detailed response and the Department's support of Sligo County Council's approach are noted and agreed.

4.4 Conclusion

This Natura Impact Report presents the findings of a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment undertaken on the proposed amendments to the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening (Stage 1) identified that there was potential for likely significant effects arising from the adoption and implementation of the proposed amendments (A-11 and A-17) to the Draft Mini-Plan. Accordingly, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (this Natura Impact Report) was undertaken to identify potential likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the proposed amendments to the Draft Mini-Plan.

Consultation with the environmental authorities and particularly the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Environmental Protection Agency highlight the potential for adverse impact on the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay Natura 2000 site arising from proposed amendments A-11 and A-17.

The adoption of the proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 would conflict with Section 7.1.2 *Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment)* and the related *European and National Designated Natural Heritage Sites Objectives* included in the same section of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-1017.

Furthermore, the adoption of the Draft CDP Variation/Mini-Plan with the amendments A-11 and A-17 would contravene Section 177. V(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies that planning authorities shall make a land use plan only after having determined that the said plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

Accordingly, on the basis of the Precautionary Principle, it can be objectively concluded that adverse impacts of the proposed amendments on the integrity of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay Natura 2000 site remain and that the proposed amendments A-11 and A-17 should not be adopted as part of the CDP Variation/Strandhill Mini-Plan.

5. References

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Various Years. Natura 2000 Data Form and Site Synopses.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.

European Communities. 2000. Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxemburg.

European Communities. 2002. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxemburg.

New MAP

Under FOI AIE

AIER 367

Our Ref: AIER367

Date: 12 March 2026

Áine Nic Amhlaidh
Larass.
Strandhill.
Sligo.

ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

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Dear Ms. Nic Amhlaidh,

I refer to your request dated 16 February 2026 and received by Uisce Éireann on 16 February 2026 under EU Directive 2003/4/EC (the "Directive") (as transposed by the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007–2018 (the "Regulations") for the following information *relating to Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant (upgraded 2021):*

- *As-Built Documentation: The final "as-built" design drawings, site layout, and exact footprint of the completed facility.*
- *Appropriate Assessment (AA): The full Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and AA determination assessing the project's impact on the integrity of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC.*
- *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The EIA Screening Report and any subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) produced for this build.*
- *Planning Compliance: Records confirming compliance with all environmental conditions attached to the Part 8 planning permission.*
- *Mitigation Measures: Documents detailing the specific mitigation measures implemented during construction to protect the SAC habitats and species.*

Following consideration of the provisions of the AIE Regulations, Uisce Éireann has reached a decision to grant your request on 12 March 2026.

I will address each part of your request below:

- *As-Built Documentation: The final "as-built" design drawings, site layout, and exact footprint of the completed facility.*

I attach the 3 x As-Built drawings from the WwTP Upgrade completed in February 2020. The upgraded works were all completed within the footprint of the original WwTP in accordance with the planning permission.

- *Appropriate Assessment (AA): The full Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and AA determination assessing the project's impact on the integrity of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC.*

I attach the AA Screening Report completed on behalf of Sligo County Council in September 2013.

- *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The EIA Screening Report and any subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) produced for this build.*

Stiúrthóirí / Directors: Jerry Grant (Cathaoirleach / Chairperson), Niall Gleeson (POF / CEO), Douglas Millican, Michael Nolan, Patricia King, Eileen Maher, Cathy Mannion, Michael Walsh, Rena O'Sullivan and Orlagh Nevin.

Oifig Chláraithe / Registered Office: Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86 / Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin, Ireland D01NP86
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UE / LH / HO / 0725

Planning permission was granted via Part 8 Planning permission from Sligo County Council Sept 2007. Sligo County Council would have considered EIA requirements as part of the Part 8 planning process. The project did not trigger the requirement for EIAR and therefore proceeded via the Part 8 process. The permitted works were subsequently implemented by UÉ. The Part 8 planning documentation is included in Appendix 1 of the attached document.

- *Planning Compliance: Records confirming compliance with all environmental conditions attached to the Part 8 planning permission.*

The decision-maker has confirmed that the project was completed in accordance with all details included within the Part 8 submission. UÉ does not hold any Planning Compliance records in respect of the above.

- *Mitigation Measures: Documents detailing the specific mitigation measures implemented during construction to protect the SAC habitats and species.*

The decision-maker has advised that the project screened out for AA and an NIS was not required. The project was delivered in accordance with the details included in the Part 8 submission including best practice construction methods.

Review
Under Article 11 of the Regulations, you have a right to seek an internal review of our decision. An internal review must be requested within one month of receipt of our decision. There is no charge for requesting an internal review. If you would like to seek an internal review, you can do so by sending an email to foi@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

Noel Shannon
Freedom of Information Officer

Uisce Éireann

(on behalf of Decision-Maker)

MAP AS BUILT WWTP

AIE

CAUTION: The email originated from outside of your organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are sure that the content is safe. If you suspect any suspicious activity, please raise an IT Incident ticket to the IT Service Desk.

AIE Request Template

To: FOI Officer, Uisce Éireann (foi@water.ie)
Date: 16-1-26
Subject: Urgent AIE Request: Strandhill WWTP As-Built Records and SAC Environmental Compliance

Dear FOI Officer,

Under the **European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018**, I am requesting access to the following environmental information regarding the

Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant

(upgraded 2021):

1. **As-Built Documentation: The final "as-built" design drawings, site layout, and exact footprint of the completed facility.**
2. **Appropriate Assessment (AA): The full Natura Impact Statement (NIS)and AA determination assessing the project's impact on the integrity of the** Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC**.**
3. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The EIA Screening Report and any subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) produced for this build.**
4. **Planning Compliance: Records confirming compliance with all environmental conditions attached to the Part 8 planning permission.**
5. **Mitigation Measures: Documents detailing the specific mitigation measures implemented during construction to protect the SAC habitats and species.**

Format: Please provide these records in electronic format to this email address.
Urgency: Given the potential for ongoing environmental deterioration within a protected European Site, I request that this be processed as a matter of priority.

Yours faithfully,
Áine Nic Amhlaidh

Larass, Strandhill, Sligo

Tel 087[illegible]32251

MAPS →

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

AIER367 - Response from UÉ

1 message

FOI <FOI@water.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 5:40 PM

Hi Aine,

I refer to your email below and attach response letter and records in relation to your AIE request to UÉ (Ref: AIER367).

Regards,

Noel Shannon
AIE Officer

Uisce Éireann
Teach Colvill, 24–26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86, Éire
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Colvill House, 24–26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86, Ireland

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Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

From: A McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday 16 February 2026 05:02
To: FOI <FOI@water.ie>
Subject: AIE REQUEST Urgent AIE Request: Strandhill WWTP As-Built Records and SAC Environmental Compliance

Is don duine amháin nó don eintiteas amháin ainmnithe ar an seoladh an fhaisnéis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh na trachtála de a bheith mar chuid den fhaisnéis. Tá toirmeasc ar aon daoine nó aon eititis; nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis- aon athbhreithniú a dhéanamh, aon atarchur a dhéanamh nó aon athdháileadh a dhéanamh, nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as an bhfaisnéis, nó aon ghníomh a bhraithfeadh ar an bhfaisnéis seo a dhéanamh agus d'fhéadfaí an dlí a shárú dá ndéanfaí sin. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas as aon ghníomh agus as aon larmhairt bunaithe ar úsáid neamhúdaraithe na faisnéise seo. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo agus séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann leis an bhfaisnéis a fháil. Má tá an ríomh-phost seo faighte agat trí dhearmad, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir más é do thoil é agus scrios an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. D'fhéadfadh ríomhphost a bheith so-ghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasuithe neamhúdaraithe. Séanann Uisce Éireann aon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin tar éis a sheolta. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfadh monatóireacht a bheith á dhéanamh ar theachtaireachtaí chuig Uisce Éireann agus ó Uisce Éireann d'fhonn ár ngnó a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag teacht le beartais agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann. Is cuideachta gníomhaíochta ainmnithe é Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, a bunaíodh de bhun fhorálacha na n-Achtanna um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2007-2022, a bhfuil a bpríomh-ionad gnó ag Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential, commercially sensitive and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. Uisce Éireann accepts no liability for actions or effects based on the prohibited usage of this information. Uisce Éireann is neither liable for the proper and complete transmission of the information contained in this communication nor for any delay in its receipt. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer. E-Mail may be susceptible to data corruption, interception and unauthorised amendment. Uisce Éireann accepts no responsibility for changes to or interception of this e-mail after it was sent or for any damage to the recipients systems or data caused by this message or its attachments. Please also note that messages to or from Uisce Éireann may be monitored to ensure compliance with Uisce Eireann's policies and standards and to protect our business. Uisce Éireann is a designated activity company limited by shares, established pursuant to the Water Services Acts 2007-2022, having its principal place of business at Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

Thank you for your attention.

5 attachments

AIER367_Response letter.pdf
245K

J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-4001.pdf
925K

J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-2001.pdf
490K

J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-2002.pdf
497K

Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening.pdf
16[illegible]K

Our Ref: AIER367

Date: 12 March 2026

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Áine Nic Amhlaidh
Larass.
Strandhill.
Sligo.

ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Nic Amhlaidh,

I refer to your request dated 16 February 2026 and received by Uisce Éireann on 16 February 2026 under EU Directive 2003/4/EC (the "Directive") (as transposed by the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007–2018 (the "Regulations") for the following information *relating to Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant (upgraded 2021):*

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- *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The EIA Screening Report and any subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) produced for this build.*
- *Planning Compliance: Records confirming compliance with all environmental conditions attached to the Part 8 planning permission.*
- *Mitigation Measures: Documents detailing the specific mitigation measures implemented during construction to protect the SAC habitats and species.*

Following consideration of the provisions of the AIE Regulations, Uisce Éireann has reached a decision to grant your request on 12 March 2026.

I will address each part of your request below:

- *As-Built Documentation: The final "as-built" design drawings, site layout, and exact footprint of the completed facility.*

I attach the 3 x As-Built drawings from the WwTP Upgrade completed in February 2020. The upgraded works were all completed within the footprint of the original WwTP in accordance with the planning permission.

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- *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The EIA Screening Report and any subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) produced for this build.*

Stiúrthóiri / Directors: Jerry Grant (Cathaoirleach / Chairperson), Niall Gleeson (POF / CEO), Douglas Millican, Michael Nolan, Patricia King, Eileen Maher, Cathy Mannion, Michael Walsh, Rena O'Sullivan and Orlagh Nevin.

Oifig Chláraithe / Registered Office: Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86 / Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin, Ireland D01NP86
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UE / LH / HO / 0725

.anning permission was granted via Part 8 Planning permission from Sligo County Council in Sept 2007. Sligo County Council would have considered EIA requirements as part of the Part 8 planning process. The project did not trigger the requirement for EIAR and therefore proceeded via the Part 8 process. The permitted works were subsequently implemented by UÉ. The Part 8 planning documentation is included in Appendix 1 of the attached document.

- *Planning Compliance: Records confirming compliance with all environmental conditions attached to the Part 8 planning permission.*

The decision-maker has confirmed that the project was completed in accordance with all details included within the Part 8 submission. UÉ does not hold any Planning Compliance records in respect of the above.

- *Mitigation Measures: Documents detailing the specific mitigation measures implemented during construction to protect the SAC habitats and species.*

The decision-maker has advised that the project screened out for AA and an NIS was not required. The project was delivered in accordance with the details included in the Part 8 submission including best practice construction methods.

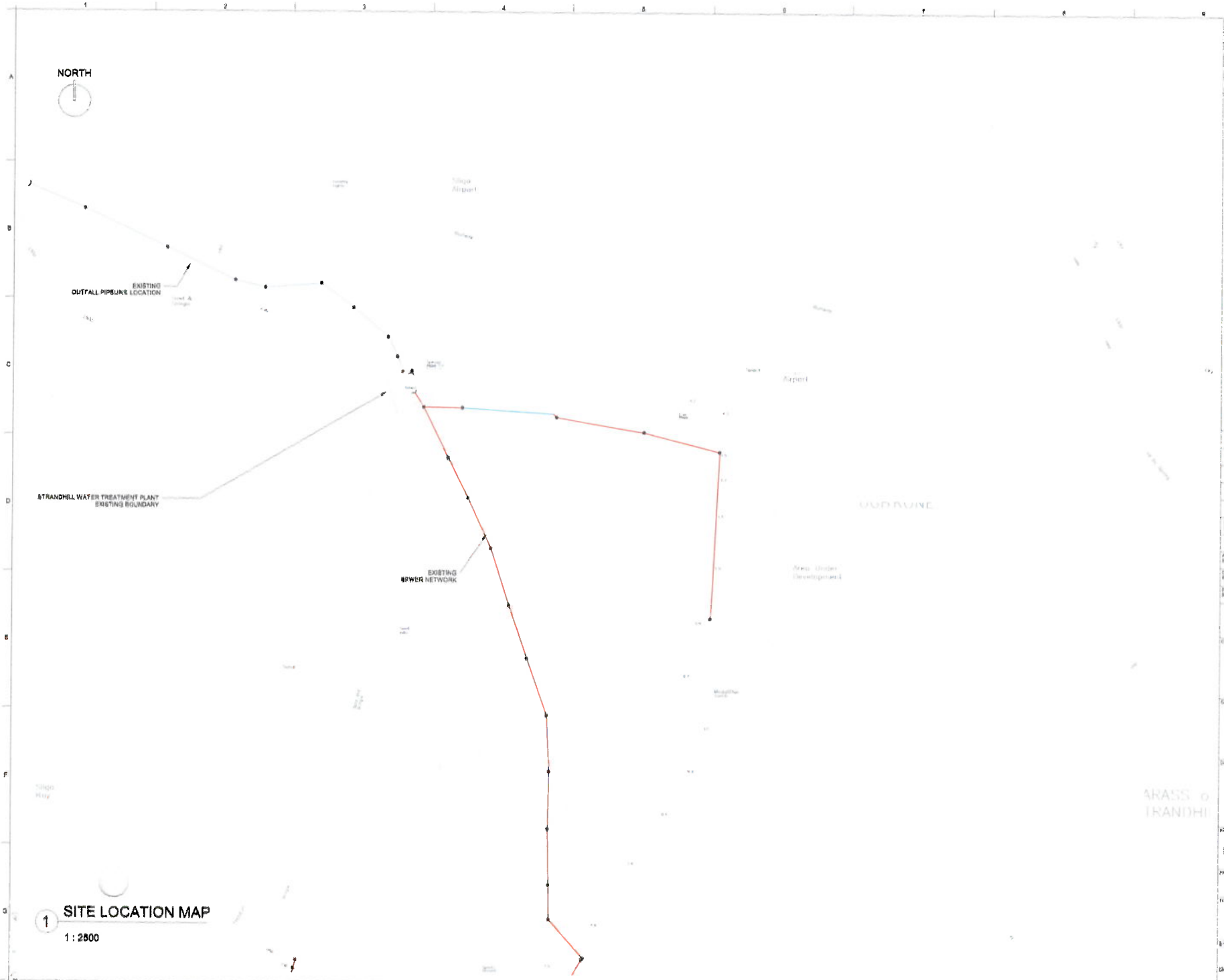
Review
Under Article 11 of the Regulations, you have a right to seek an internal review of our decision. An internal review must be requested within one month of receipt of our decision. There is no charge for requesting an internal review. If you would like to seek an internal review, you can do so by sending an email to foi@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

Noel Shannon
Freedom of Information Officer

Uisce Éireann

(on behalf of Decision-Maker)



1 SITE LOCATION MAP

1 : 2500

NOTES:
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES (mm) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
2. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND RELATE TO THE ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM MALIN HEAD (OD) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
3. ENSURE THIS DRAWING IS THE RELEVANT REVISION AND READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.
4. TO BE VIEWED ON A1 PAPER SIZE

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHKD
C01	AS CONSTRUCTED	17/06/20	DC	BM

APPROVED BY	Darragh Hobbs Process & MEICA Lead	SIGNED	DATE 17/06/20
CHECKED BY	Barry Mugan Project Engineer	SIGNED	DATE 17/06/20
DRAWN BY	Declan Corcoran CAD Technician	SIGNED	DATE 17/06/20

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

CLIENT
Irish Water,
Colvill House,
24-26 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1.

CLIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE
Nicholas O'Dwyer,
Unit 46 Nutgrove Office Park,
Nutgrove Avenue,
Dublin

CONSTRUCTOR
Athenry,
Co. Galway

PROJECT
TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE, STRANDHILL AND BALLINAFAD WWTP BUNDLE DBO CONTRACT

PROJECT NO.
J767

TITLE
STRANDHILL SITE LOCATION MAP

STATUS
CR - AS CONSTRUCTED

DRAWING NO.	REVISION
J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-2001	C01



2 DUCTING LAYOUT

1 : 150

NOTES:
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES (mm) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
2. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND RELATE TO THE ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM MALIN HEAD (OD) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
3. ENSURE THIS DRAWING IS THE RELEVANT REVISION AND READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.
4. TO BE VIEWED ON A1 PAPER SIZE.

NEW 160mm PVC ELECTRICAL — P

NEW 160mm PVC SIGNAL DUCTING — S

DUCTING CHAMBERS

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHECK
C01	AS CONSTRUCTED	17/09/20	DC	SM

APPROVED BY:	Darragh Hosie, Process & MEICA Lead	Signature	DATE: 17/09/20
CHECKED BY:	Barry Magan, Project Engineer	Signature	DATE: 17/09/20
DRAWN BY:	Declan Condon, CAD Technician	Signature	DATE: 17/09/20

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CLIENT: Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

CLIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE: Nicholas O'Dwyer, Unit 48 Ridgeview Office Park, Ridgeview Avenue, Dublin

CONTRACTOR: Coffey Northumbrian Limited, Living water, Athenry, Co. Galway

PROJECT: TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE, STRANDHILL AND BALLINAFAD WWTP BUNDLE DBO CONTRACT

PROJECT NO: J767

TITLE: STRANDHILL DUCTING SITE LAYOUT

STATUS: CR - AS CONSTRUCTED

DRAWING NO: J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-4001

REVISION: C01



1 SITE LAYOUT

1 : 200

NOTES:
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES (mm) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
2. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND RELATE TO THE ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM MALIN HEAD (m) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
3. ENSURE THIS DRAWING IS THE RELEVANT REVISION AND READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.
4. TO BE VIEWED ON A1 PAPER SIZE.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHECK
C01	AS CONSTRUCTED	17/06/20	DC	BM

APPROVED BY	Darragh Hobbs Process & MEICA Lead	SIGNED	DATE 17/06/20
CHECKED BY	Barry Mugan Project Engineer	SIGNED	DATE 17/06/20
DRAWN BY	Declan Conlon CAD Technician	SIGNED	DATE 17/06/20

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Dublin 1.

CLIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE
Nicholas O'Dwyer,
Unit 4B Nutgrove Office Park,
Nutgrove Avenue,
Dublin.

CONTRACTOR
Coffey Northumbrian Limited
Athenry
Co. Galway

PROJECT
TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE, STRANDHILL AND BALLINAFAD WWTP BUNDLE DBO CONTRACT

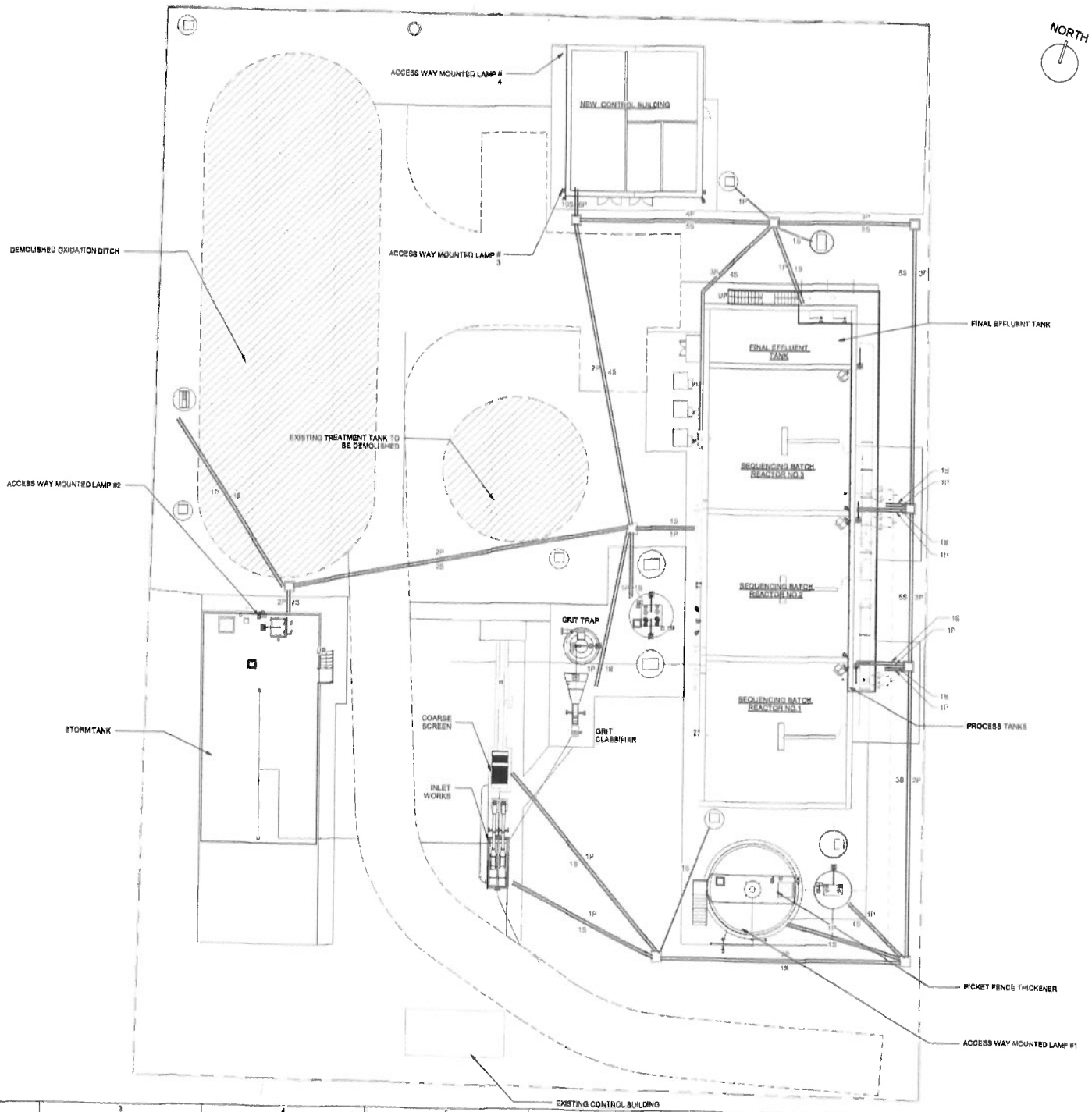
PROJECT NO.
J787

TITLE
STRANDHILL SITE LAYOUT PLAN OLD WORKS

STATUS
CR - AS CONSTRUCTED

DRAWING NO.
J787-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-2002

REVISION
C01



2 DUCTING LAYOUT

1 : 150

NOTES
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4. TO BE VIEWED ON A1 PAPER SIZE.

NEW 150mm PVC ELECTRICAL — P

NEW 150mm PVC SIGNAL DUCTING — S

DUCTING CHAMBERS

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHECK
C01	AS CONSTRUCTED	17/09/20	DC	RM

APPROVED BY	Darragh Hobbs, Process & MEICA Lead	BOARD	DATE 17/09/20
CHECKED BY	Barry Mugan, Project Engineer	BOARD	DATE 17/09/20
DRAWN BY	Declan Corden, CAD Technician	BOARD	DATE 17/09/20

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Unit 4B Nutgrove Office Park,
Nutgrove Avenue,
Dublin.

CONTRACTOR
Coffey Northumbrian Limited
Albany,
Co. Galway

PROJECT
TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE, STRANDHILL AND BALLINAFAD WWTP BUNDLE DBO CONTRACT

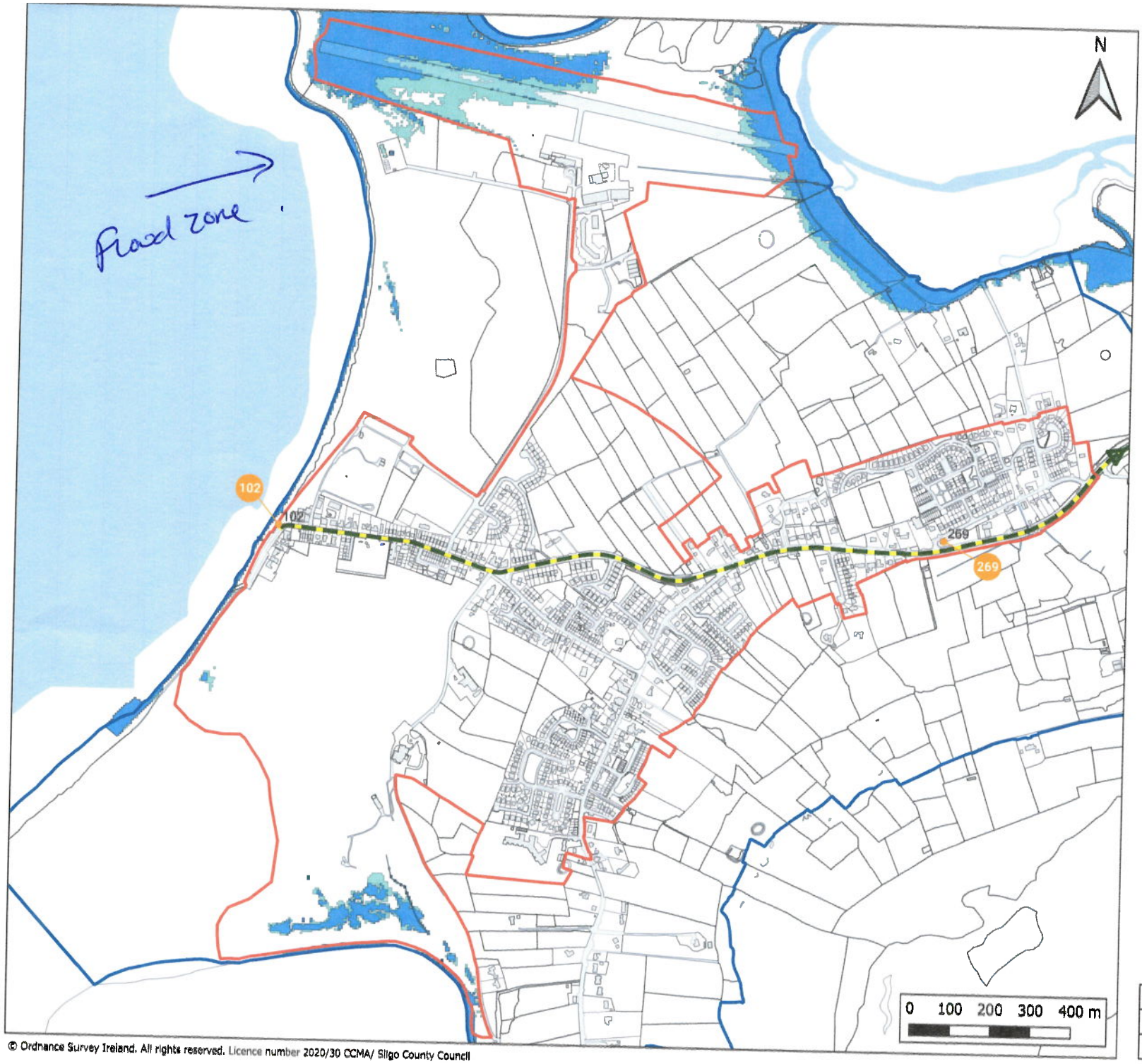
PROJECT NO.
J767

TITLE
STRANDHILL DUCTING SITE LAYOUT

STATUS
CR - AS CONSTRUCTED

DRAWING NO.
J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-4001

REVISION
C01



Strandhill
Objectives Map

Flood zone

- Plan Limit
- Development Limit
- protected structures
- LTP cycle route
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B

2024 - 2030

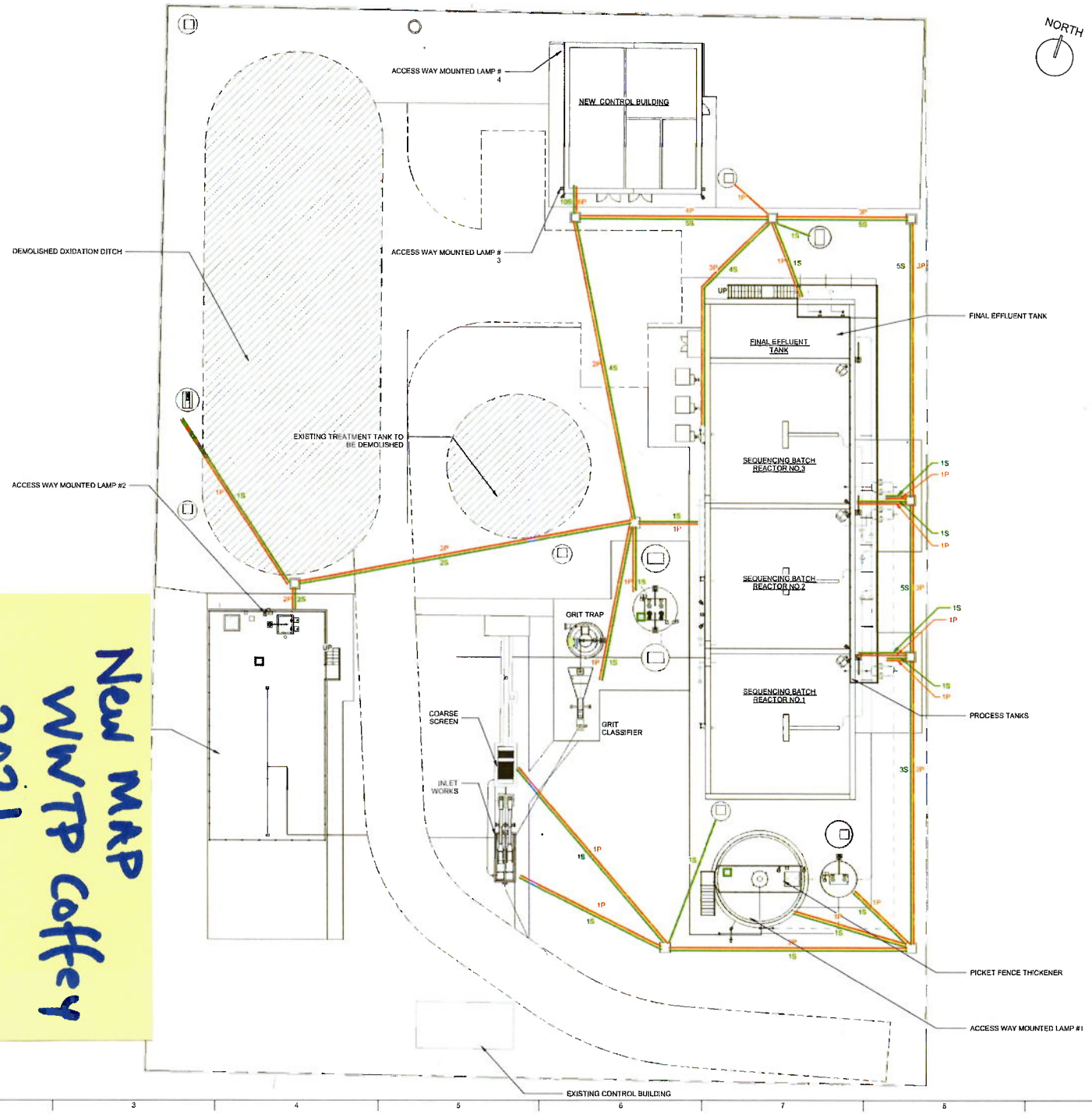
The WWTP is in a flood zone

RPS No.	Structure Name
102	Cannon
269	House (Dolly's Cottage)

11 November 2024

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AIE NEW



New MAP WWTP Coffey 2021

2 DUCTING LAYOUT

1 : 150

NOTES
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES (mm) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
2. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES AND RELATE TO THE ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM MALIN HEAD (mj) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
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4. TO BE VIEWED ON A1 PAPER SI[illegible]

NEW 150mm PVC ELECTRICAL — P
NEW 150mm PVC SIGNAL DUCTING — S
DUCTING CHAMBERS

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHECK
C01	AS CONSTRUCTED	17/06/20	DC	BM

APPROVED BY:	Darragh Hobbs, Process & MEICA Lead	SIGNED:	DATE: 17/06/20
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Co. Galway

PROJECT
TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE, STRANDHILL AND BALLINAFAD WWTP BUNDLE DBO CONTRACT

PROJECT NO.
J767

TITLE
STRANDHILL DUCTING SITE LAYOUT

STATUS
CR - AS CONSTRUCTED

DRAWING NO.
J767-CNL-03-XX-DR-M-4001

REVISION
C01

2007
WWTP
Licence
&
Part 8
Application

2007

WWTP Strandhill 1/4

Licence

Incl. MAPS

- June 2003 - Licence

ATTACHMENT No: B. 9
POPULATION EQUIVALENT OF AGGLOMERATION

Strandhill Population Projections

The current and future population equivalents for the town have been estimated.

PROJECTED POPULATION FOR STRANDHILL

Population Equivalent	2006	2026
Domestic	1,736	2,630
Commercial	151	229
Total	1,887	2,859

B.9 (ii) Pending Development

An examination of planning permissions has indicated a potential PE of 544 as indicated overleaf.

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Pg 13/61

Discharge Point

exact location

reported on numerous occasions as

smelling noxiously untreated/raw of sewage

Condition 6

- See Condition 6 molluscan product

Cond 7.

- Comply with Heritage

Cond 13.

- Breach revokation

Planning Reference	Permission Type	Date Search	Number of Dwellings	Commerical Floor Area	Town	Decision Date		Domestic	Commercial	Total
2004										
04/31	2 Houses		Demolish existing house and replace		Strandhill	grant				
04/53	retention				Strandhill	grant		6		6
04/70	Retention				Strandhill	grant				0
04/167	Residental		6 apartments	y	Strandhill	grant		18		18
04/333					Strandhill	grant				0
04/341				y	Strandhill	grant				0
04/422				y	Strandhill	grant				0
04/485				y	Strandhill	grant				0
04/714	Pharmacy & apartment		Demolition of existing D/H & outhouses	y	Strandhill	grant				0
04/755	Retention		Extension to Public house		Strandhill	grant				0
04/1060	retention		House		Strandhill	grant				0
04/1119	Residental		7 Houses		Strandhill	grant		21		21
04/1466	Commercial/Residential	28 apts, 4 retail	Demolt amuse arcade, New 4 retail units, 2 restura		Strandhill	grant		84	???	84
2006										
06/166	Revise elevs to unit				Strandhill	Grant				0
06/252	Demolition of ex D/H		New Apartments		Strandhill	grant		18		18

Map Page 44

Pg 59 - 4500pe advanced stage procurement

Page 1-61 - Sligo Road Pumping Station
West End Pumping Station
upgrade

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05/317	ext to d/h		6 No.		Strandhill	Grant				0
05/348	17 Houses, 4 Apts				Strandhill	Grant		93		93
05/380	Extend ex House				Strandhill	Grant				0
05/387	Fire Station	287 sqm			Strandhill	Grant				0
05/431	Alters to elevations				Strandhill	Grant			2	2
05/600	Retain extns Demolish chimney & bay window				Strandhill	Grant				0
05/775	Extend ex house				Strandhill	Grant				0
05/865	Extend Club House		Demolish damaged building part		Strandhill	Grant				0
05/1047	2 Houses		Demolish ex house		Strandhill	Grant		6		6
05/1130	3 nr. rooflights to front ex house				Strandhill	Grant				0
05/47	commerical		office dev	y	Strandhill	Grant and Commenced				0
05/160	Change hse design (04/31)			y	Strandhill	Grant and Commenced				0
05/296	121 D/H, 3 Aparts, Creche	200 sqm creche		y	Strandhill	Grant and Commenced		372	1	373
05/985	Extend & alter ex house			y	Strandhill	Grant and Commenced				0
06/1193	12 No. Dwellinghouses			y	Strandhill	Grant and Commenced		36		36
2006										

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06/119	F		9	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/138	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/183	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/319	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/327	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/329	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/345	R		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/528	F		20		Strandhill	Grant		60		60
06/563	F		18		Strandhill	Grant		84		84
06/826	F				Strandhill	Grant				0
06/842	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/1062	R				Strandhill	Grant				0
06/1161	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/1164	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/1220	F		0	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/1223	F		2	0	Strandhill	Grant				0
06/1291	R		2	0	Strandhill	Grant		6		6
06/1316	F	61 units aparthotel	0	0	Strandhill	Grant		6		6
06/1317	F	Childcare	34		Strandhill	Grant			183	183
2007								102		102
07/1275	F	Guesthouse	1200	Strandhill	FI					
07/22	F		0	Strandhill	FIMA			36	6	42
07/06	F		0	Strandhill	Grant					0
07/38	F	Restuarant	87.3	Strandhill	Grant					0
07/392	F		0	Strandhill	Grant				1	1

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07/39	F			0	Strandhill	Grant		6		6
07/438	F		Change of use to creche	206	Strandhill	Grant			1	1
07/625	R & F			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/850	F			0	Strandhill	Grant		6		6
07/876	F			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/893	R			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/877	F		2 retail units	229	Strandhill	Grant		33	2	35
07/1084	F			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/1150	F			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/1171	F			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/1244	F			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/1266	R			0	Strandhill	Grant				0
07/1290	F			0	Strandhill	Grant		6		6

Strandhill

File No.	Status		Decision	ABP Decision	Received Date	Development Address	Description			
86	APPLICATION FINALISED		CONDITIONAL		07/01/2008 Monday	2 The Dunes Strandhill Co. Sligo	construction of extension to side and rear of existing building and associated works			
8155	APPLICATION FINALISED		CONDITIONAL		04/03/2008 Tuesday	Old Airport Road Larass	demolition of existing			

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							Strandhill	dwelling house, existing garage and the construction of a new replacement dwelling with proposed new sewage treatment system, percolation area and all associated site works	3	3
8411	NEW APPLICATION				02/05/2008 Tuesday	Larass Strandhill Co. Sligo	erection of 2 no. dwelling houses with connections to local authority mains and associated site works	6		6
8327	WITHDRAWN				02/05/2008 Friday	Cerrowbunnaun Strandhill Co. Sligo	(a)demolition of vacant dwelling house and associated shed and (b)construction of 8 no. 4-bedroom two storey semi-detached houses on a	24		24

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							0.42 hectare site with relocated entrance and all associated site works			
8410	NEW APPLICATION				30/05/2006 Friday	Buenos Ayres Rise (Carrowburnaun) Strandhill Co. Sligo	change and alteration of existing garage to living accommodation, extension of bedroom over existing garage to form a two-storey structure to the same ridgeline as existing dwelling, alteration and extension of dwelling to the rear, construction of a stone facade on front elevation, construction of a new roof over existing flat porch, new slated roof and all associated services	3		3

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							(Original PL77/6630)			
8172	APPLICATION FINALISED		CONDITIONAL		12/03/2008 Wednesday	Kilaspugbrone Strandhill Co. Sligo	retention of existing cottage and associated site works as constructed in revised location including revised site boundaries			
8256	APPLICATION FINALISED		CONDITIONAL		11/04/2008 Friday	16 Kilnrone Drive Strandhill Sligo	construction of (1) an extension to the rear elevation of dwelling house, (2) retention of conversion of the attic space, into a habitable space in the existing dwelling house (3) to close up the existing porch on the front elevation, plus ancillary site works	3		

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							Sum:	384	193	644

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ATTACHMENT No: B.10
CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

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Sligo

Water Services Investment Programme 2007 - 2009

	W/S	Est. Cost.
Schemes at Construction		
Sligo & Environs Water Supply Scheme Stage 2 (G)	W	14,700,000
Sligo Wastewater Treatment Plant (DBO Contract)(G)	S	24,000,000
		38,700,000
Schemes to start 2007		
Enniscrone Sewerage Scheme	S	3,100,000
		3,100,000
Schemes to start 2008		
Ballygawley, Mullaghmore, Ballinacarrow* & Cliffoney* Grouped Sewerage Scheme	S	6,500,000
Mullaghmore Water Supply Scheme Stage 2	W	1,430,000
Sligo Sewerage Scheme (Network Improvement)(G)	S	5,300,000
		13,230,000
Schemes to start 2009		
Carrowroe Sewerage Scheme	S	2,300,000
Lough Talt Water Supply Scheme	W	1,870,000
Rosses Point/ Cregg/ Ballincar Sewerage Scheme	S	4,500,000
		8,670,000
Serviced Land Initiative		
Grange, Strandhill & Tubbercurry Grouped Sewerage Improvement Scheme	S	4,250,000
Teesan/Lisnalurg Sewerage Scheme	S	1,420,000
Ballinacarrow Sewerage Scheme*	S	-
Cliffoney Sewerage Scheme*	S	-
*Previously listed with grouped scheme above		**5,670,000**
Schemes to Advance through Planning		
Ballymote Sewerage Scheme (Upgrade)	S	5,000,000
Collooney Sewerage Scheme (Upgrade)	S	5,000,000
North Sligo Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase 2	W	3,570,000
Sligo & Environs Water Supply Scheme Phase 3 (G)	W	4,080,000
		17,650,000
Water Conservation Allocation		**2,652,000**
Asset Management Study		**60,000**
Programme Total		**89,732,000**

(G) Refers to Gateway as designated in the National Spatial Strategy

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ATTACHMENT No: B.11 - NOT APPLICABLE
SIGNIFICANT CORRESPONDANCE

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ATTACHMENT No: B.12
FORESHORE ACT LICENCE

An Roinn Cumarsáide
Mara agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources
Dublin 2

30 June 2003

Our Ref: MS51/14/145
(Please quote on all correspondence)

Mr Bartley Gavin
Sanitary Services
Sligo County Council
Market Yard
Sligo

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AT STRANDHILL, CO. SLIGO

Dear Bartley

I refer to previous correspondence regarding the above and am pleased to inform you that the Minister of State has approved a Foreshore Licence for the above Scheme. A copy of the Site Specific Conditions, as approved, is attached.

I have asked the Office of the Chief State Solicitor to draw up the Licence and that Office will correspond directly with Solicitors for Sligo County Council.

Thank you for your assistance in the matter.

Yours sincerely

Marie Flynn

Marie Flynn
Coastal Zone Management Division
Tel No. 01 6782135
e-mail: marie.flynn@dcmnr.gov.ie

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Leeson Lane, Dublin 2
Lána Chill Mochargán
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Telephone: +353 1 678 2000
LoCall 1890 44 99 00
Fax: +353 1 678 2449

email: contact@dcmnr.gov.ie
GTN: 1-1-1

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RETENTION OF SEWAGE OUTFALL PIPE AT STRANDHILL CO SLIGO - SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. (a) The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore, the subject matter of this Licence, for the purpose of using and maintaining the aforementioned outfall pipe, as described in 1:10560 Drawing Number 01 of 03 dated 08 May 2001 with attached extract from OS map and sectional drawing, and for no other purpose whatsoever.

   (b) The Licensee may also use the adjacent foreshore but only to the extent necessary for the purpose of using and maintaining the said outfall pipe and shall restore the said foreshore to its proper condition immediately after such use.

2. The Licensee shall, at all times during the continuance of this Licence, keep the said outfall pipe in a good and proper state of repair and condition to the satisfaction of the Licensor and ensure that it will not be injurious to navigation, fisheries, the adjacent lands or the public interest.

3. The Licensee shall provide a level of secondary treatment to a standard which shall ensure a concentration of effluent discharge that shall not exceed 25:35 (BOD:SS)

4. The Licensee shall : -

   - ensure that the secondary treatment works connecting to the outfall pipeline the subject of this Licence are designed to accommodate and treat to the required secondary standard an inflow of 3 D.W.F. (Dry Weather Flow) where 1 D.W.F. is defined as being for a p.e. of 4500;
   - submit details of treatment plant provisions designed to meet this capacity requirement and obtain prior approval from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources for same before construction;
   - ensure that there is sufficient storage capacity in the System to contain all sewage for treatment prior to discharge via the aforementioned outfall pipe.

5. The Licensee shall ensure that the design of the secondary treatment works connecting to the outfall pipeline the subject of this Licence facilitates the future fitting of Ultra Violet (U.V.) treatment facilities or equivalent treatment system, in the event that the Licensor so requires. The installation and operation of any such system shall be in accordance with such standards as may be specified by the Licensor from time to time.

6. Should a statutory viral classification system be laid down for molluscan production areas in the vicinity of the discharge point, this Licence may be revised and amended as necessary to take this into account.

Molluscan Production

7. The Licensee shall comply with any conditions that the **Heritage and Planning Division** of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government may lawfully impose.

8. The Licensee shall inform the British Admiralty Hydrographic Office of the nature and location of the outfall pipe.

9. The Licensee shall ensure that the outfall pipe is adequately marked for navigation and shall apply to the Commissioners of Irish Lights for sanction of new navigational aids/buoyage and/or alteration of existing navigational aids/buoyage.

10. The Licensee shall indemnify and keep indemnified the State and the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, their officers, agents and employees against all actions, loss, claims, damages, costs, expenses and demands arising in any manner whatsoever in connection with the construction, maintenance or use of the said structure or in the exercise of the permission hereby granted.

11. The Licensor shall be at liberty at any time to terminate this Licence by giving to the Licensee three months previous notice in writing, ending on any day and upon determination of such notice, the licence and permission hereby granted shall be deemed to be revoked and withdrawn without liability for the payment of any compensation by the Licensor to the Licensee.

12. The Licensee shall if so required by the Licensor within twelve months after receipt of such notice or on determination of this Licence from any other cause at its own expense, remove the said structures and restore the foreshore in question to the satisfaction of the Licensor and if the Licensee refuses or fails to do so, the Licensor may cause the said works to be removed and the foreshore in question restored and shall be entitled to be paid by and to recover from the Licensee, as a civil debt due to the State, all costs and expenses incurred by him in connection with such removal and restoration.

13. In the event of the breach, non-performance or non-observance by the Licensee of any of the conditions herein contained, the Licensor may forthwith terminate this Licence without prior notice to the Licensee.

14. The Licensor reserves the right to review and amend the terms of this Licence based on the results of any monitoring programme or other relevant information that becomes available.

15. Any notice to be given by the Licensor may be transmitted through the Post Office addressed to the Licensee at its last known address.

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ATTACHMENT No: C.1
OPERATIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

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ATTACHMENT No: C1
OPERATIONAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

C.1.1 Storm Water Overflows

Not Applicable

C.1.2 Pumping Stations

As part of the contract the pumping stations in Strandhill are to be upgraded to include the following:

- High level alarm
- Pump malfunction alarm
- Upgrade of all mechanical and electrical facilities to ensure compliance with the latest Electrical and Health and Safety standards.
- Lockable manhole covers for all manholes within the boundary of the pump station site
- Passive odour control
- Flow measurement on rising main (with instantaneous and totalised flow readings sent to SCADA system)
- Washpoint (Hose and Reel)
- Storm storage tank at the West End Pumping Station

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The outlying pumping stations shall be provided with standby generators with automatic starting in case of power failure. The pumping stations shall also have dial-out alarm systems to ensure a callout in case of pump failure and/or high level in the pump sumps or storm tanks.

Sligo Road Pumping Station

- Minimum pumping capability of 5 l/ s
- Storm overflow screens
- Storm overflow alarm
- Storm overflow volumetic and time measurement

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The Airport Pumping Station

- Minimum pumping capability of 1 l/ s

West End Pumping Station

- Minimum pumping capability of 5 l/ s

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Further Details of Plant and Process

1 Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works Overview

1.1 Introduction

The process at the upgraded Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works will be conventional activated sludge treatment. The plant is designed to treat loads up to 3 DWF. The description below is in regard to the upgraded treatment works.

1.2 Overview of the wastewater line of Strandhill WWT

The upgraded Strandhill Wastewater treatment process will incorporate the following components:

- Inlet Works Flow Measurement
- Inlet Screening
- Screenings conditioning and compacting
- Grit removal system
- Grit classifier and washing equipment
- Forward Feed/Storm Pumping Station
- Storm water tank
- 2 No. Aeration Tanks comprising fine bubble diffused aeration systems
- Sludge Recirculation pumps with flow measurement and control
- 2 No. secondary clarifiers
- Treated Effluent pumping flow measurement
- Sludge Thickening and dewatering facilities

The plant has a design capacity of 4500pe and a design effluent quality of 25 mg/l BOD and 35 mg/l suspended solids.

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Table 1 - Summary of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Parameters

Wastewater Treatment Plant Parameter	Value
Population equivalent	4500
BOD (kg/d)	337.5
Dry weather flow (m^3/day)	1011
Peak Flow to Full Treatment (m^3/day)	3041
Storm water storage capacity (m^3)	253

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1.3 Inlet Works (A)

The inlet works will consist of the following:

- Inlet Flow Measurement and Sampling
- Automatic screen and a by-pass manual screen
- Vortex pista design grit removal system
- Grit Classifier
- Combined Foul/Storm Pumping Station

1.4 Aeration Basins (B)

Two aeration basins will be used for biological treatment. Each aeration basin will be fitted with a bottom installed diffuser matrix.

1.5 Clarifiers (C)

Two circular clarifiers with half bridge scrapers will be used to separate the activated sludge from the clarified effluent.
For each tank, sludge will be drawn from the bottom of the tank, with Return Activated Sludge being pumped back to the head of the aeration chamber and excess sludge pumped to the Picket Fence Thickener.

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1.6 Picket Fence Thickener Tank (D)

Excess sludge will be wasted from the system to a Picket Fence Thickener Tank, which will thicken the sludge to a dry solids content of 3-5%.

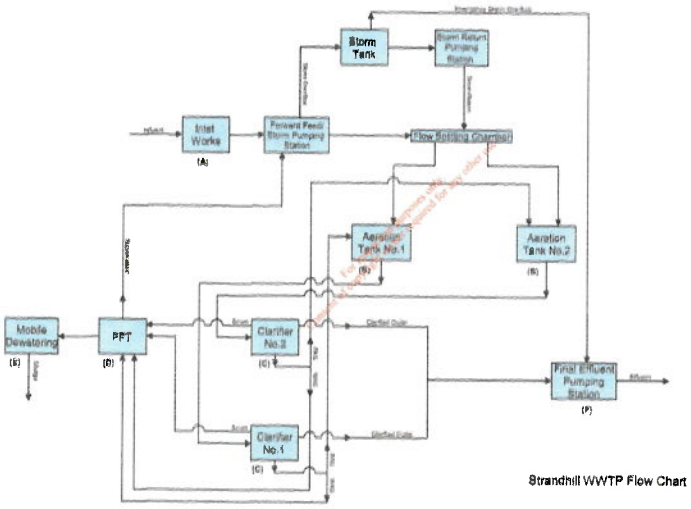
1.7 Sludge Dewatering (E)

A temporary mobile centrifuge will be used to to comply with the 18 % dry solids required under the terms of the contract.

1.8 Final Effluent Pumping and Sampling (F)

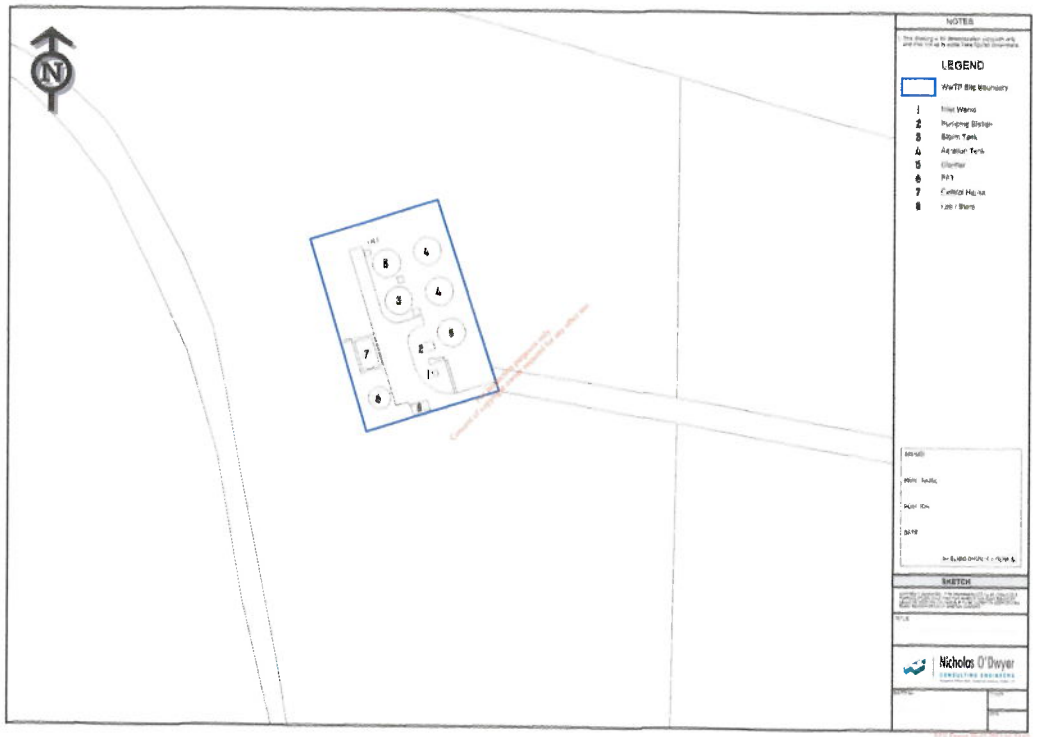
A final effluent pumping station will be installed at the outlet from the works to allow pumping of the effluent in the case of high tides.

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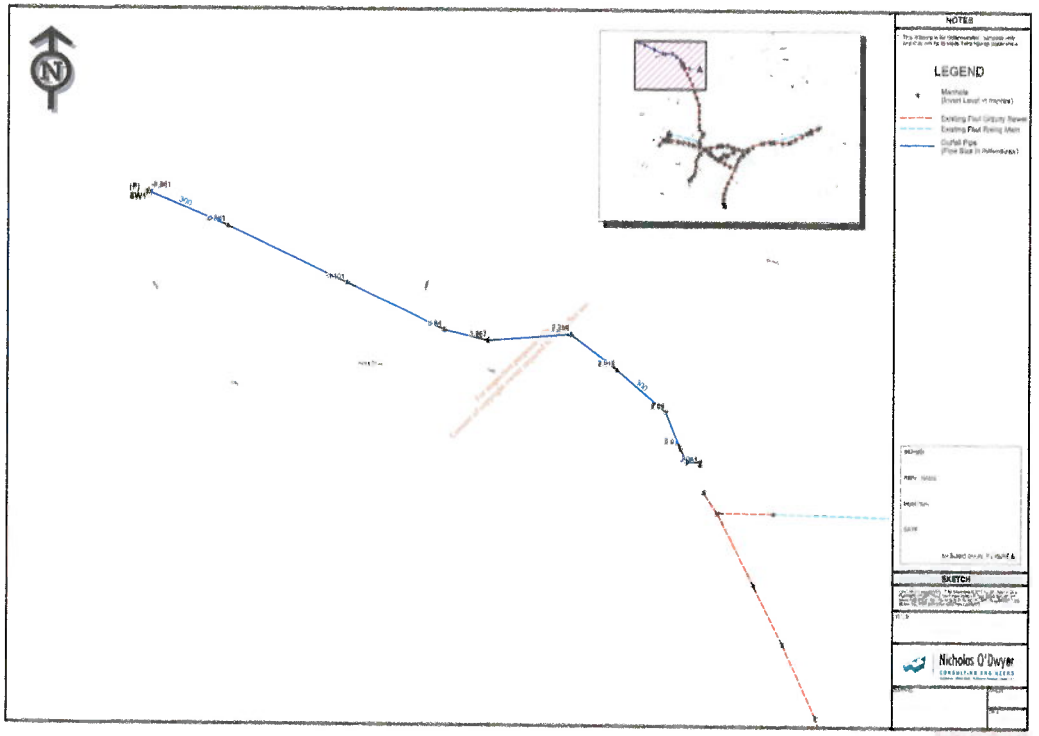
Strandhill WWTP Flow Chart

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ATTACHMENT No: C.2
OUTFALL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

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ATTACHMENT D1
DETAILS OF INFLUENT

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Flow & Load Report

Strandhill

Wastewater Treatment Plant, Co. Sligo

June 2008

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info@treatchem.com Int: +353 71 9127256 Fax: 0865 2611632 V.A.T. Reg. No.:
IE8234324D Managing Director Paul O'Dwyer Nutrisolv Ireland Ltd. trading as
ENSEN

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Site ID:
200508SHL/06/08

Client:
Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers
Nutgrove House
Nutgrove Avenue
Dublin 14

Job number	200508SHL
Quotation number	NQ200508
Date of commencement	25 June 2008
Nutrisolv project manager	Mr. S. Reid
Number of monitoring locations	2

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Sampling locations:

Site 1: Influent, Flow Monitoring & Sampling Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant
Site 2: Effluent, Flow Monitoring & Sampling Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant

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Introduction

The Strandhill 2 day flow and load survey was conducted as part of the County Sligo Monitoring Survey for Waste Water Discharge License Applications.

All monitoring locations were agreed with the engineer prior to commencement of the programme. The Strandhill monitoring programme was part of Set 1 of 3 as determined by the tender documentation.

A pre-monitoring site investigation was conducted prior to installation at Strandhill and it was agreed that flow monitoring and sampling would be conducted on both the influent and effluent lines to the treatment plant. A raingauge was installed for the duration of the monitoring programme.

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1.0 Monitoring Programme - location & objectives:

1. Take flow proportional samples from the influent and effluent lines to the Strandhill WWTP.
2. Monitor flow at the influent and effluent lines to Strandhill WWTP.
3. Have all samples tested for the listed parameters.
4. Record relevant site notes on observations made during the course of the monitoring period.

Flows were recorded using an Isco 750 Area Velocity flow modules and probes. Data was recorded at 2 minute intervals and hourly and daily summaries were compiled. Samples were taken using Isco 6712 programmable samplers. Were appropriate, the sampler was connected to the flow meter and operated on a flow proportional basis.

Recorded daily flows and analytical data are given in this report. Reference should be made to the attached files '200508, County Sligo DL, Set 1, Flow Data, 06/08.xls' and '200508, County Sligo DL, Set 1, Analytical Data, 06/08.xls'.

Note: Reference should be made to all site notes in section 3.

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Plate 1: Strandhill WWTP Influent Sampling Location



Plate 2: Strandhill WWTP Effluent Sampling & Flow Monitoring Location



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IE8234324D Managing Director Paul O'Dwyer Nutrisolv Ireland Ltd. trading as
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2.0 Results

2.1 Strandhill WWTP Influent Data

2.1.1 Daily Flow and Analytical Data

Table 1: Daily Flow & Load Values for Strandhill WWTP Influent Stream

Date	Cert No.	Daily Flow (m3)	COD Load (kg)	BOD Load (kg)
23-24.06.08	14507	263.36	161.44	69.00
24-25.06.08	14518	354.38	258.34	83.63

Table 2: Daily Analytical Results for Strandhill WWTP Influent Stream

Parameter	Units	Result	Result
pH	units	7.2	7.2
Temperature	oC	9.5	9.5
Ammonia	mg/l as NH3	20.1	22.2
Total-P	mg/l as P	8.82	9.03
Ortho-P	mg/l as PO4	5.07	3.49
Conductivity	µs/cm	952	423.5
Nitrate	mg/l as N	2.2	1.8
Nitrite	mg/l as N	0.005	0.035
Total Nitrogen	mg/l as N	82.22	4.875
Sulphate	mg/l as SO4	72.54	52.3
T.S.S	mg/l	267	375
Hardness	mg/l	N/R	N/R
Phenols	mg/l	0.02	0.05
Antrazine	µg/l	<1	<1
Simazine	µg/l	<1	<1
Dichloromethane	µg/l	<1	<1
Toluene	µg/l	<1	<1
Xylene	µg/l	<1	<1
Tributyltin	µg/l	<0.02	<0.02
Arsenic	mg/l	0.009	0.002
Chromium	mg/l	0.004	0.003

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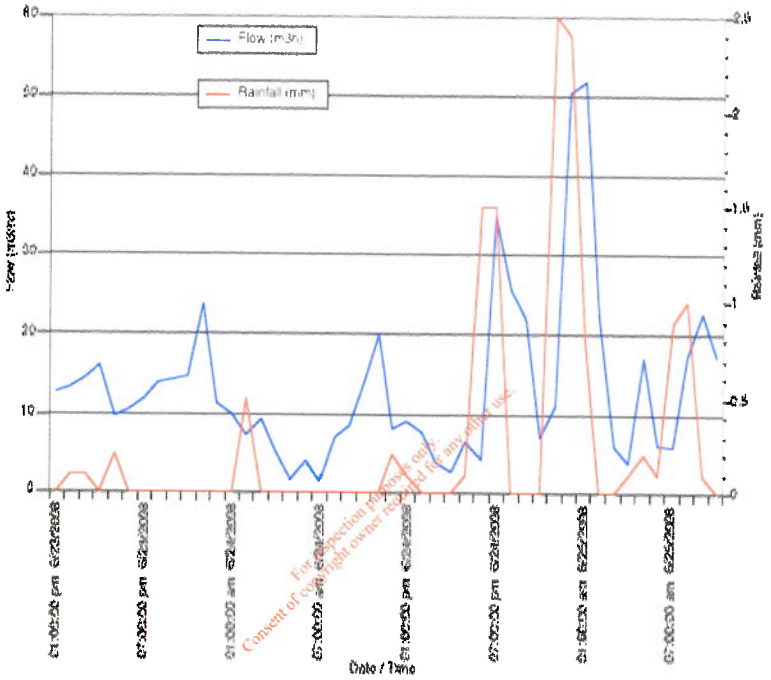
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Copper	mg/l	0.14	0.089
Cyanide	mg/l	<0.05	<0.05
Fluoride	mg/l	0.8	0.68
Lead	mg/l	0.036	0.009
Zinc	mg/l	0.46	0.245
Nickel	mg/l	0.005	0.005
Boron	mg/l	0.03	<0.01
Cadnium	mg/l	0.0041	0.0019
Mercury	mg/l	<0.0001	<0.0001
Selenium	mg/l	0.001	<0.001
Barium	mg/l	0.19	0.07
BOD5	mg/l	262	236
COD	mg/l	613	729

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Graph 1: Strandhill Influent Hrly Flow v Rainfall, 23-25 June 2008



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2.2 Strandhill WWTP Effluent Data

2.2.1 Daily Flow and Analytical Data

Table 3: Daily Flow & Load Values for Strandhill WWTP Effluent Stream

Date	Cert No.	Daily Flow (m3)	COD Load (kg)	BOD Load (kg)
23-24.06.08	14508	297.92	49.16	24.13
24-25.06.08	14519	391.38	53.23	16.44

Table 4: Daily Analytical Results for Ballisodare WWTP Effluent Stream

Parameter	Units	Result	Result
pH	units	7.1	7.2
Temperature	oC	10.5	10
Ammonia	mg/l as NH3	6.85	4.4
Total-P	mg/l as P	5.22	4.5
Ortho-P	mg/l as PO4	3.2	2.7
Conductivity	µs/cm	864	N/R
Nitrate	mg/l as N	5.7	7.4
Nitrite	mg/l as N	1.04	0.425
Total Nitrogen	mg/l as N	29.3	14.11
Sulphate	mg/l as SO4	71.55	53.79
T.S.S	mg/l	98	78
Hardness	mg/l	N/R	N/R
Phenols	mg/l	<0.01	<0.01
Antrazine	µg/l	<1	<1
Simazine	µg/l	<1	<1
Dichloromethane	µg/l	<1	<1
Toluene	µg/l	<1	<1
Xylene	µg/l	<1	<1
Tributyltin	µg/l	<0.02	<0.02
Arsenic	mg/l	0.005	0.002
Chromium	mg/l	0.003	0.002
Copper	mg/l	0.055	0.05
Cyanide	mg/l	<0.05	<0.05

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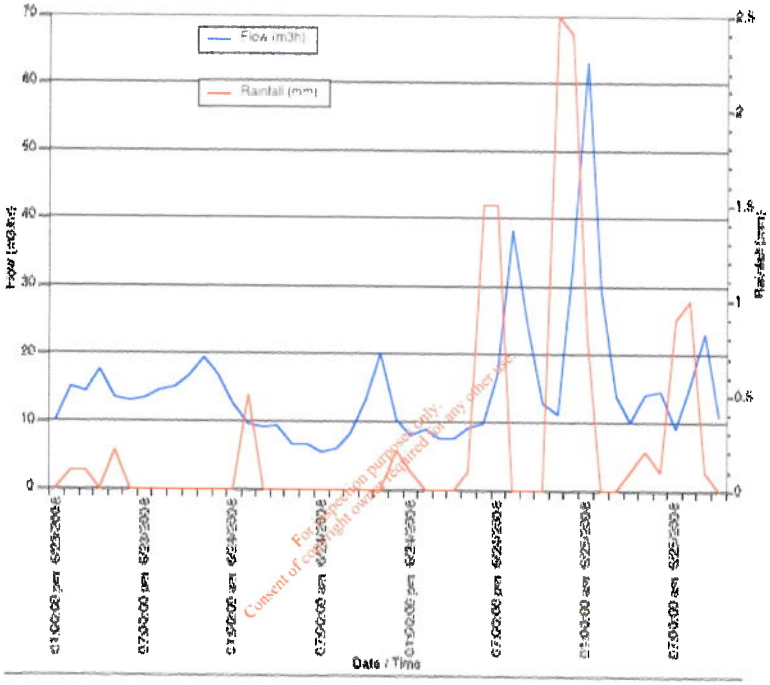
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Fluoride	mg/l	0.71	0.84
Lead	mg/l	0.008	0.002
Zinc	mg/l	0.115	0.077
Nickel	mg/l	0.003	0.003
Boron	mg/l	0.03	<0.01
Cadnium	mg/l	0.001	0.0005
Mercury	mg/l	<0.0001	<0.0001
Selenium	mg/l	0.001	<0.001
Barium	mg/l	0.03	0.02
BOD5	mg/l	81	42
COD	mg/l	165	136

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Graph 2: Strandhill Effluent Hrly Flow v Rainfall, 23-25 June 2008



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General Materials and Methods

Flow meters: Nutrisolv F&L surveys are conducted using a variety of equipment for measuring flow.

- Area velocity probes.
- Flow inserts with bubbleometer depth measurement.
- Pump station monitors.
- Ultrasonic level detectors

In each case the parameter measured is logged as raw data and converted to flow using an appropriate mathematical algorithm.

Samplers used are peristaltic pump based 24 bottle and singfe bottle samplers. Samplers will take flow or time paced samples. A very wide range of sample types can be accommodated.

Other monitors:
A range of parameters can also be logged - pH, Turbidity, rainfall, Dissolved Oxygen.

Additional parameters by request.

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3. Site Notes

A pre-survey site investigation was conducted on 11 June 2008. The site was checked for suitability, representation and safety for both personnel and equipment.

After consideration of the proposed monitoring sites and the possible limitations, it was agreed with Sinead Hanrahan to proceed with flow monitoring and sampling on both the influent and effluent lines to the plant.

Installation and decommissioning notes are given below. Further site notes are given only when deviations occured from the normal operation of the monitoring programme.

Installation: 23 June 2008

Influent: Sampler and flowmeter (AV probe) installed and programmed to take flow proportional samples over a 24hr period. Flow meter callibrated prior to installation.
Instant flow: 12.511 m3/hr

Effluent: AV probe flow monitor was calibrated and installed. Sampler was programmed to take flow proportional samples over a 24hr period.
Instant flow: 10.733 m3/hr.

Decommission: 25 June 2008

Re-calibration of the flow meter gave a 0% calibration deviation on the both the influent and effluent flow meters.

All samples and volumes were taken correctly.

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ATTACHMENT D2
DETAILS OF DISCHARGE POINTS

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Strandhill - WWDL Attachment D.2

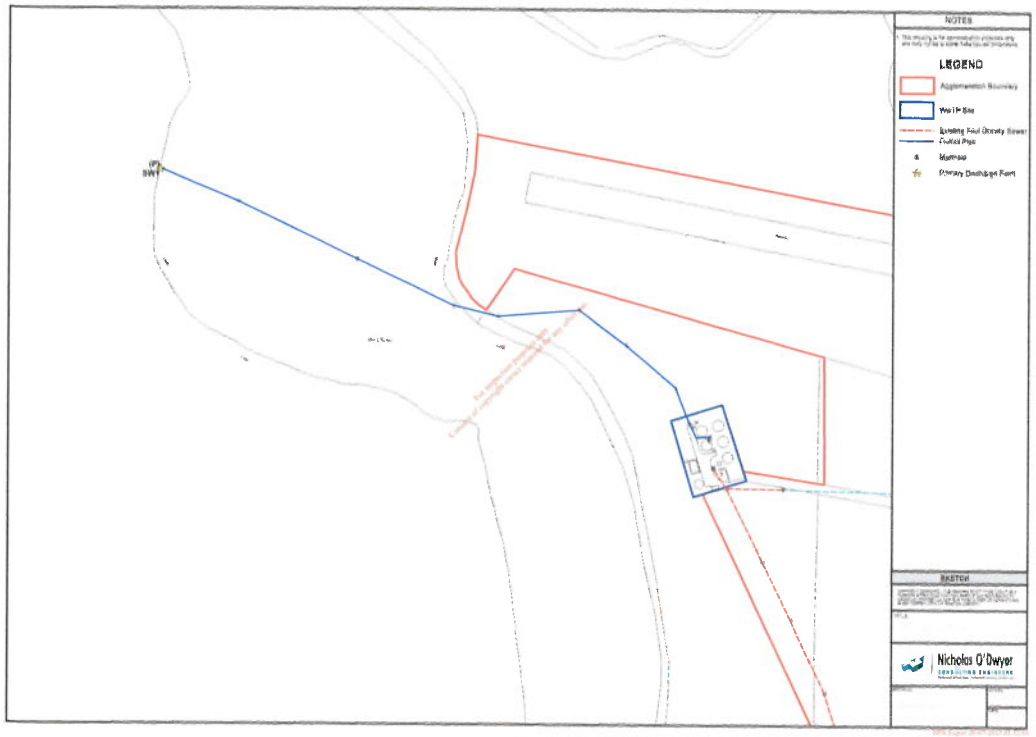
PT_CD	PT_TYPE	LA_NAME	RWB_TYPE	RWB_NAME	DESIGNATION	EASTING	NORTHING	VERIFIED
SW1	Primary	Sligo County Council	Coastal	Sligo Bay	n/a	160057	337116	Y

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ATTACHMENT E2
PROGRAMMES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, SAMPLING METHODS, ANALYTICAL AND QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES



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ATTACHMENT E3
DETAILS OF MONITORING AND SAMPLING POINTS

STRANDHILL URBAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Monitoring and Sampling Points

Sample Frequency: *Monthly Composite on final effluent discharge

Final Effluent Sampling Point: Final effluent sampling chamber
Co-ordinates: 160617, 336814

Receiving Water: Coastal Discharge

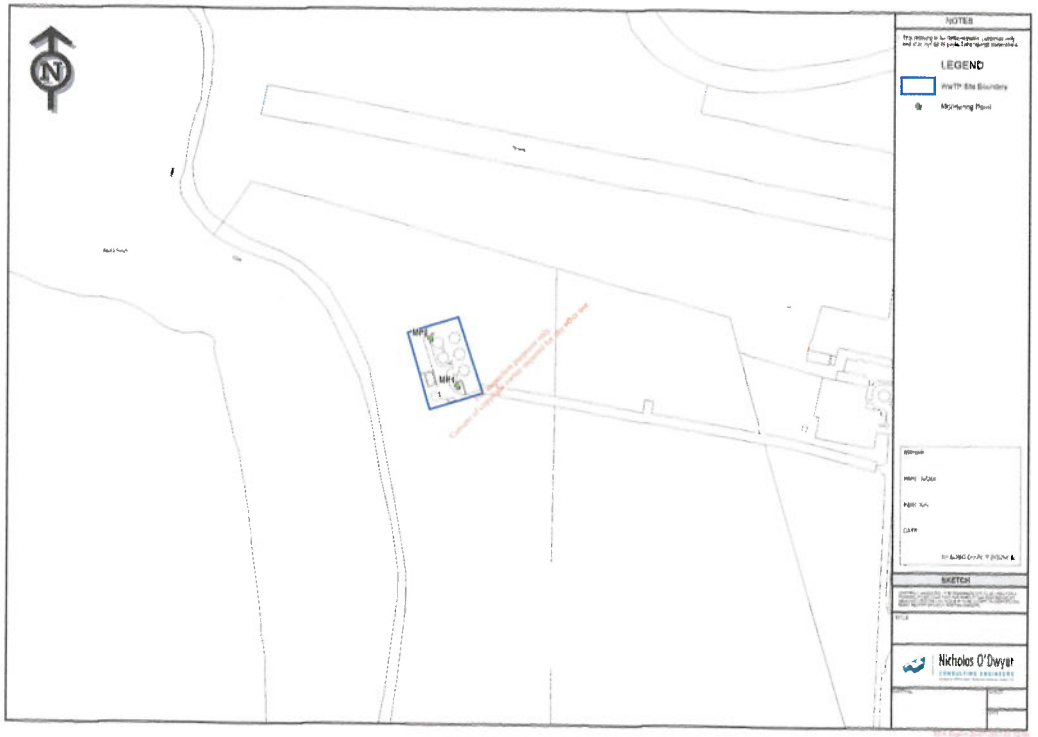
Parameters Analysed

Parameter	Method	Analytical and Quality Control Procedures
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	DO Electrode	In house QC procedures are in place for all parameters tested, these include calibration of equipment used, and the use of independent check standards / QC Charts for each parameter analysed. The lab also participates in the EPA inter-calibration programme. Annual service contracts are in place for the calibration and maintenance of all equipment used in the lab.
Chemical Oxygen Demand	HACH	
Suspended Solids	Gravimetric	
pH	WTW pH meter/electrode	
Conductivity	WTW Conductivity meter/electrode	
Ortho-phosphate	Konelab Autoanalyser	

*Flow Proportional composite samplers need to be installed on the final effluent discharge point, until this happens, only grab samples can be taken.

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PT_CD	PT_TYPE	MON_TYPE	EASTING	NORTHING	VERIFIED
MP2	Primary	M	160596	336859	Y
MP1	Primary	M	160624	336811	Y



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ATTACHMENT E4
SAMPLING DATA

Name	Station	Sample Date	BOD mg/l	COD mg/l	Conductivity @ 20°C	Nitrates(N) mg/l	Nitrites (N) mg/l	Ortho-phosphate mg/l	pH	SS mg/l	TON mg/l
Strandhill	Outlet	04/05/2007	149	373	1205	0.02	0.01	NT	7.75	108	0.03
Strandhill	Outlet	15/08/2007	116	336	1110	NT	NT	1.986	7.21	150	NT
Strandhill	Outlet	20/09/2007	88.4	360	1007	<0.001	0.009	0.647	7.52	134	0.01
Strandhill	Outlet	25/10/2007	44	169	762	43.998	0.282	5.221	6.51	44	44.28
Strandhill	Outlet	04/03/2008	106	188	799	0	0.05	1.326	7.26	70	0.03
AVERAGE			100.34	285.00	976.80	14.67	0.09	2.27	7.25	100.80	11.09

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Strandhill – WWDL

Attachment E.4

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ATTACHMENT F1
IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATERS

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ATTACHMENT No: F. 1
ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER

F.1. Assessment of Impact on Receiving Surface or Ground Water

- Give summary details and an assessment of the impacts of any existing or proposed emissions on the environment, including environmental media other than those into which the emissions are to be made.

Strandhill WwTP is located within Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and within the Sligo and Drumcliff Bay NHA. Strandhill WwTP discharges to the sea at Kilnaspug point, which is located outside the SAC and NHA. The upgrade to the plant will ensure that effluent is treated to a high quality ensuring the integrity of the SAC and NHA is maintained.

- Tables F.1(I)(a) & (b) should be completed for the primary discharge point. Surface water monitoring locations upstream and downstream of the discharge point shall be screened for those substances listed in Tables F.1(I)(a) & (b). Monitoring of surface water shall be carried out at not less than two points, one upstream from the discharge location and one downstream.

These tables are completed in the Annex to the Application.

- For discharges from secondary discharge points Tables F.1(II)(a) & (b) should be completed. Furthermore, provide summary details and an assessment of the impacts of any existing or proposed emissions on the surface water or ground (aquifers, soils, sub-soils and rock environment), including any impact on environmental media other than those into which the emissions are to be made.

Not Applicable

- Provide details of the extent and type of ground emissions at the works. For larger discharges to groundwaters, e.g., from Integrated Constructed Wetlands, large scale percolation areas, etc., a comprehensive report must be completed which should include, inter alia, topography, meteorological data, water quality, geology, hydrology, and hydrogeology. The latter must in particular present the aquifer classification and vulnerability. The Geological Survey of Ireland Groundwater Protection Scheme Dept of the Environment and Local Government, Geological Survey of Ireland, EPA (1999) methodology should be used for any such classification. This report should also identify all surface water bodies and water wells that may be at risk as a result of the ground discharge.

Not Applicable

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- Describe the existing environment in terms of water quality with particular reference to environmental quality standards or other legislative standards. Submit a copy of the most recent water quality management plan or catchment management plan in place for the receiving water body. Give details of any designation under any Council Directive or Regulations that apply in relation to the receiving water.

Strandhill WwTP is located within Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and within the Sligo and Drumcliff Bay NHA. Strandhill WwTP discharges to the sea at Kilnaspug point, which is located outside the SAC and NHA. The upgrade to the plant will ensure that effluent is treated to a high quality ensuring the integrity of the SAC and NHA is maintained.

- Provide a statement as to whether or not emissions of main polluting substances (as defined in the *Dangerous Substances Regulations S.I. No. 12 of 2001*) to water are likely to impair the environment.

Monitoring for dangerous substances in the final effluent was carried out on two occasions. An average of both results was taken and is tabulated in Table D1.

Concentrations of Table 1 parameters, Pesticides and Solvents in the final effluent are lower than the prescribed maxima for tidal waters for all parameters.

Concentrations of Table 2 parameters, Metals and Other Substances in the final effluent, are lower than the prescribed maxima for tidal waters in all cases except for Copper and Zinc as can be seen from the Table below.

In relation to the concentration of Copper in the final effluent, this is only very slightly above the level allowed in tidal waters under Irish Legislation. In relation to Zinc, the level in the final effluent is approximately twice the level allowed in tidal waters.

As the Strandhill WwTP discharges to the open sea, dilution and flushing will ensure that these emissions will not impair the environment.

	Dangerous Substances Regulations Value NB for TIDAL WATERS	Measured Effluent Concentration	Comment	Calculated Effluent Load	Calculated Effluent Load
Parameter	mg/l	mg/l		mg/d	kg/d
Copper	0.005	0.053	POTENTIALLY HIGH	33.708	0.034
Arsenic	0.02	0.004	OK	2.544	0.003
Chromium	0.015	0.003	OK	1.908	0.002
Cyanide	0.01	<0.05			
Flouride	1.5	0.775	OK	492.900	0.493
Lead	0.005	0.005		3.180	0.003
Nickel	0.025	0.003	OK	1.908	0.002
Zinc	0.04	0.096	POTENTIALLY HIGH	61.056	0.061

- In circumstances where water abstraction points exist downstream of any discharge describe measures to be undertaken to ensure that discharges from the waste water works will not have a significant effect on faecal coliform, salmonella and protozoan pathogen numbers, e.g., Cryptosporidium and Giardia, in the receiving water environment.

Not Applicable

- Indicate whether or not emissions from the agglomeration or any plant, methods, processes, operating procedures or other factors which affect such emissions are likely to have a significant effect on –

  (a) a site (until the adoption, in respect of the site, of a decision by the European Commission under Article 21 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC for the purposes of the third paragraph of Article 4(2) of that Directive) —

  (i) notified for the purposes of Regulation 4 of the Natural Habitats Regulations, subject to any amendments made to it by virtue of Regulation 5 of those Regulations,

  (ii) details of which have been transmitted to the Commission in accordance with Regulation 5(4) of the Natural Habitats Regulations, or

  (iii) added by virtue of Regulation 6 of the Natural Habitats Regulations to the list transmitted to the Commission in accordance with Regulation 5(4) of those Regulations,

  (b) a site adopted by the European Commission as a site of Community importance for the purposes of Article 4(2) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC[1] in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 21 of that Directive,

  (c) a special area of conservation within the meaning of the Natural Habitats Regulations, or

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(d) an area classified pursuant to Article 4(1) or 4(2) of Council Directive 79/409/EEC[2];

[1]Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ No. L 206, 22.07.1992)

[2]Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ No. L 103, 25.4.1979)

Strandhill WwTP is located within Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and within the Sligo and Drumcliff Bay NHA. Strandhill WwTP discharges to the sea at Kilnaspug point, which is located outside the SAC and NHA. The upgrade to the plant will ensure that effluent is treated to a high quality ensuring the integrity of the SAC and NHA is maintained.

- Describe, where appropriate, measures for minimising pollution over long distances or in the territory of other states.

Not Applicable.

- This section should also contain full details of any modelling of discharges from the agglomeration. Full details of the assessment and any other relevant information on the receiving environment should be submitted as **Attachment F.1.**

Modelling of the discharges from the agglomeration has not been carried out.

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3/4

ATTACHMENT F2 – NOT APPLICABLE
LOCATION OF DRINKING WATER ABSTRACTION POINTS

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ATTACHMENT G1
COMPLIANCE WITH COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

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ATTACHMENT No: G. 1

COMPLICANCE WITH COUNCIL DIRECTIVES

Sligo County Council are currently at an advanced stage in the procurement process to upgrade the plant to 4,500 PE. This upgrade will result in effluent treated to a higher quality and less incidence of storm water overflows due to increased capacity for storm water holding at the plant. The treatment works is to be designed to accommodate and treat an inflow of 3 D.W.F, where 1 D.W.F is defined as being for 4,500 PE.

The upgrade should ensure that no significant pollution from the waste water works is caused.

Dangerous Substances Directive 2006/11/EC

This Directive concerns pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the EU.

Monitoring for dangerous substances in the final effluent was carried out on two occasions. An average of both results was taken and is tabulated in Table D1.

Concentrations of Table 1 parameters, Pesticides and Solvents in the final effluent are lower than the prescribed maxima for tidal waters for all parameters.

Concentrations of Table 2 parameters, Metals and Other Substances in the final effluent, are lower than the prescribed maxima for tidal waters in all cases except for Copper and Zinc as can be seen from the Table below.

In relation to the concentration of Copper in the final effluent, this is only very slightly above the level allowed in tidal waters under Irish Legislation. In relation to Zinc, the level in the final effluent is approximately twice the level allowed in tidal waters.

As the Strandhill WwTP discharges to the open sea, dilution and flushing will ensure that these emissions will not impair the environment.

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	Dangerous Substances Regulations Value NB for TIDAL WATERS	Measured Effluent Concentration	Comment	Calculated Effluent Load	Calculated Effluent Load
Parameter	mg/l	mg/l		mg/d	kg/d
Copper	0.005	0.053	POTENTIALLY HIGH	33.708	0.034
Arsenic	0.02	0.004	OK	2.544	0.003
Chromium	0.015	0.003	OK	1.908	0.002
Cyanide	0.01	<0.05			
Flouride	1.5	0.775	OK	492.900	0.493
Lead	0.005	0.005		3.180	0.003
Nickel	0.025	0.003	OK	1.908	0.002
Zinc	0.04	0.096	POTENTIALLY HIGH	61.056	0.061

The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

The WFD sets a framework for comprehensive management of water resources in the European Union, within a common approach and with common objectives, principles and basic measures. It addresses inland surface waters, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. The fundamental objective of the Water Framework Directive aims at maintaining "high status" of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters and achieving at least "good status" in relation to all waters by 2015. Member States will have to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted for the achievement of the objectives of the WFD and for the implementation of programmes of measures for this purpose. The improvements made to the treatment works as part of the upgrade works will enable the objectives of this Directive to be met.

Currently a River Basin Management project for the Western Region is being prepared. This is currently at draft stage. The Western Region includes major lakes such as Loughs Arrow, Carrowmore, Conn, Corrib and Mask, river systems such as the Bonet, Clare, Robe, Moy and Owenmore and the related estuaries, and groundwaters and coastal waters out to a distance of one nautical mile or more. This plan is at draft stage at present.

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The Birds Directive 79/409/EEC

This Directive and amending acts, aim at providing long term protection and conservation of all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of the Member States. These member states must conserve, maintain or restore the biotopes and habitats of birds by creating protection zones such as SPAs. Strandhill WwTP does not discharge to an SPA.

The Groundwater Directives 80/68/EEC & 2006/118/EC

Not Applicable

The Drinking Water Directives 80/778/EEC

Not Applicable

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC

The upgrade works to Strandhill WwTP will ensure compliance with this Directive. The effluent standards to be adopted are as below:

Parameter	Concentration (mg/l)
BOD_5	25
Total Suspended Solids	35
COD	125
Total Ammonia	20

The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

The main aim of the EC Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. Protection zones for annexed species such as SACs were designated as part of this Directive.

Strandhill WwTP is located within Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and within the Sligo and Drumcliff Bay NHA. Strandhill WwTP discharges to the

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sea at Kilnaspug point, which is located outside the SAC and NHA. The upgrade to the plant will ensure that effluent is treated to a high quality ensuring the integrity of the SAC and NHA is maintained.

The Environmental Liabilities Directive 2004/35/EC

Regard to the EPA Guidance on Environmental Liability Risk Assessment, Residuals Management Plans and Financial Provision was made during completion of this application. The upgrade works will serve to enhance compliance with this Directive.

The Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC

This Directive concerns the quality of bathing water meaning all running or still fresh waters and sea water in which members of the public bathe. Adherence to the effluent standards will ensure that this Directive is not contravened.

Shellfish Waters Directive (79/923/EEC)

The aim of the EC Shellfish Waters Directive is to protect or improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth, therefore contributing to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man. It sets physical, chemical and microbiological water quality requirements that designated shellfish waters must either comply with ('mandatory' standards) or endeavour to meet ('guideline' standards). Adherence to the effluent standards will ensure that this Directive is not contravened.

There are a number of designated Shellfish Waters surrounding Ireland. Waters in proximity to Strandhill are not designated as such.

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ATTACHMENT G2 – NOT APPLICABLE
COMPLIANCE WITH WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PHOSPHORUS REGULATIONS

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ATTACHMENT G3
IMPACT MITIGATION

Advanced stage procurement 4500 PE

Sligo County Council are currently at an advanced stage in the procurement process to upgrade the plant to 4,500 PE. This upgrade will result in effluent treated to a higher quality and less incidence of storm water overflows due to increased capacity for storm water holding at the plant. The treatment works is to be designed to accommodate and treat an inflow of 3 D.W.F, where 1 D.W.F is defined as being for 4,500 PE.

The Strandhill local area plan 2003 reports that the planned expansion of the scheme is a serviced land initiative scheme, where a local contribution of 60% is required. A copy of the Sligo Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009 is included in Attachment B10.

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ATTACHMENT G4 – NOT APPLICABLE
STORM WATER OVERFLOW

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ATTACHMENT No: A.1
NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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ATTACHMENT No: A.1
NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.0 The waste water works and the activities carried out

Strandhill is a small seaside resort, located on the foothills of Knocknarea Mountain, approximately 8km west of Sligo City. Strandhill is rapidly developing as a dormitory settlement for Sligo and has been designated as a Key Satellite Village. The present population equivalent of the town is approximately 1,887 p.e.

The town is served by approximately 7,000m of foul sewers which drain to the WwTP located adjacent to the airport. Three pumping stations in Strandhill, namely; Sligo Road PS, West End PS and the Airport PS, serving individual subcatchments, discharge to the foul sewer in Strandhill. The town is also served by a storm sewer network.

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The town is currently served by a 1,500 PE extended aeration wastewater treatment plant which was constructed in 1992. The plant has been maintained and operated since this date by Sligo County Council. The existing wastewater treatment plant consists of an inlet chamber with coarse screen, a measuring flume, a storm overflow chamber, an oxidation ditch, a clarifier, a sludge return sump, sludge drying beds and a control building. The plant discharges to the sea at Killaspug via an outfall pipe.

Sligo County Council are currently at an advanced stage in the procurement process to upgrade the plant to a capacity of 337.5kg/d BOD. Inlet Works, 2 no. Aeration Tanks, Clarifiers, Sludge Holding Tank, Storm Water Holding Tank and Associated Pipework and Fittings and Site Works are to be included as part of the DBO Contract.

The basic design parameters for the new wastewater treatment plant are summarised as follows:

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Parameter	Load
Population	4,500
Dry Weather flow (l/sec)	11.7
Peak flow to plant	95
Peak Flow to Treatment (l/sec)	35.2
Outfall Capacity [1] (l/sec)	55
Storm Tank Capacity (m^3)	253
Average $B.O.D._5$ (kg/day)	337.5

To allow for seasonal variation in load, the design BOD level is taken at 75g/person.day for Strandhill.

The upgrade will result in effluent treated to a higher quality and less incidence of storm water overflows due to increased capacity for storm water holding at the plant. The treatment works is to be designed to accommodate and treat an inflow of 3 D.W.F, where 1 D.W.F is defined as being for 4,500 PE.

A temporary package plant with a design capacity of 1,200 PE is also currently on site at Strandhill WwTP, giving a current combined treatment capacity of 2,700PE. This is not under the control of Sligo County Council and is a temporary installation, it will not be given further consideration in this application.

2.0 The sources of emissions from the waste water works

Primary Discharge

The primary discharge from the works is to the sea, and is located Killaspug Point. Discharge is through a 300mm outfall.

The effluent standards for the WwTP are:

Parameter	Concentration (mg/l)
BOD_5	25
Total Suspended Solids	35
COD	125
Total Ammonia	20

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The foreshore license for Strandhill, issued on the 30th of June 2003, includes the following conditions:

The effluent must conform to 25mg/l BOD and 35mg/l Suspended Solids.

The treatment works must be designed to have an effluent ammonia concentration of no more than 20mg/l.

Storm Water Overflow

The upgrade will ensure that storm water holding is provided for at the plant, minimising the risk of storm water overflows.

Flows of up to 35.2 l/s (3DWF) shall be transferred to the wastewater treatment plant from the sewer network for full treatment.

Flows in excess of the plant peak design flow to full treatment shall overflow to the stormwater tank which has a capacity of $253m^3$. Overflows from the storm tanks shall ensure that no solid greater than 6 mm in size in any direction shall be discharged to the receiving waters. The overflows shall be fitted with non-return valves to ensure there is no return of water during high water conditions.

Emergency Overflow

There is one possibility for emergency overflow in the town at Sligo Road pumping station. Discharge is to an unnamed land drain. At present, overflows from this pump station occur very rarely in the case of pump failure. Under the DBO contract, a generator will be provided at the pumping stations, to facilitate continuous operation in the event of a power failure as well as a dial out alarm system.

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3.0 The nature and quantities of emissions from the waste water works (into the receiving aqueous environment as well as identification of significant effects of the emissions on the environment)

The treatment works is to be designed to accommodate and treat an inflow of 3 D.W.F, where 1 D.W.F is defined as being for 4,500 PE (11.7l/s).

A flow and load survey carried out on the existing plant in June 2008 gives the following results. The flow and load survey report is included in Appendix D.1.

Influent				
Date	Cert No.	Daily Flow (m^3)	COD Load (kg)	BOD Load (kg)
23-24.06.08	14507	263.36	161.44	69.00
24-25.06.08	14518	354.38	258.34	83.63
Effluent				
Date	Cert No.	Daily Flow (m^3)	COD Load (kg)	BOD Load (kg)
23-24.06.08	14508	297.92	49.16	24.13
24-25.06.08	14519	391.38	53.23	16.44

Grab sampling of the final effluent is carried out every two months by Sligo County Council. An average of the results taken by Sligo County Council between April 2007 and April 2008 is shown below:

pH	7.25
Electrical Conductivity(@25oC)	976.6
Suspended Solids (mg/l)	100.8
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	100.34
Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	285
Nitrite (as N) (mg/l)	0.09
Nitrate (as N) (mg/l)	14.67
Orthophosphate (as P) (mg/l)	2.27

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The Design Parameters for new plant are:

Dry Weather Flow	11.5l/s
Peak flow to treatment	35.2l/s
Outfall capacity	55l/s
Storm Tank Capacity	253m^3
Average BOD	337.5kg/d
Total Phosphorous	8.1kg/d
Total Nitrogen	49.5kg/d

4.0 Identification of significant effects of the emissions on the environment

Strandhill WwTP is located within Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC and within the Sligo and Drumcliff Bay NHA. Strandhill WwTP discharges to the sea at Kilnaspug point, which is located outside the SAC and NHA. The upgrade to the plant will ensure that effluent is treated to a high quality ensuring the integrity of the SAC and NHA is maintained.

5.0 The proposed technology and other techniques for preventing or reducing emissions/pollution from the waste water works

The plant is to be upgraded to have a new design capacity of 4,500 PE. Part 8 planning was granted in September 2007 and provides for Inlet Works, 2 no. Aeration Tanks, Clarifier, Sludge Holding Tank, Associated Pipework and Fittings and Site Works. This upgrade will result in effluent treated to a higher quality and less incidence of storm water overflows due to increased capacity for storm water holding at the plant. The treatment works is to be designed to accommodate and treat an inflow of 3 D.W.F, where 1 D.W.F is defined as being for 4,500 PE.

The WwTP at Strandhill is to be procured and bundled under a DBO Contract with an Operations and Maintenance period of 20 years. Tenders have been completed and the contract is underway.

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As part of the contract the pumping stations are also to be upgraded to include the following:

- High level alarm
- Pump malfunction alarm
- Upgrade of all mechanical and electrical facilities to ensure compliance with the latest Electrical and Health and Safety standards.
- Lockable manhole covers for all manholes within the boundary of the pump station site
- Passive odour control
- Flow measurement on rising main (with instantaneous and totalised flow readings sent to SCADA system)
- Washpoint (Hose and Reel)
- Storm storage tank at the West End Pumping Station

The outlying pumping stations shall be provided with standby generators with automatic starting in case of power failure. The pumping stations shall also have dial-out alarm systems to ensure a callout in case of pump failure and/or high level in the pump sumps or storm tanks.

1) Sligo Road Pumping Station
   - Minimum pumping capability of 5 l/ s
   - Storm overflow screens
   - Storm overflow alarm
   - Storm overflow volumetic and time measurement

2) The Airport Pumping Station
   - Minimum pumping capability of 1 l/ s

3) West End Pumping Station
   - Minimum pumping capability of 5 l/ s

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7.0 Other

The WwTP is currently manned on a part time basis, with the operator carrying out daily tasks as required. The operator also has responsibility for the pumping stations.

Under DBO contract, the DBO contractor will be responsible for the WwTP and the pump stations.

The proposed upgraded WWTP is to be located on the site of the existing plant, to the west of the town, and will continue to discharge treated effluent via a 300mm outfall to the sea.

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6.0 Measures planned to monitor emissions into the environment

Currently, a grab sample of the final effluent is taken for analysis on a two monthly basis by Sligo County Council.

As part of the proposed upgrade works of the existing treatment plant, the following on-line continuous monitoring equipment shall be provided and the measurements recorded: (In the case of flow monitoring, the total flows shall also be recorded)

(i) Flow measurement for influent, flow to full treatment, sludge return storm overflow, storm return and final effluent

(ii) Dissolved oxygen and suspended solids measurement shall be provided for each biological treatment unit.

(iii) Continuous electronic level measurement in all pump sumps, the stormwater tank and in the sludge holding tanks.

In addition, fixed refrigerated automatic flow proportional composite samplers shall be provided for the influent and effluent.

All data collected shall be provided to the Employer via a SCADA system. All data shall be updated on a regular and timely basis within 24 hours of analysis.

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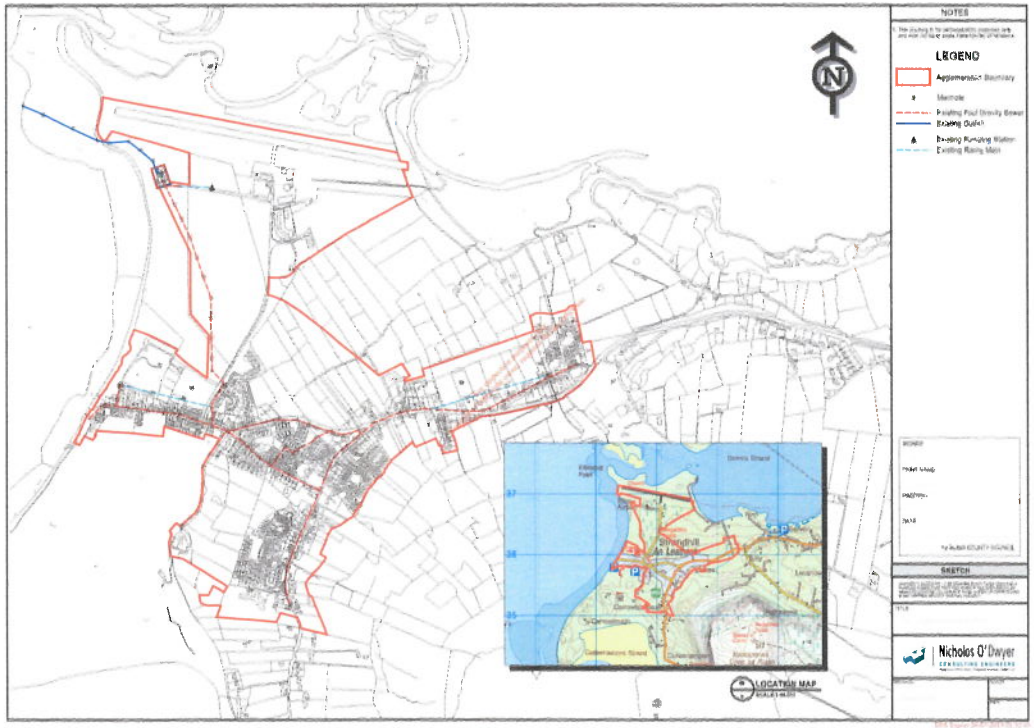
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ATTACHMENT No: B.1
BOUNDARY OF AGGLOMERATION

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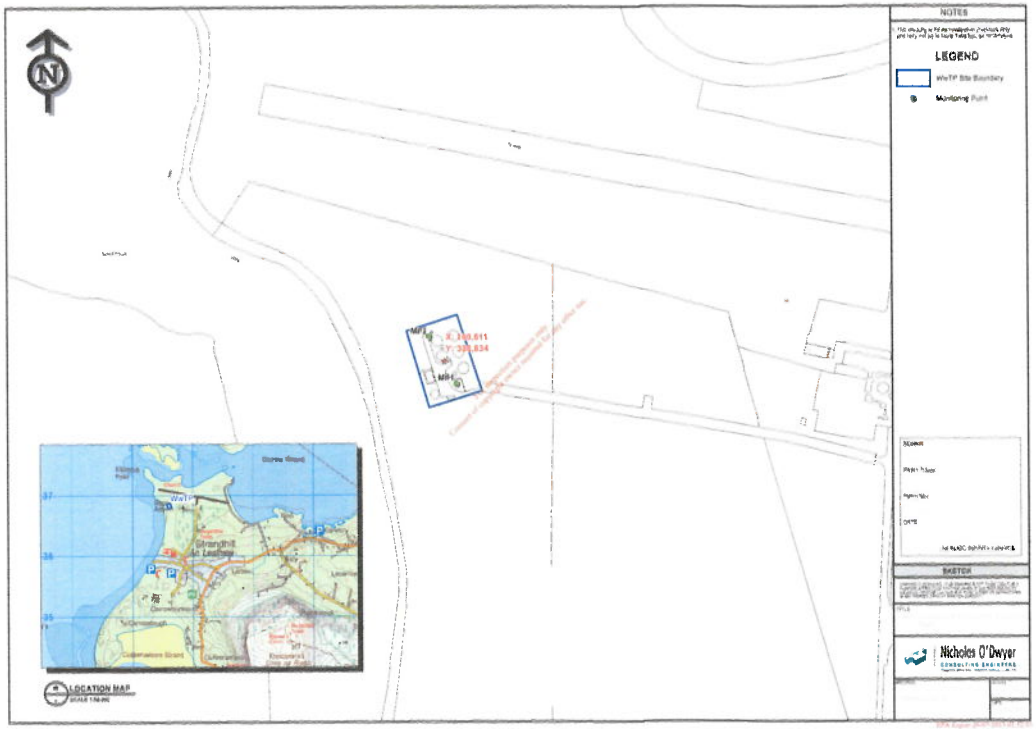
ATTACHMENT No: B.2
LOCATION OF WwTP



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ATTACHMENT No: B.3
LOCATION OF PRIMARY DISCHARGE POINT

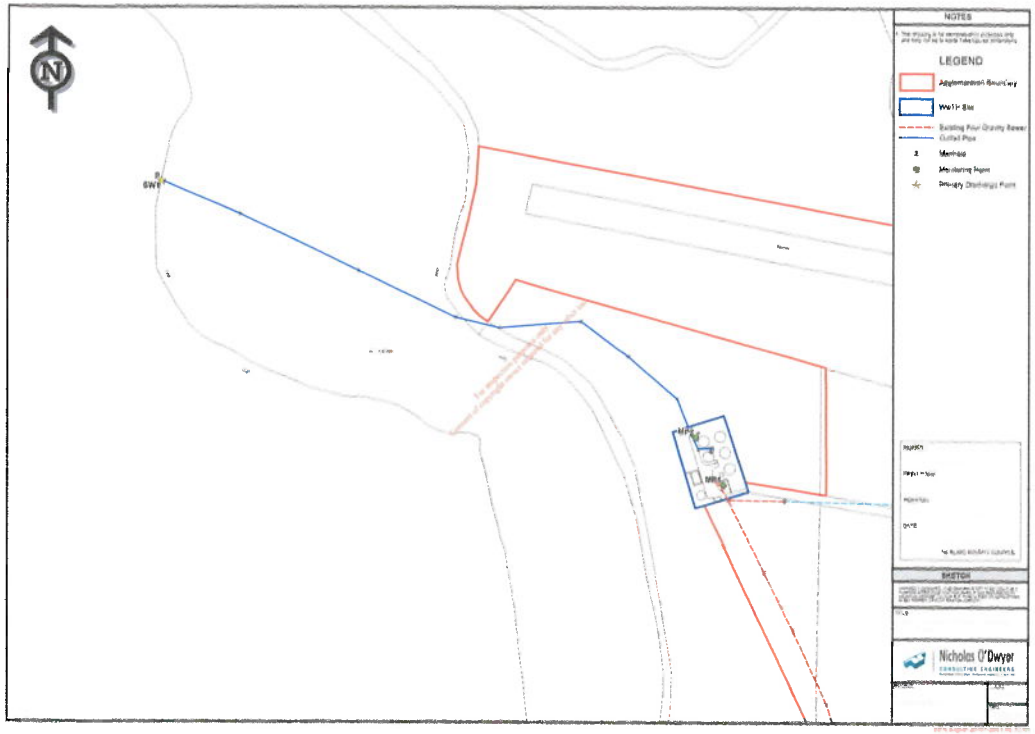


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Smell reported

ATTACHMENT No: B.4 – NOT APPLICABLE
LOCATION OF SECONDARY DISCHARGE POINT



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ATTACHMENT No: B.5 – NOT APPLICABLE
LOCATION OF STORM WATER OVERFLOWS

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ATTACHMENT No: B.6
PLANNING PERMISSION

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12

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Time received: _____

PROPOSED BY: Councillor P. Mc Loughlin

SECONDED BY: Councillor D. Bree

AND RESOLVED:

Strandhill Sewerage Scheme.

To approve in accordance with Part 8 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 2001 (as amended), the proposed improvement works to the above sewerage works at Killaspugbrone, Strandhill, Co. Sligo.

At this meeting of the Council held this 3rd day of September 2007 the above Resolution was AGREED ~~CARRIED~~ ~~LOST~~

SIGNATURE OF CATHAOIRLEACH: Seamus Kilgannon.

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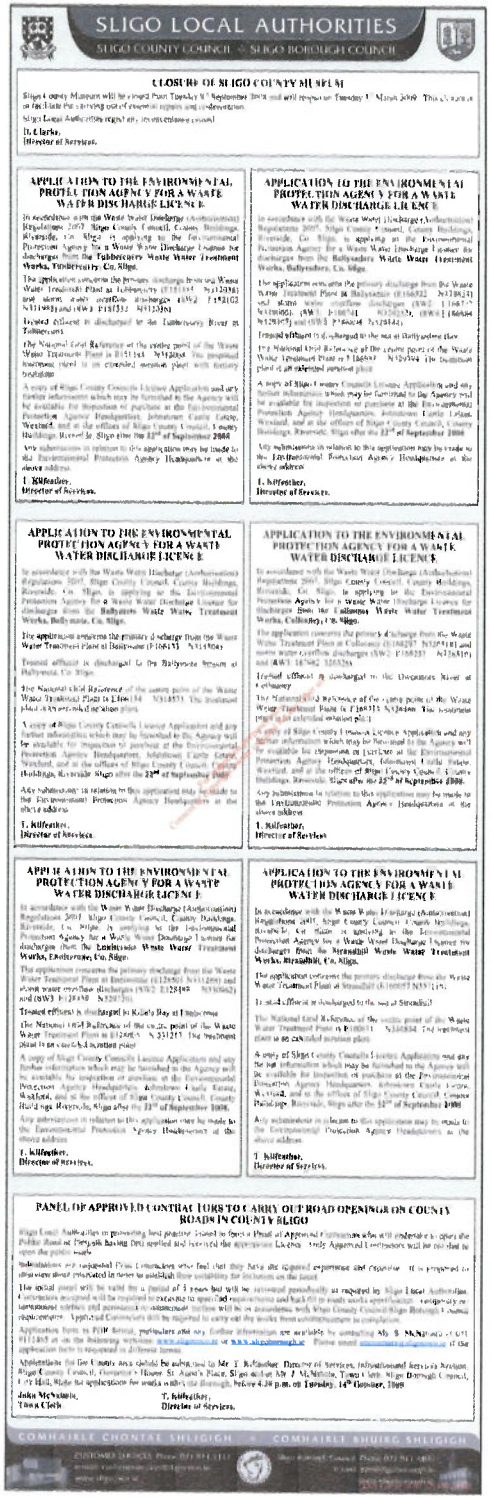
ATTACHMENT No: B.7 - NOT APPLICABLE
DISCHARGES LOCATED WITHIN SFADCo AREA

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ATTACHMENT No: B.8
NOTICE OF APPLICATION



SLIGO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL ~ SLIGO BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLOSURE OF SLIGO COUNTY MUSEUM

Sligo County Museum will be closed from Tuesday 1st September 2009 and will reopen on Tuesday 1st March 2010. This is done to facilitate the carrying out of essential repairs and redecoration.

Sligo Local Authorities regret any inconvenience caused.

D. Clarke,
Director of Services.

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the Tubbercurry Waste Water Treatment Works, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Tubbercurry (E168187 N312016) and storm water overflow discharges (SW1 E168202 N311993) and (SW2 E168232 N312036).

Treated effluent is discharged to the Tubbercurry River at Tubbercurry.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E168164 N312054. The proposed treatment plant is an extended aeration plant with tertiary treatment.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Sligo after the 22nd of September 2009.

Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the Ballysadare Waste Water Treatment Works, Ballysadare, Co. Sligo.

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Ballysadare (E166822 N318624) and storm water overflow discharges (SW2 E166777 N318665), (SW3 E166741 N318625), (SW4 E166644 N318697) and (SW5 E166604 N318744).

Treated effluent is discharged to the sea at Ballysadare Bay.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E166697 N318594 The treatment plant is an extended aeration plant.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Sligo after the 22nd of September 2009.

Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the Ballymote Waste Water Treatment Works, Ballymote, Co. Sligo.

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ballymote (E168173 N314804).

Treated effluent is discharged to the Ballymote Stream at Ballymote, Co. Sligo.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E168134 N314853. The treatment plant is an extended aeration plant.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside Sligo after the 22nd of September 2009.

Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the Collooney Waste Water Treatment Works, Collooney, Co. Sligo.

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Collooney (E168297 N329181) and storm water overflow discharges (SW2 E168237 N329181) and (SW3 E168502 N329326).

Treated effluent is discharged to the Drumcliffe River at Collooney.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E168313 N329260. The treatment plant is an extended aeration plant.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Sligo after the 22nd of September 2009.

Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the Enniscrone Waste Water Treatment Works, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Enniscrone (E128501 N351299) and storm water overflow discharges (SW2 E128495 N351063) and (SW3 E128498 N329720).

Treated effluent is discharged to Killala Bay at Enniscrone.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E128495 N 331217. The treatment plant is an extended aeration plant.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Sligo after the 22nd of September 2009.

Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the Strandhill Waste Water Treatment Works, Strandhill, Co. Sligo.

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Strandhill (E160057 N331219).

Treated effluent is discharged to the sea at Strandhill.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E160011 N330834. The treatment plant is an extended aeration plant.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Sligo after the 22nd of September 2009.

Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

PANEL OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS TO CARRY OUT ROAD OPENINGS ON COUNTY ROADS IN COUNTY SLIGO

Sligo Local Authorities are promoting best practice issued to form a Panel of Approved Contractors who will undertake to carry out Public Road or Footpath Opening Duty specified and reinstate the appropriate Licence. Only Approved Contractors will be entitled to open the public roads.

Individuals and Corporate Firms Contractors who feel that they have the required experience and expertise. It is proposed to advertise about restricted in order to establish their suitability for inclusion on the panel.

The initial panel will be valid for a period of 3 years but will be reviewed periodically as required by Sligo Local Authorities. Contractors accepted will be required to execute to specified requirements and back fill to roads specifications, carry out temporary surfaces and permanent re-instatement before will be in accordance with Sligo County Council/Sligo Borough Council requirements. Approved Contractors will be required to carry out the works from advertisement to completion.

Application forms in PDF format, particulars and any further information are available by contacting Ms. B. McNamara on 071 9111855 or on the following websites www.sligococo.ie or www.sligoborough.ie. Please email bmcnamara@sligococo.ie if the application form is requested in different format.

Applications for the County Area should be submitted to Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services, Infrastructural Services Section, Sligo County Council, Temperance House, St. Angela's Place, Sligo and for Mr. J. McMullin, Town Clerk, Sligo Borough Council, City Hall, Wine Street, Sligo for works within the Borough, before 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th October, 2009.

John McMullin,
Town Clerk

T. Kilfeather,
Director of Services.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH ~ COMHAIRLE BHUIRG SHLIGIGH

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SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

SITE NOTICE

"APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCE"

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Co. Sligo, is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Waste Water Discharge Licence for discharges from the **Strandhill Waste Water Treatment Works, Strandhill, Co. Sligo.**

The application concerns the primary discharge from the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Strandhill (E160057 N337116).

Treated effluent is discharged to the sea at Strandhill.

The National Grid Reference of the centre point of the Waste Water Treatment Plant is E160611 N336834. The treatment plant is an extended aeration plant.

A copy of Sligo County Councils Licence Application and any further information which may be furnished to the Agency will be available for inspection or purchase at the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, and at the offices of Sligo County Council, County Buildings, Riverside, Sligo after the 22nd of September 2008.

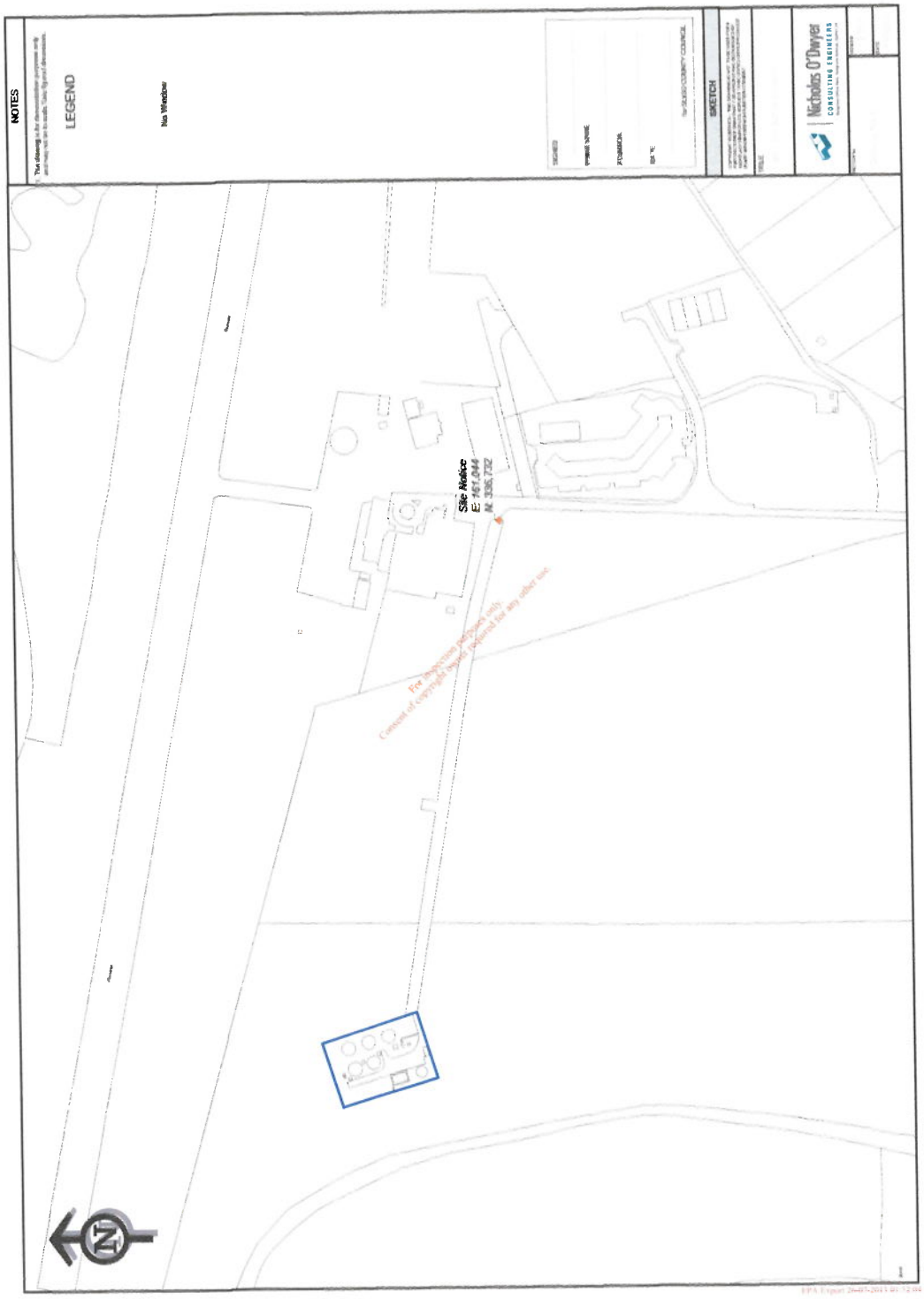
Any submissions in relation to this application may be made to the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters at the above address.

Signed

Mr. T. Kilfeather,
Director of Infrastructural Services

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designated shellfish waters. It is recommended that number of faecal coliform should be less than 300 per 100ml in the shellfish water.

In order to establish the required level of treatment and the recommended outfall length, an outfall dispersion model would be required.

3.1.4 Bathing Water Quality

The closest designated bathing waters to Strandhill are Rosses Point, approximately 4km to the north and Dunmoran beach, approximately 8km to the southwest. The beach at Rosses Point is designated as a Blue Flag Beach. The beach at Strandhill not designated as a bathing water. Due to the distance to the Rosses Point beach, it is unlikely that the discharge from Strandhill will have a significant impact. It is considered that if the treatment and dilution are sufficient to not negatively impact the designated shellfish wasters, the impact on the bathing waters at Rosses Point will be negligible.

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3.2 Waste Assimilative Capacity Calculations

The Waste Assimilative capacity was calculated in accordance with the guidance published by the Water Services Training Group. Full details of the methodology for calculating the waste assimilative capacity and effluent standards, and the results for each of the wastewater treatment plants are included in Appendix B.

3.2.1 Tubbercurry WWTW Effluent Discharge Standards

The existing wastewater treatment plant in Tubbercurry discharges to the Tubbercurry River. This stream has a very low 95 percentile flowrate and thus a very low waste assimilative capacity. Two alternative discharge locations have been identified in the River Moy. A waste assimilative capacty calculation has been calculated for each of these three discharge locations. Up to date background water quality was provided by Sligo County Council from January 2011 to January 2012.

2°C Partly cloudy

Part 8 WWTP

2007 -

Closest Baltic Water is Rosses Pt.

In fact - "Blue Rock" is the preferred surf spot in Strandhill directly across from the WWTP beside the outfall - less than 100 m

WWTP
2013
Appropriate
Assessment

1/10

June 2007 Ref Dr. Don Cotton Appendix VII Dr Evelyn Moorkens

Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

STRANDHILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND STRANDHILL CARAVAN PARK PUMPING STATION UPGRADE

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT - STAGE 1 SCREENING



September 2013

Nicholas O'Dwyer
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

STRANDHILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND STRANDHILL CARAVAN PARK PUMPING STATION UPGRADE

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT – STAGE 1 SCREENING

Nicholas O' Dwyer Ltd.,
Consulting Engineers,
Nutgrove Office Park,
Nutgrove Avenue,
Dublin 14.

September 2013

PROJECT NO. 20391					
Revision	**Reason for Revision**	**Prepared by**	**Reviewed by**	**Approved by**	**Issue Date**
-	First Issue	S. Keane/ S. Harris	F. Lane	N. Delaney	21/05/13
A	Incorporating Client Comments	S. Harris	F. Lane	N. Delaney	28/06/13
B	Incorporating Client Comments	S. Harris	F. Lane	N. Delaney	16/07/13
C	Incorporating Client Comments	S. Harris	F. Lane	N. Delaney	29/07/13
D	Final Draft for Client Review	C.Sheehan	F. Lane	N. Delaney	02/09/13
E	Final	C. Sheehan	F. Lane	N. Delaney	11/09/13

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Appendix VIII: Hydrodynamic Model

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/33/EEC (2000) any plan or project that has the potential to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site *i.e.* a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA) must be screened in order to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required. Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd., on behalf of Sligo County Council, have prepared an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed new sewage infrastructure required for the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works, including the Strandhill Caravan Park Pumping Station upgrade, will individually or in combination with other plans or projects, be likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site.

The proposed Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) upgrade is part of the Tubbercurry, Grange and Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works Design Build Operate (DBO) Scheme. This Scheme comprises the provision, operation and maintenance of upgraded wastewater treatment facilities and pumping stations for the towns of Tubbercurry, Grange and Strandhill.

Part 8 planning for the WwTP upgrade was obtained in September 2007 (see **Appendix I**). Planning for the Strandhill Caravan Park Pumping Station upgrade is currently being sought through the Part 8 planning process.

1.1 Appropriate Assessment (AA)

An Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on a European site. An Appropriate Assessment must be carried out before any decision is made to allow the plan or project to proceed. The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment derives from both Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The European Union has provided guidance as to how to produce a Habitats Directive Assessment and identifies four main stages in the process as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are

deemed to be adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts is considered.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

This stage of the process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site(s).

Stage Four: Assessment where no Alternative Solutions Exist and where Adverse Impacts Remain

An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the planning stage, and designing the project in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the Appropriate Assessment process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the project is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

1.2 This Stage 1 Screening Report

This document brings together all of the information necessary to make determination as to whether there is likely to be significant impacts arising from the proposed works on any Natura 2000 sites and represents the first stage of the Appropriate Assessment process, **Stage 1 Screening.**

This Stage 1 Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the European Commission; Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2000), Assessment of the plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites (2000) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service Guidance for Planning Authorities[1].

[1] Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities.

2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING MATRIX

2.1 Description of Existing Scheme

Strandhill is a coastal village situated approximately 8 km west of Sligo town. The village is served by approximately 7,000m of foul sewers which drain into the WwTW located adjacent to the airport. There are three pumping stations (PS) in Strandhill *i.e.* the Sligo Road (Bridge) PS, Caravan Park (West End) PS and the Airport PS, serving individual sub-catchments, which discharge to the foul sewer network in Strandhill. The town is also served by a storm sewer network (see **Drawing No. 20391-AA-03** of **Appendix II**).

The town is currently served by a 1,500 PE extended aeration WwTW which was constructed in 1992. The current plant is overloaded and not providing full secondary treatment of the influent wastewater. The plant discharges to the sea at Killaspug via an outfall pipe. The primary discharge (pSW1) from the existing WwTW is located outside but near to the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC/SPA boundary (see **Figure 2.1** and **Figure 2.2**).

It is an objective in the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 to:

SO-W-2 *Carry out measures to address deficiencies in existing water and wastewater infrastructure, so as to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.*

The proposed upgrade is required to ensure that the requirements of the Surface Water Regulations S.I. No. 272 of 2009 and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations S.I. No. 254 of 2001 are met and to ultimately ensure compliance with the requirements and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

2.1.1 Existing Infrastructure

Details of the existing WwTW infrastructure are briefly outlined below:

Inlet Chamber with Manual Coarse Screen

Removes large objects, typically non-biodegradable materials.

Storm Overflow Chamber

Limits the flow of effluents to the sewer and WwTW and controls the polluting load during a possible storm event.

Oxidation Ditch

Modified activated sludge process which removes biodegradable substances and renders the wastewater more environmentally friendly.

Clarifier

Settles out particles and removes impurities form the wastewater after the oxidation ditch treatment.

Sludge Drying Beds and Sludge Return Sump

The drying beds allow for sludge drying. Liquids drained from the beds are returned to the WwTW for further treatment.

2.2 Proposed Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade

The objective of this Scheme is to provide improved wastewater infrastructure in the town. This will improve the water quality of the local environment and provide safe and efficient treatment of wastewater generated in the town. The new facility at Strandhill will be procured under a design/build/operate (DBO) method of procurement. This form of procurement will allow the Contractor to propose any design which will treat the wastewater to the required performance standards. The works shall be designed to treat wastewater from Strandhill to a PE equivalent of 3,000.

The proposed works are shown in **Drawing No. 20391-AA-01** of **Appendix II** and consists of the following:

- Administration building
- Preliminary Treatment Units (consisting of screening and grit removal facilities)
- Secondary Treatment Units (for the removal of BOD and Suspended Solids)
- UV Treatment
- Storm Water Holding Tank (to store excess flows for treatment)
- Sludge Holding Tank (to store waste products from the treatment process)

The exact size and position of the units, and the exact process will be decided by the Contractor at the design stage, however, the Contractor will be obliged to stay within the site boundary and its height restrictions and comply with the requirements of Part 8 Planning.

In order to supply an equal amount of porous sand and subsoil to that which is present within the WWTP site, it will be a condition of Contract that all excavated material will be stockpiled within the compound, with care being taken to keep the sand and soil components separate, clean and covered during the period of construction.

When the new works area is operational, the old unused infrastructure will be carefully removed, and the stockpiled sand and soil carefully placed in the cleared area, with the same soil and sand horizon profile as that which was removed for the construction.

Due to the sensitivity of the surrounding environs it will be a condition of Contract that no additional external fill should be allowed on site.

Any design of the new WwTP will be no bigger in size or deeper than the existing plant and the Contractor will ensure the design, construction and operation of the new system is done in full knowledge of the sensitivity of the surrounding SAC.

2.2.1 Proposed Pumping Station Upgrade and Maintenance Works

As part of the Scheme, the Bridge and Airport Pumping Stations will require maintenance works within their site boundaries (*e.g.* pump replacement, electrical system upgrade). Due to the nature of these works no impacts are predicted on Natura 2000 sites.

The Caravan Park (West End) PS, located along the coast west of Strandhill village, along with general maintenance works, will require the addition of a new storm tank with a capacity of 20 m^3 to provide storage for peak flows, a Control Kiosk and a mechanical upgrade (see **Drawing No. 20391-AA-04** of **Appendix II**).

The Caravan Park (West End) PS upgrade works is located outside of any SAC or SPA but is located less than 1.5 Km from Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC, Ballysadare Bay SPA/SAC and Cummeen Strand SPA. The details of the above Natura 2000 sites are discussed in Section 2.4 of this report. The location of the Caravan Park (West End) PS and the Bridge PS and Airport PS can be seen in **Drawing No: 20391-AA-103** of **Appendix II**.

2.3 Proposed Effluent Standards

The existing Strandhill WwTW discharges to an outflow just below the low water mark at the northern end of Strandhill beach. When considering a coastal water body, the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I No. 272 of 2009) set the Environmental Quality Standard values for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN). The waters off Strandhill are designated as '*high status*' and will therefore require a DIN (mg/l) of 34.5psu/ ≤ 0.17 mg/N/l. The median salinity measured in Sligo Bay is 34.1 PSU. The standard for DO is 35psu/95th percentile > 80% saturation as the lower limit and 35psu/95th percentile < 120% saturation as the upper limit. Waters to the North of the outfall at Strandhill in Sligo Bay have been designated as shellfish waters, therefore the requirements of the Shellfish Regulations 2006 and as detailed in the Shellfish Waters Directive (S.I. No. 55 of 2009) will also have to be taken into consideration when setting effluent standards for the Strandhill WwTP. The current effluent standards as set out in the Strandhill WwTP upgrade contract documents are presented in **Table 2.1** below.

Table 2.1 – Strandhill Effluent Standards

Parameter	Proposed Effluent Standards (mg/l)
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	25
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	35
Chemical Oxygen Demand	125
Total Ammonia	20

2.4 Distance from Designated Sites

A provisional screening exercise of Natura 2000 sites within a 20 km radius of the works was carried out and is attached in **Appendix III**. The assessment indicated that there are 8 SAC's and 7 SPA's within 20 km of the proposed sewerage treatment infrastructure.

All Natura 2000 sites were '*screened out*' except for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (Site Code: 000627), Cummeen Strand SPA (Site Code: 004035), Ballysadare Bay SAC (Site Code: 000622) and Ballysadare SPA (Site Code: 004129).

The plant discharges to the Strandhill beach which is at a point bordering the boundary of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC, as shown in **Figure 2.1** and **Figure 2.2** overleaf. It is proposed to re-use the existing outfall for the upgraded WWTP.

The proposed WWTP is currently located partially within the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC. It would appear however that there is a discrepancy with the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC mapping as shown in **Figure 2.3**. This mapping discrepancy has been confirmed and clarified by the NPWS and a new map of the revised boundary is attached in **Appendix IV**. The area not mapped within the SAC as shown in **Figure 2.3** is part of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC. The exclusion area to the west of the map, as shown in **Appendix IV**, is the Strandhill WwTW.

In a recent correspondence from the NPWS in June 2013 regarding the above mapping discrepancy, the NPWS stated that "*for the purposes of carrying out assessments on potential impacts of plans and projects on the cSAC, I wish to confirm that it is acceptable to use the attached revised boundary*" (see **Appendix IV**). Therefore, this revised boundary has been used for the purposes of this assessment *i.e.* no works relating to Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works upgrade, including the Strandhill Caravan Park Pumping Station upgrade, will be taking place within a Natura 2000 site.

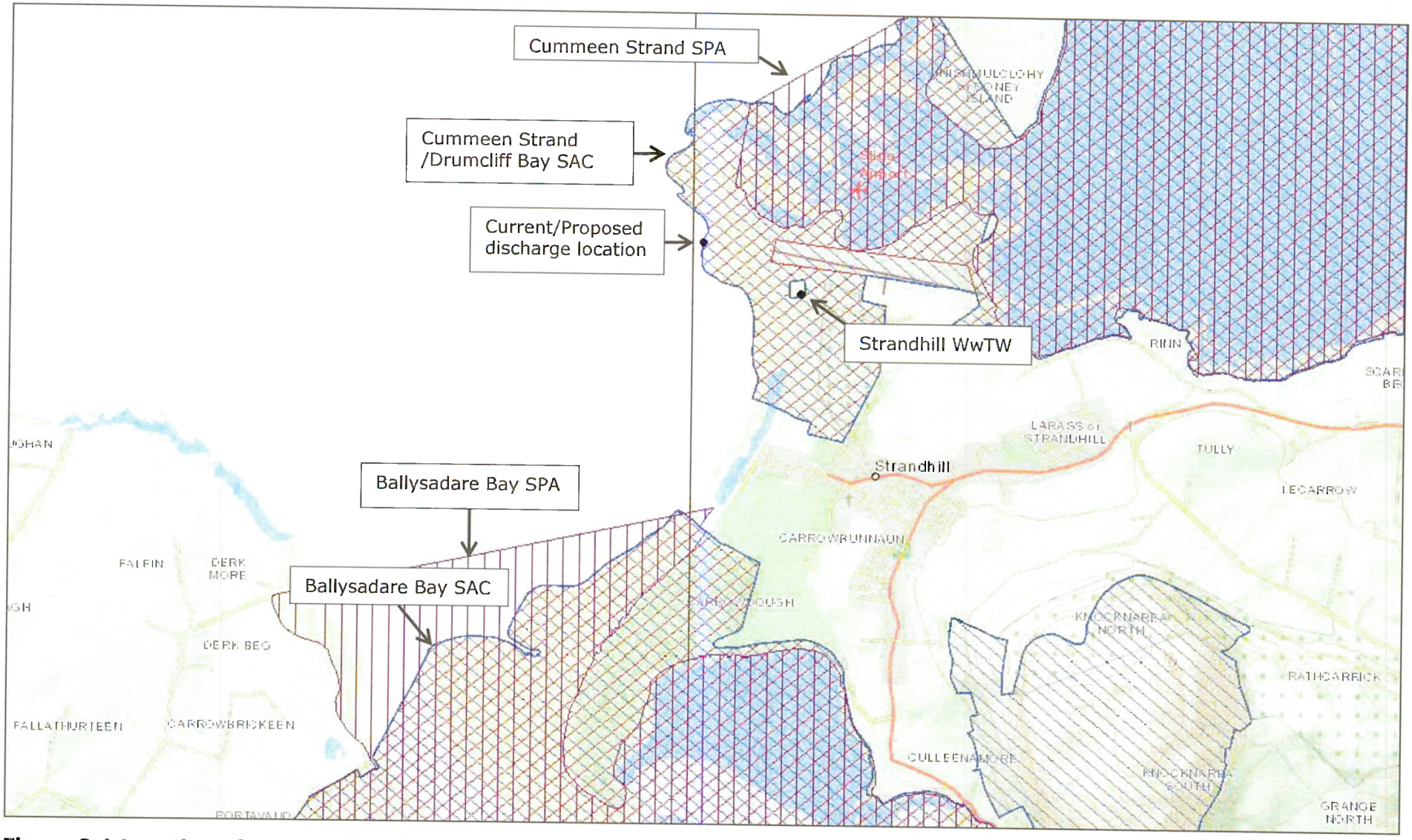


Figure 2.1 Location of proposed works WwTW upgrade at Strandhill, Sligo

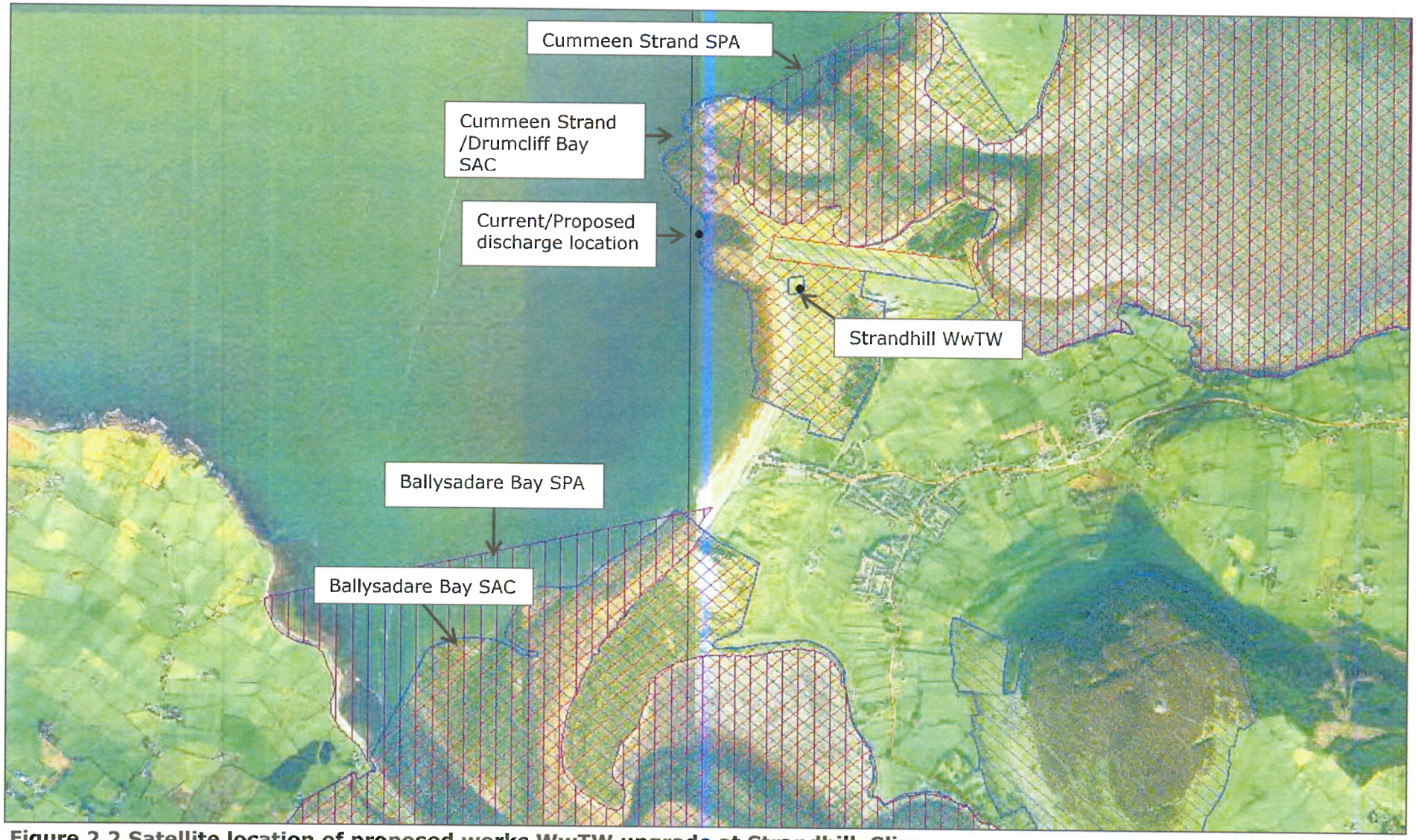


Figure 2.2 Satellite location of proposed works WwTW upgrade at Strandhill, Sligo

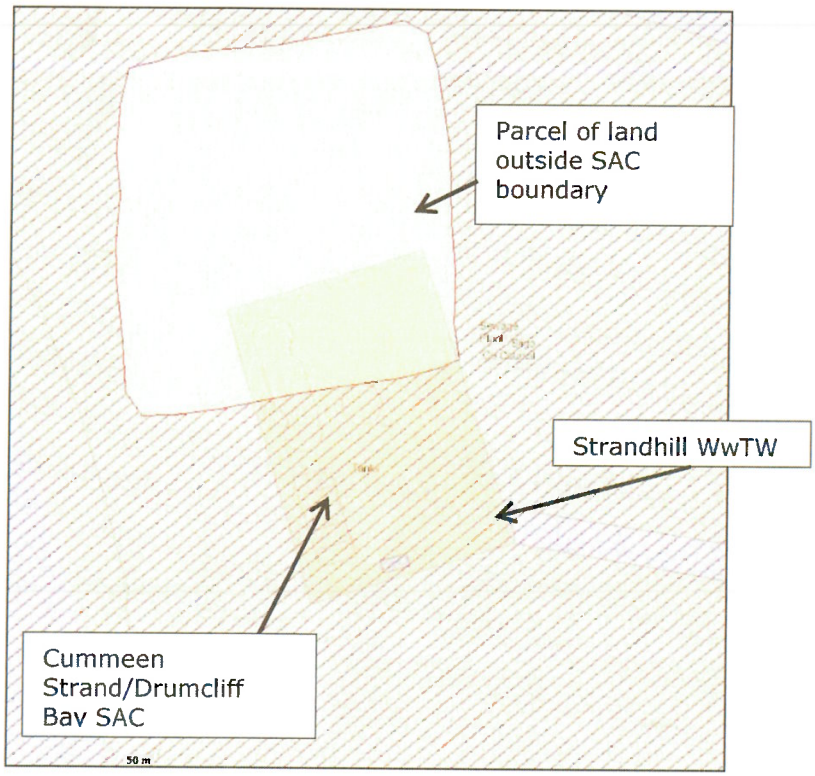


Fig 2.3 Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC mapping discrepancy showing WwTW within SAC boundary

2.5 Description of Sites Potentially Affected

2.5.1 Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (Site Code: 000627)

Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC is a large coastal site which extends from Cullamore in the North-West to Killaspug in the South-West, and from Sligo town in the South-East to Drumcliff village in the North-East. Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay has been designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive. Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) is an important site of high conservation significance, which includes a wide variety of habitat types, including several listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, several species listed on Annex II of this directive, large and important populations of waterfowl and seabirds, and several rare plant species. The conservation interested of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC are presented below.

- Narrow mouthed whorl snail *(Vertigo angustior)*[1014]
- Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095]
- River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)[1099]
- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*) [1365]

- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220]

The NPWS site synopsis and Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC are included in **Appendix V.**

2.5.2 Ballysadare Bay SAC (Site Code: 000622)

Ballysadare Bay SAC extends approximately 10 km west of the town of Ballysadare, County Sligo and is the most southerly of three inlets of the larger Sligo Bay. Ballysadare Bay is of ecological value for its range of good quality coastal habitats. Actively developing dune systems are rare on the west coast and the sand dune system at Strandhill is of particular interest as a large and intact example of a habitat type which is under general threat from development. The rarity of intact dune systems is recognised in the listing of "*Fixed Dunes*" as priority habitat on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The presence of two Annex II species within the site adds further importance. Furthermore, the bay supports nationally important numbers of waterfowl. The conservation interests of the Ballysadare Bay SAC are presented below.

- Narrow mouthed whorl snail *(Vertigo angustior)* [1014]
- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Common seal *(Phoca vitulina)* [1365]
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("*white dunes*") [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("*grey dunes*") [2130]
- Humid dune slacks [2190]

The NPWS site synopsis and Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the Ballysadare Bay SAC are included in **Appendix V.**

2.5.3 Cummeen Strand SPA (Site Code: 004035)

Cummeen Strand is of ornithological importance as it supports important concentrations and Nationally Important populations of a further two species, Oystercatcher and Redshank. Other species which occurred in significant numbers included Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Greenshank and Turnstone. Whooper Swans also occur, though they are not regular visitors. The presence of Golden Plover,

Bar-tailed Godwit and Whooper Swan is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

This site is of high ornithological importance, with one species having a population of International Importance (*i.e.* Light-bellied Brent Goose) and two having populations of National Importance (*i.e.* Oystercatcher and Redshank). In addition, there are three species that are listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (i.e. Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Whooper Swan).

The site is also important as a component of the much larger Sligo Bay complex. The conservation interests of the Cummeen strand SPA are presented below.

- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] [wintering]
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] [wintering]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] [wintering]
- Wetlands [A999]

The NPWS site synopsis and Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the Cummeen Strand SPA are included in **Appendix V**.

2.5.4 Ballysadare Bay SPA (Site Code: 004129)

Ballysadare Bay SPA is of high ornithological importance; it supports a Light-bellied Brent Goose population of international importance as well as nationally important populations of five other species of wintering waterfowl. The presence of Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover and Whooper Swan is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site also forms an important component of the larger Sligo Bay complex. The conservation interests of the Ballysadare Bay SPA are presented below.

- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] [wintering]
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] [wintering]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] [wintering]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] [wintering]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] [wintering]
- Wetlands [A999]

The NPWS site synopsis and Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the Ballysadare Bay SPA are included in **Appendix V**.

2.6 Conservation Objectives of Designated Sites

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- 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.

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

A site's conservation objectives are a statement of the overall nature conservation requirements for a site, expressed in terms of the favourable condition required for the qualifying features.

No site specific conservation objectives have been set for the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC, Cummeen Strand SPA, Ballysadare Bay SAC and Ballysadare SPA. Therefore, the generic conservation objectives as outlined below apply to these sites.

Objective 1: *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests.*

Objective 2: *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.*

Objective 3: *To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.*

Threats identified to the above Natura 2000 sites are presented overleaf in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 Threats to Natura 2000 Site Integrity

Site Name (Site Code)	Annex I habitat	Annex II Species	Conservation Objectives	Threats to site integrity
Cummeen Strand /Drumcliff Bay SAC (000627)	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220]	*Vertigo angustior* [1014] *Petromyzonmarinus* [1095] *Lampetra fluviatilis* [1099] *Phoca vitulina* [1365]	To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent of species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; and To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.	• Agricultural • Agricultural abandonment • Aquaculture • Bracken and scrub encroachment • Burning • Decrease in water quality/ Increased pollution • Development of marinas and ports • Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) • Direct loss of habitat to development • Disturbance to marine mammals • Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction • Dumping at sea • Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) • Illegal Dumping • improvements/Reclamation • Inappropriate land management • Introduction of alien invasive species • Overgrazing/under grazing • Quarrying/removal of sand • Recreational/amenity use • Tourism related development • Water quality/pollution

Site Name (Site Code)	Annex I habitat	Annex II Species	Conservation Objectives	Threats to site integrity
Ballysadare Bay SAC (004129)	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes") [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("*grey dunes*") [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190]	*Vertigo angustior* [1014] *Phoca vitulina* [1365]	To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent of species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; and To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.	• Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) • Direct loss of habitat to development • Disturbance including/from recreation/amenity use • Illegal Dumping • Inappropriate land management • Introduction of alien invasive species • Water quality/pollution
Site Name (Site Code)	**Annex I habitat**	**Annex II Species**	**Conservation Objectives**	**Threats to site integrity**
Ballysadare Bay SPA (004013)	Wetlands [A999]	*Calidris alba* [A144] *Limosa lapponica* [A157]	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which the SPA has been listed, at favourable conservation status.	• Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) • Direct loss of habitat to development • Water quality/pollution • Introduction of alien invasive species • Illegal Dumping • Disturbance including/from recreational/amenity use • Inappropriate land management

Site Name (Site Code)	Annex I habitat	Annex II Species	Conservation Objectives	Threats to site integrity
Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)	Wetlands [A999]	*Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130] *Tringa totanus*) [A162]	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which the SPA has been listed, at favourable conservation status.	• Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) • Direct loss of habitat to development • Water quality/pollution • Introduction of alien invasive species • Illegal Dumping • Persecution (Poisoning) • Disturbance including/from recreational/amenity use • Inappropriate land management
Site Name (Site Code)	**Annex I habitat**	**Annex II Species**	**Conservation Objectives**	**Threats to site integrity**
Ballysadare SPA (004129)	Wetlands [A999]	*Branta bernicla hrota* [A046] *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141] *Calidris alpina* [A149] *Limosa lapponica* [A157] *Tringa totanus* [A162]	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which the SPA has been listed, at favourable conservation status.	• Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) • Direct loss of habitat to development • Water quality/pollution • Introduction of alien invasive species • Illegal Dumping • Disturbance including/from recreational/amenity use • Inappropriate land management

APPENDIX I: PART 8 PLANNING FOR STANDHILL WWTP UPGRADE

Sligo County Council

Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE AND STRANDHILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

STRANDHILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

PART VIII – PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Dr Don Gilton

June 2007

Nicholas O'Dwyer
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

TUBBERCURRY, GRANGE AND STRANDHILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

STRANDHILL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

PART VIII – PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

OUTLINE DESCRIPTION OF SCHEME

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June 2007

PROJECT NO. 20391		Prepared by		Approved by		Issued by	
		Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
Revision	Reason for Revision	MM	05/06/07	MD	05/06/07	JP	05/06/07
A							
B							
C							
D							

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1. INTRODUCTION

Strandhill is a small seaside resort, located on the foothills of Knocknarea Mountain, approximately 8km west of Sligo City. Strandhill is rapidly developing as a dormitory settlement for Sligo and has been designated as a Key Satellite Village. Sligo Regional Airport is located to the north of the village. The village is currently served by a 1,500 PE extended aeration treatment plant, which discharges to the sea via an outfall pipe. The plant is to be upgraded to have a new design capacity of 4,500 PE. Strandhill WWTP is located within Cumeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The proposed Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant is part of the Tubbercurry, Grange and Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plants Design, Build and Operate (DBO) Scheme. This Scheme comprises the provision, operation and maintenance of upgraded wastewater treatment facilities and pumping stations for the towns of Tubbercurry, Grange and Strandhill.

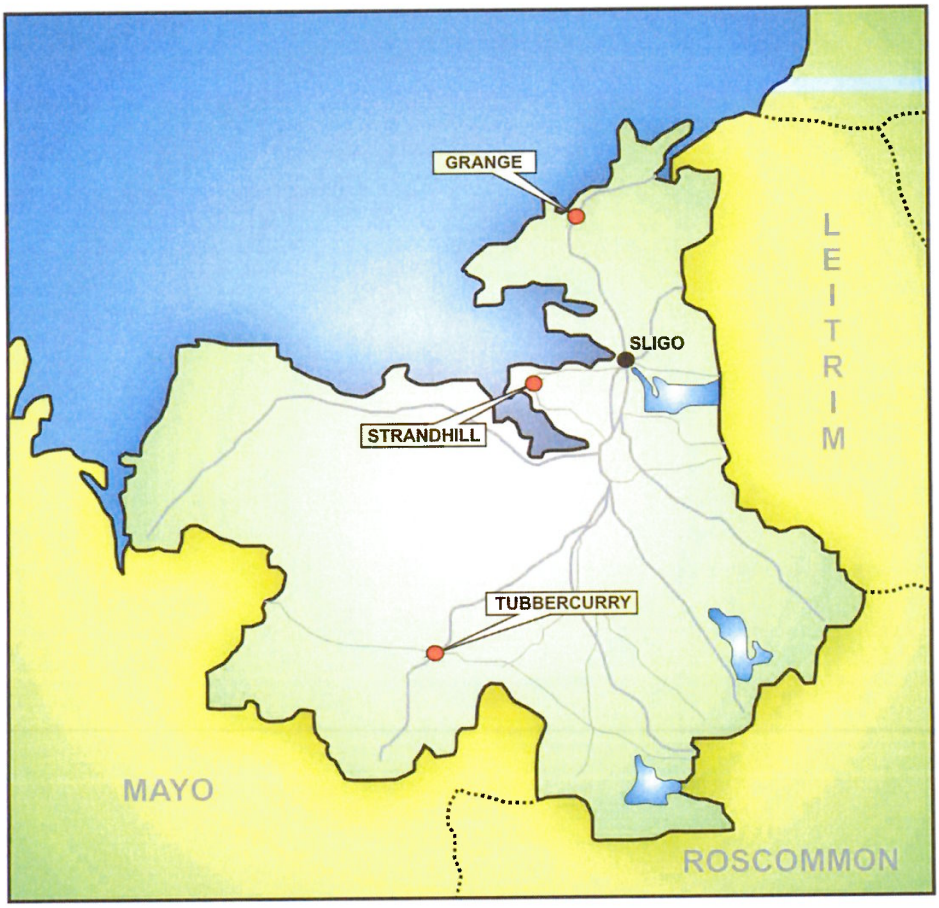


Figure 1. Map of Sligo County

2. EXISTING SYSTEM

2.1 Sewerage Network

At present, there is approximately 7,000m of foul sewerage pipeline servicing Strandhill. The majority of the network consists of separate surface water and foul sewers. Modifications of the sewerage network do not form part of this application.

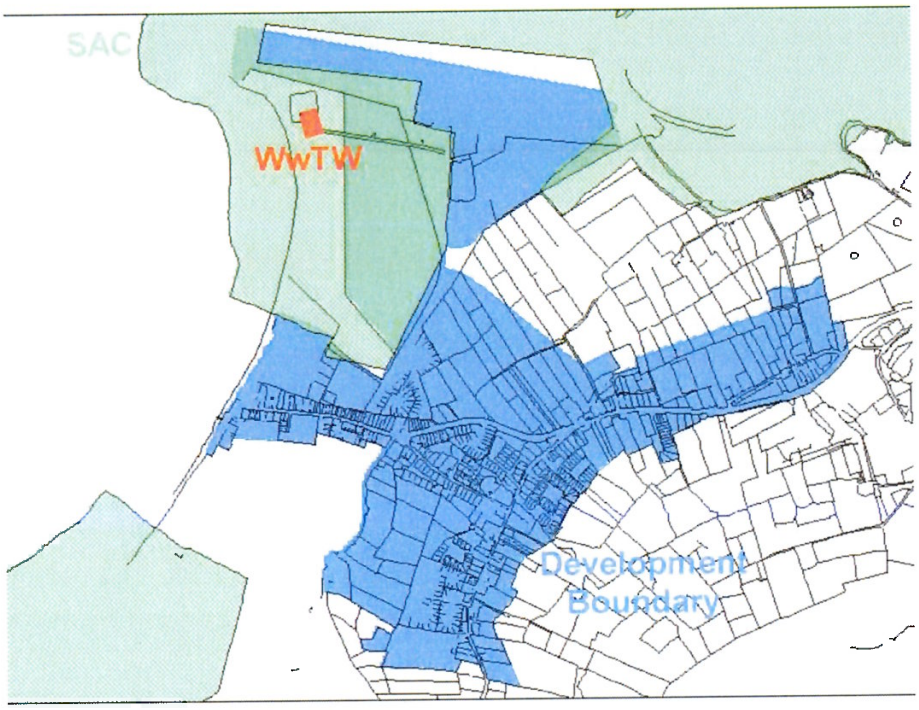


Figure 2 - Site Location

2.2 Wastewater Treatment Works

The existing treatment plant is located in a Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000627) and is just outside the north western edge of the development boundary for Strandhill, as illustrated in Figure 2. A more detailed site location is shown on Drawing No 20391-PC-SL-03. The existing WwTW consists of manual coarse inlet screening, a biological treatment tank, a secondary settlement tank and sludge drying beds, and is shown on Drawing No 20391-PC-SL-02. A description of the treatment provided by these elements is given below:

Manual Coarse Screen

Removes large objects, typically non-biodegradable materials.

Biological Treatment Tank

This removes dissolved substances and renders the wastewater more environmentally friendly.

Secondary Settlement Tank

This separates the solids from the wastewater after the biological treatment stage.

Sludge Drying Beds

This provides removal of water from the settled sludge arising from the treatment process. After drying, the solids are removed and disposed of in accordance with the Sludge Management Plan for Sligo.

Dr Don Cotton

3. OUTLINE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS

The objective of the scheme is to provide improved wastewater infrastructure in the town. This will improve the water quality of the local environment and provide safe and efficient treatment of wastewater generated at the town.

The new facility at Strandhill will be procured under a design/build/operate method of procurement. This form of procurement allows the Contractor to propose any design which will treat the wastewater to the required performance specification standards. The works shall be designed to treat wastewater from Strandhill to a p.e equivalent of 4,500. An indicative layout is shown on Drawing No 20391-PC-SL-01.

The proposed works shall consist of the construction of the following:

- Administration Building
- Preliminary Treatments Units (consisting of screening and grit removal facilities)
- Secondary Treatments Units (for the removal of BOD and Suspended Solids)
- Stormwater Holding Tank (to store excess flows for treatment)
- Sludge Holding Tanks (to store waste products from the treatment processes)

The exact size and position of the units, and the exact process will be decided by the Contractor at the design stage, however, the Contractor will be obliged to stay within the site boundary and its height restrictions and comply with the requirements of Part VIII Planning. Once the new works are operational, unused parts of the existing plant will be demolished and removed from site for disposal.

An Ecological Assessment of various site extensions was carried out by Dr. Don Cotton, CREDCO, and the recommendations of this Assessment have been incorporated into this proposal.

The Contract Documents for the scheme will include height restrictions, odour and noise emission restrictions, and will oblige the Contractor to provide screening in the form of indigenous planting.

4. IMPACT OF THE SCHEME

The design population of the proposed treatment facility is 4,500 p.e.

Wastewater from Strandhill will be treated at the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works to the required secondary effluent standards prior to discharge to the sea. The proposed effluent standards at the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Works are as follows:

- 25 mg/l BOD
- 35 mg/l Suspended Solids
- 20 mg/l Ammonia.

Baseline noise and odour studies are being undertaken at the proposed site to determine background noise and odour emissions. The proposed plant will be required to keep noise and odour emissions to within an acceptable range of the existing background levels. This will ensure that no public nuisance is caused by the works. The specified noise and odour limits will be included in the contract documents for the scheme, and will be monitored by both the Contractor and Sligo County Council on an ongoing basis over the contract period.

A desktop archaeological study is being undertaken to identify any potential archaeological issues. As part of this process, consultation with the Development Applications Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will be undertaken. The requirements of the DEHLG Development Applications Unit will be incorporated into the contract documents for the scheme. These requirements may include monitoring of the construction by a qualified Archaeologist.

At the treatment facility, landscaping will be carried out with suitable planting ensuring that the works merge harmoniously with the surrounding area.

All buildings on the treatment works site will be restricted to a maximum height of 6.0 metres above the existing ground level as shown on Drawing No. 20391-PC-SL-01. All tanks and other process structures shall be buried or partially buried so that no more than 6.0 metres projects above the existing ground level. The hardstanding on the site will have a bitumen macadam surface and be kerbed to form roadways and turning areas.

Sludge shall be transported by road in liquid form from the facility for dewatering at the Sligo Sludge Hub once this is operational as per the Sludge Management Plan for County Sligo.

In relation to environmental issues, the current WwTW site is located in an SAC. The impact of plant expansion has already been assed in an Environmental Assessment by Dr. Don Cotton, CREDCO, and as a result the new WwTW will be entirely within the existing WwTW boundary. All construction traffic will use the existing road access, and all plant and materials will be contained within the existing WwTW boundary to minimise environmental impacts.

5. DRAWINGS

It should be noted that the Treatment Facility layout shown on the Drawing is indicative only. This is due to the proposed Design Build Operate procurement method. However, the particular requirements outlined in Section 4 will be maintained.

Drawing No.	Description
20391-PC-SL-01	Proposed Indicative Site Layout Plan & Section
20391-PC-SL-02	Existing Site Layout Plan & Section
20391-PC-SL-03	Wastewater Treatment Works Site Location Plan

2.7 Elements of the Project with Potential to give rise to Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.

The individual elements of the project with potential to give rise to impacts (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites include the following:

2.7.1 Construction

Elements of the WwTW upgrade, including the West End (Caravan Park) PS upgrade works, which may give rise to impacts on Natura 2000 sites during the construction stage include the following:

- Discharges of sediment and substances toxic to the aquatic environment (*i.e.* fuels *etc.*) during construction works.
- Destruction of dune habitat protected by the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC and Ballysadare Bay SAC during construction works.
- Disturbance of wintering birds protected by the Cummeen Strand and Ballysadare Bay SPA by noise generated during construction works.
- Destruction of dune habitat used by *Vertigo angustior* [Whorl Snail] which has recently been recorded at Killaspugbrone.
- Change in drainage of site and hydrogeological regime/flows which would impact *Vertigo angustior*.
- Killing/Injury of *Vertigo angustior* during construction works.

The Bridge and Airport Pumping Stations will require maintenance works within their site boundaries (*e.g.* pump replacement, electrical system upgrade). No construction impacts are predicted on Natura 2000 sites from this maintenance work due to the nature of the works.

2.7.2 Operation

Elements of the WwTW construction and upgrade which may give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites are discharges of treated wastewater. The discharge will consist primarily of treated effluent from the WwTW but can also include screened overflow volumes in the times of storm events. The primary discharge from the WwTW will be to the sea at Killaspug via the current outfall pipe.

A possible indirect cumulative impact of the proposed Scheme would be that by controlling the man-made organic input (*i.e.* untreated and poorly treated sewage) into the receiving water environment, the nutrients available for macro-faunal production would decline, possibly reducing the biomass of organisms present. This could result in a depressed food

supply for bird species compared with the existing situation. However, a similar response to cleaner conditions would be an increase in the numbers of macro-faunal species present and this would be an important positive impact for biodiversity. A reason for this increase in diversity is that algal mats would be less frequent and associated anoxic conditions would be deeper than is currently the case. This would influence the macro-invertebrate population by allowing animals to penetrate deeper into sediments - increasing the available habitats three dimensionally. This would also allow for greater biomass and diversity and would be expected to offset any loss of biomass as a result of reduced nutrient inputs.

2.7.3 In Combination Impacts

Appropriate Assessment must consider "*In Combination Impacts*" with other plans or projects, including those being progressed by other competent authorities as defined by the Habitats Regulations and with the prevailing background conditions. The possible "*In Combination Impacts*" identified are outlined below.

Western River Basin Management Plan

In order to provide background information on the "*In Combination Impacts*", the **Western River Basin Management Plan** was examined. Eight River Basin Districts were established in Ireland arising out of the legal requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). River Basin Management Plans are published for all River Basin Districts in Ireland in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Killaspug point (Sligo Bay) (WwTW Outfall point) forms part of the Western River Basin District.

One of the main requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is that **by 2015 all water bodies achieve "good" status**. Killaspug Point (Sligo Bay) is classified as being of "*High Status*". Although based on the WFD Risk Assessment the Bay is classified as **1a – At risk of not achieving "*Good Status*"** as a result of WwTW loading, among other factors.

One of the main functions of the River Basis District is the formulation of River Basin Plans. The Western River Basin Plan has been used as a source to aid in determining an overall picture of water quality in the area. The Western River Basin District Plan is further divided into a number of local areas for which individual plans have been drafted. The Garavogue Water Management Unit Action Plan is the most relevant plan to the current project and is attached in **Appendix VI.**

The proposed development is deemed required to ensure that the requirements of the Surface Water Regulations S.I. No. 272 of 2009 and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations S.I. No. 254 of 2001 are met. The resultant improved quality of effluent will lead to a positive in combination effect with the Western River Basin District Plan and will contribute positively to the overall aim of the Western River Basin District Plan *i.e.* to achieve the water quality objectives of the Water Framework Directive in order to halt and reverse the decline in water quality.

Garavogue Water Management Unit Action Plan

A variety of Pressures and Risks are identified in the Garavogue Water Management Unit Action Plan which is included in **Appendix VI.** A list of point sources with potential to impact on the Garavogue and Drumcliff estuaries identified within the Garavogue Water Management Unit Action plan are presented below.

Wastewater Treatment Works within WMU – 11:

- 3 in Leitrim: Dromahaire WWTP (stated as at construction in WSIP 07-09), Manorhamilton WTTP, Killargue WWTP
- 8 in Sligo: Ballintogher WWTP, Cliffoney WWTP, Grange WWTP, Rosses Point WWTP, Strandhill WWTP, Drumcliff WWTP, Carney WWTP and Sligo WWTP

Section 4 Licensed Facilities – 14:

- 1 in Leitrim (Quarry)
- 13 in Sligo – (Dairy, college, 2 residential centres, shellfish farm, domestic house, hotel, restaurant, ELV facility (Deepwater quay), quarry, 2 housing estates, car showroom & garage, fuel depot)

IPPC Licensed facilities - 5:

- 5 in Sligo (3 to sewer and a facility that produces bitumen and a facility that treats wood). Leitrim has no IPPC in Garavogue WMU.

WTPs – 8:

- Kilsellagh, Lough Gill (Carins and Foxes Den), Benbulben GWS, Castletown GWS Drum East GWS, Kellogyboy GWS and North Sligo Regional supply.

Quarries: There is a quarry discharging to the catchment of Lough Gill.

Pressure Risk

The Strandhill WwTW has been identified in the Action Plan as a "*Pressure/Risk*" in the Garavogue Water Management Unit. This pressure relates to the risk to water quality relating to insufficient WwTP capacity and insufficient assimilative capacity for BOD.

However, it is noted in this plan that water quality data available would suggest that the plant is not having a significant impact on water quality.

The upgrade of the Strandhill WwTW will lead to a positive in combination impact with the Garavogue Water Management Unit Action Plan through the improvement of the wastewater infrastructure and effluent quality. The proposed Scheme will remove the Strandhill WwTW as a point source pressure/risk in this Waste Management Unit.

Strandhill Beach Erosion Protection

In October 2012, Sligo County Council sought the approval of An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE(3) of the Planning and Development Act 20001 for the repair /adjustment / construction of approximately 100m linear metres of coastal protection works to preserve the existing coastal path south of Strandhill Beach car park from further erosion and to restore access from the coastal path (protected by a rock revetment and stone beach) down to beach level and access to the southern beach, Shelly Valley and the Dune peninsula. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was been prepared in September 2012 in respect of the proposed development, which took into account the in combination effects with proposed works at the Strandhill WwTW. Planning for the above works was granted in March 2013 and works are anticipated to commence in Autumn 2013.

The proposed development is in accordance with the Sligo County Development Plan and Strandhill Local Area Plan and with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It was concluded by An Board Pleanála that the erosion protection project in combination with other projects and plans will have minimal effect on Natura 2000 sites and is actually likely to protect the dune habitat by enhancing accretion to the area landward of the terminal structure and thereby reducing wave energy from attacking dunes.

Strandhill Waste Water Treatment Works is located to the northern end of the beach. A reinforced storm beach incorporating a coastal path was constructed on the upper beach fronting the Waste Water Treatment Works in 2011 to provide protection from storm wave erosion and overtopping /inundation during storm events.

Northern End of Beach.

The in-combination effects of the revetment at Strandhill WWTP was taken into consideration with the proposed beach erosion protection project in the above aforementioned NIS to ascertain whether the two projects have the potential to result in cumulative effects on the Natura 2000 site.

It was determined, that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed project to undertake repairs to the rock beach revetment and to construct a fixed stone ramp to replace the storm-damaged mobile stone "*transition zone*" which was previously in place at the site, in combination with other project and plans, will not have a significant impact on the integrity of the four Natura 2000 sites which occupy parts of Strandhill Beach.

Site Boundary

In terms of in combination effects with the proposed WwTW upgrade, no impacts are predicted. All works relating to this WwTW upgrade will be taking place within the current site boundaries and will not be encroaching on the coastal protection works and designated dune habitats.

Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017

An Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 concluded that the Plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, developments and effects arising from permissions based upon the Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites.

The main objectives of Sligo County Development Plan relating to the Natura 2000 network are presented below. Adherence to these objectives should ensure no future in combination impacts.

O-NH-1 *Protect and maintain favourable conservation status and the conservation value of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and in other relevant international conventions, agreements and processes. This includes sites designated or proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.*

O-NH-1a *Promote the maintenance and as appropriate achievement of favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species in association with NPWS.*

O-NH-2 *Assess, in accordance with the relevant legislation, all proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect or cumulative impact) on designated natural heritage sites, sites proposed for designation and protected species.*

O-NH-3 *When considering any plan or project, the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats*

Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site.

O-NH-4 *Consult with the relevant prescribed bodies and appropriate agencies when considering undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to affect designated natural heritage sites or those proposed to be designated.*

O-NH-5 *Establish and maintain an up-to-date planning register of all previously adopted and proposed plans/programmes and all granted and proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect or cumulative impact) on European Sites within or adjoining the county, to allow for the appropriate assessment of potential 'ex situ' and 'cumulative/in combination' effects of proposed plans, programmes and projects on such sites.*

O-NH-5a *An appropriate assessment screening determination shall be made for all land use plans, related variations and projects in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.'*

O-NH-6 *Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives and where available specific regard shall be made to Conservation Management Plans and their conservation objectives/management practices where they exist.*

O-NH-7 *Promote development for recreational and educational purposes that would not conflict with maintaining favourable conservation status and the meeting of the conservation objectives for designated sites.*

It is an objective of the County Development Plan to construct a new wastewater treatment plant at Strandhill (*i.e.* **O-WW-1** *Complete the construction of the new wastewater treatment plants at Tobercurry, Grange, Strandhill and Ballinafad*). Therefore the proposed upgrade of the Strandhill WwTW will lead a positive in combination effect with this Development Plan, in terms of ensuring the implementation of Objective **O-WW-1** above.

Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan (Variation No. 1 of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017)

The Strandhill Local Area Plan was adopted in 2003. It remained in force for six years, after which its life was extended by three years, to 2012. In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 this Local Area Plan must now be amended or revoked. It is

the intention of the Sligo County Council to revoke the Local Area Plan and replace it with a Mini Plan, which will be incorporated in the County Development Plan as a variation (*i.e.* Variation No. 1). This will ensure that the plan for Strandhill is consistent with the policies and objectives of the CDP 2011, in particular the provisions of the Core Strategy in terms of population and housing land and the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on the Draft Strandhill Mini-Plan. The Appropriate Assessment Screening (Stage 1) identified that there was potential for likely significant effect arising from the adoption and implementation of the draft Mini-Plan. Accordingly, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) was undertaken to identify potential likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the draft Mini-Plan.

The main objectives of the draft Mini Plan are as follows:

A. Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the Natura 2000 sites surrounding the village. Ensure that Appropriate Assessment Screening is carried out for any plan or project within the Mini-Plan area with potential to impact on Ballysadare Bay SAC (site code 000622), Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (site code 000627), Cummeen Strand SPA (site code 004035) and Ballysadare Bay SPA (site code 004129).

B. Prepare, in consultation with the DoECLG, a management plan for the Council-owned lands at Killaspugbrone, in compliance with the provisions of the Habitats Directive. '

Where it was identified that some elements of the draft Mini-Plan had potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, mitigation measures in the form of amendments to the draft Mini-Plan were proposed in the Natura Impact Report. The mitigation measures seek to prevent inappropriate development that could result in significant negative impacts on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites from occurring within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites, or adjacent to such sites.

The Natura Impact Report recommended the following amendments (bold italic text) to the draft Plan:

Section 44.1 Landscape, natural heritage, open space

Obj. G *'Provide for a number of incidental public open spaces, notably: i. the Sligo entrance to the village, between the new and old R292, where a floral or shrub display might be developed, possibly in conjunction with a piece of public art (location marked OS1 on Objectives Map);* 32 *ii. a strip of land to the east of the Airport Road, which would lend itself to a tree and shrub belt for amenity and shelter purposes (location marked OS2*

on Objectives Map).' iii. Require any development on the site of Seaview House on Upper Buenos Ayres Drive to retain and landscape a substantial element of open space at the eastern end of the existing garden (location marked OS3 on Objectives Map).

Should be amended to:

'Provide for a number of incidental public open spaces ***whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment****, notably: i. the Sligo entrance to the village, between the new and old R292, where a floral or shrub display might be developed, possibly in conjunction with a piece of public art (location marked OS1 on Objectives Map); ii. a strip of land to the east of the Airport Road, which would lend itself to a tree and shrub belt for amenity and shelter purposes (location marked OS2 on Objectives Map).' iii. Require any development on the site of Seaview House on Upper Buenos Ayres Drive to retain and landscape a substantial element of open space at the eastern end of the existing garden (location marked OS3 on Objectives Map).*

Section 44.2 Coastal Protection

Obj. A *'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.'*

AA process not done

Should be amended to:

'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****.'*

Obj. D *'Maintain and review dune management, to include, where necessary, appropriate fencing, boardwalks and public information boards.'*

Should be amended to:

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****.'*

Section 44.4 Mixed Use Zones

Obj. D. *'Encourage the redevelopment of the Promenade 'Corner' on the sea front (MIX 1, Objectives Map) currently comprising shops, dwellings and a public open space, subject to any necessary coastal protection measures.'*

Should be amended to:

'Encourage the redevelopment of the Promenade 'Corner' on the sea front (MIX 1, Objectives Map) currently comprising shops, dwellings and a public open space, subject to any necessary coastal protection measures ***whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.'***

Section 44.5 Transport, circulation and parking

Obj. A. *'Reserve land for a New Airport Road linking the R292 to the existing Airport Road (R277).'*

Should be amended to:

'Reserve land for a New Airport Road linking the R292 to the existing Airport Road (R277) ***whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level.'***

Obj. C *'Extend the Promenade in a northerly direction and link up with the existing Airport Road as indicated on the Objectives Map, to include for the upgrading of the existing lane from the caravan park to the Airport Road. All necessary coastal protection measures should be incorporated into such a project. This extension should be developed in a similar fashion to the existing Promenade whilst also preserving as much as possible of the seafront area as a public amenity.'*

Should be amended to:

'Extend the Promenade in a northerly direction and link up with the existing Airport Road as indicated on the Objectives Map, to include for the upgrading of the existing lane from the caravan park to the Airport Road ***whilst taking full account of the need to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites and on species protected by law.*** *All necessary coastal protection measures should be incorporated into such a project. This extension should be developed in a similar fashion to the existing Promenade whilst also preserving as much as possible of the seafront area as a public amenity.'*

Section 44.6 Community Facilities

Obj. B *'Require any development proposed on the greenfield site CF1 (refer to the Objectives Map) to provide a range of facilities such as a citizens' advice point, social services, tourist information, skate park and indoor sports. A youth centre and childcare facilities may be provided within the same building or in a separate structure.'*

Should be amended to:

'Require any development proposed on the Greenfield site CF1 (refer to the Objectives Map) ***to ensure the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level. Any proposed development shall provide*** *a range of facilities such as a citizens' advice point, social services, tourist information, skate park and indoor sports. A youth centre and childcare facilities may be provided within the same building or in a separate structure.'*

Section 44.7 Tourism Development

Obj. A. *'Promote the development of tourism related-infrastructure and facilities within the village in order to increase visitor numbers and to create more local employment.'*

Should be amended to:

'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'.***

Subject to AA

Obj. B. *'Provide a public parking and picnic area to the north of the caravan park, in conjunction with the new road (See Section 44.5). This area will be located adjacent to the existing caravan park entrance, from where two-way traffic movements will operate (location marked TRANS 2 on the Objectives Map). In addition, adequate provision will be made for alternative circulation arrangements within the caravan park.'*

Should be amended to:

'Provide a public parking and picnic area to the north of the caravan park, in conjunction with the new road (See Section 44.5), ***subject to Appropriate Assesment under the Habitats Directive and the implementation of a Coastal Management Plan (Obj. 44.2 A) and a Management Plan for the Council lands at Killaspugbrone (Obj. 44.1 B.).*** *This area will be located adjacent to the existing caravan park entrance, from where two-way traffic movements will operate (location marked TRANS 2 on the Objectives Map). In addition, adequate provision will be made for alternative circulation arrangements within the caravan park.'*

Appropriate Assessment not done

Section 44.9 Buffer Zone

Obj. B *'Require all new and replacement agricultural structures to be designed in such manner that they do not interfere with the character of the landscape.'*

Should be amended to:

'Require all new and replacement agricultural structures to be designed in such manner that they do not interfere with the character of the landscape, ***whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through screening for Appropriate Assessment at project level'.***

Section 44.10 Wastewater Treatment

Obj. A. *'Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant at Killaspugbrone to cater for a population equivalent (PE) of circa 3,000.'*

Should be amended to:

'Upgrade the wastewater treatment plant at Killaspugbrone to cater for a population equivalent (PE) of circa 3,000, ***whilst ensuring the protection of designated sites through undertaking Appropriate Assessment at project level.'***

Together with the Council's commitments to the Habitats Directive and Appropriate Assessment that are presented in the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the Strandhill draft Mini-Plan, it is concluded that there will be no adverse cumulative effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the draft Mini-Plan in combination with the proposed WwTW upgrade.

The upgrade of the works at Strandhill will lead a positive in combination effect with the draft Strandhill Mini, in terms of ensuring the implementation of Objective A of Section 44.10 Wastewater Treatment of the draft Min-Plan.

Ballysadare Bay Mini Plan and Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Mini-Plan

Section 13.1 (Landscape, natural heritage, open space) policies of the Sligo County Development outline the General Policies relating to the mini-plans:

13.1 F. *When considering any proposed development within the mini-plan areas, the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed to Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 site, notwithstanding any particular mini-plan objective that may apply to the relevant lands.*

The main objective of the **Ballysadare Bay Mini-Plan** is aimed at the protection of Natura 2000 sites is **20.1 A.** *Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the Ballysadare Bay cSAC/SPA*, and **20.1 I.** *Retain, protect and integrate significant vegetation into new development – particularly mature trees or groups of trees, hedgerows and vegetation of importance to wildlife.*

The main objective of the **Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Mini-Plan** is **32.1 A.** *Encourage the protection and enhancement of the conservation value of Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC/pNHA.*

The construction and operation of the proposed upgraded WwTW and associated Pumping Stations will lead to a positive interaction with the above objectives in terms of ensuring the discharge effluent from the works will be compliant with all relevant regulations and legislation, thereby ensuring that that the water dependent qualifying feature/interests of the Cummeen Strand SPA, Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC and the Ballysadare Bay SAC/SPA are protected.

2.8 Likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site

The individual elements of the project with potential to give rise to impacts (either alone or in combinations with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites are outlined in the sub section below.

2.8.1 Potential Impacts Arising from Construction

Due to the nature of maintenance works required at the Airport and Bridge Pumping Stations, no potential impacts, arising from these works, on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated.

The elements of the upgrade construction works associated with the WwTW and Caravan Park (West End) PS which may give rise to impacts on nearby SAC's and SPA's include:-

- ***Impacts on Water Quality arising from Poorly Managed Construction Processes***

While there is potential for construction activities to have an impact on water quality within the Natura 2000 sites, a number of standard construction practices will be put in place to ensure risks from surface water run-off are minimised in accordance with the Water Pollution Act 1977 and all other relevant legislation.

- ***Impacts on Habitats associated with Construction Activities***

There is potential that construction works could impact on priority habitats such as:

- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("*grey dunes*") [2130]

Impacts on this habitat however will not be significant as:

- It is proposed that all works be undertaken within the existing site boundaries. No protected habitats are located within the boundary of the existing WwTW and PS sites.
- Construction vehicles will be strictly prohibited from entering the dune habitat which borders the WwTW and PS sites.
- The only access to the WwTW and PS sites will be through the existing site access roads.
- All spoil is to be stored in temporary storage areas away from the sensitive habitat features.

Dr Evelyn Moorkens

- ***Impacts on Vertigo angustior associated with Construction Activities***

A molluscan survey was undertaken by Dr. Evelyn Moorkens on 12th August 2013 in the areas both inside and outside the fence surrounding Strandhill Sewage Treatment Works and Strandhill Caravan Park Pumping Station. The sewage treatment works area is an exclusion from within the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC (00627) (revised drawing), and the Strandhill caravan park area is to the south of the same SAC, and to the north of the Ballysadare Bay SAC (00622) which are both designated for the Annex II snail species *Vertigo angustior* as well as a variety of Annex I habitats. The aim of the survey was to look for the presence or absence of *Vertigo angustior* in the immediate area around and in front of the current fenced works area and the pumping station area, and to consider the results with respect to the potential impact of the upgrade works proposed in these works areas. The full survey report is contained in **Appendix VII** of this report.

Deleted

An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed works at the two sites were assessed in terms of 1) the direct impact on the areas where the works are proposed, and 2) the indirect impacts on habitats occurring outside the footprint of the proposed works.

1) Assessment of the direct impact on the areas where the works are proposed

As no habitat was found for *Vertigo angustior* at either inside the Strandhill WWTP compound, or within the footprint of the West End (Caravan Park) pumping station, no direct impacts on *V. angustior* are possible from the proposed works.

2) Assessment of the indirect impacts on habitats occurring outside the footprint of the proposed works.

Potential negative impacts from works on areas of habitat nearby could be caused by:

a) Drainage of an area nearby, resulting in a loss of water through overland or subsurface flow to the habitat outside the works.
b) Disturbance of topography or subsurface flow of an area nearby, causing a change of direction or quantity of subsurface water to the habitat outside the works
c) Any in-combination or cumulative effect that could lead to disturbance of the hydrogeology of the habitat outside the works.

At the West End (Caravan Park) Pumping Station area, the surrounding habitat is fragmented and marginal, and the area within the zone of hydrogeological influence of the proposed works is outside any designated area. The potential adverse indirect effects from the proposed works to the Pumping Station influence are considered to be negligible.

The area surrounding the Strandhill WwTP site is, by contrast, of very high conservation value being surrounded by the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC (Site Code: 00627). The hydrogeology regime of the fixed dune and dune slack areas of the cSAC are maintained through surface and sub-surface flow through the porous sands and soils laid down over the Carboniferous limestone bedrock of the area. The area of the Strandhill WwTP site is relatively flat and therefore the sands and soils are considered to be evenly distributed across the area, thus are likely to supply an even quantity of subsurface water to the surrounding area from the part of the site that is not currently built on.

The current operational area of the site is to be decommissioned after the proposed upgraded treatment plant is complete. In order to supply an equal amount of porous sand and subsoil to that which is present within the compound, all excavated material will be stockpiled within the compound, with care being taken to keep the sand and soil components separate, clean and covered during the period of construction. When the new works area is operational, the old machinery and tanks will be carefully removed, and the stockpiled sand and soil will be carefully placed in the cleared area, with the same soil and sand horizon profile as that which was removed for the construction. As modern treatment plants are generally smaller and more efficient than older plants, the full quantity of excavated matter should be available for use. It will be a conditions in the Contract Documents that no additional external fill will be allowed in this area.

It will also be a condition of the Contract Documents that the design of the new system shall be no bigger or deeper than the existing plant. The design, construction and operation of the new systems will be done in full knowledge of the sensitive cSAC that surrounds the site and all aspects of the project will be carried out to ensure the protection of the structure and function of the surrounding habitats and species.

Based on the above it can be concluded that the hydrogeological system will have no net loss in the long term and that the temporary disturbance to the hydrogeological regime during construction will be minimal. The operational phase compound will be equal to the old one in terms of drainage and hydrogeological support, and thus will not contribute any in-combination or cumulative effects. Therefore, the long term effect on the *Vertigo angustior* population of the proposed works can be considered to be negligible.

- ***Disturbance of Birds during Construction Activities***

Construction works in general have the potential to impact on SPAs' by disturbances such as the noise of machinery and increased human activity. Cummeen Strand SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA are of high ornithological importance for wintering waterbirds.

The species most likely to be affected are wintering populations of Grey Plover, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Greenshank. Although the main area roosting/feeding for these species is within Ballysadare Bay, small numbers may roost within the sand dunes or upper beach in southern Strandhill or may feed on the lower beach at the water's edge. Noise from construction machinery and a temporary increase in human activity may cause disturbances and a resultant temporary redistribution of feeding or roosting birds. However there is already significant amounts of human activity within the dunes and along the beach and birds may be already reduced in their distribution or else will be reasonably accustomed to the presence of people and activity. The SPA's are of sufficient area whereby any affected birds may temporarily relocate to nearby areas which will be unaffected by the proposed upgrade works. Any disturbance will be temporary and the SPA qualifying species will have the potential to return to the area once human activity and noise level decreases.

2.8.2 Potential Impacts Arising from Operation

- ***Impacts on Water Quality arising from the Operation of Scheme***

Reflect legislative

The final treated effluent from the WwTW will be subject to strict quality standards that reflect the legislative status of the discharge and are also environmentally protective with the specific requirements of Sligo Bay. This will ensure that there are no significant adverse effects on the water quality in the Bay and hence protect the aquatic ecological receptors present. This is the principal protective measures employed in relation to operational discharges from WwTWs. In accordance with the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007), all discharges to the aquatic environment from sewerage systems owned, managed and operated by water service authorities will require a waste water discharge licence or certificate of authorisation from the EPA. An EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence is therefore required

for the proposed Scheme. Adherence to the limits as set out in the EPA discharge licence will ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements and protection of water quality within Sligo Bay.

Once the proposed Scheme has been successfully commissioned, the improvement in treated effluent entering the bay will result in an improvement in water quality within the Bay. Bacterial loads to the bay will decrease as will suspended solids, nutrients and the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD). This will have the effect of improving the existing water quality in terms of nutrient status, oxygen levels and bacterial loading. Such improvements will also benefit the local shellfisheries. Effects arising from the discharge of effluent from the current outfall location, along with alternative locations, were modelled by Aquafact in June 2013 (see **Appendix VIII** for full Hydrodynamic Dispersion Modelling Report). The current outfall location with disinfection was deemed the recommended outfall option. The report reveals that the effects on water quality will be negligible. The mixing and dispersion rate of effluent within the Bay was found to be sufficiently rapid to ensure that there will not be any deleterious effect on water quality within the Bay. The level of dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen required by the Surface Water Regulations for "*High Status*" of 0.19 mg N/l will be achieved within the mixing zone in the immediate area of the outfall and is therefore acceptable.

When specifying the storm water requirements for the proposed WwTW, best practice will be applied. The proposed plant will include a storm water storage tank sized to store storm water for 2 hours flow from between 3 to 6 DWF from an agglomeration with a PE of 3,000. The plant will be designated to treat wastewater flows up to 3DWF (*i.e.* 3 times the dry weather flow). Flows above the 3DWF shall overflow to the storm tank. In an overflow event, the storm water flow will be subject to preliminary treatment. The flow will also be extremely diluted and primary treatment, *i.e.* settlement, will have occurred. The likelihood of an overflow from the new plant is lower than the likelihood at the current arrangement and therefore the new plant improves the excising situation. Dial-out alarms will also ensure that system failures are addressed within a short period of time thus minimizing the possibility of an accidental release of partially untreated wastewater. The scale and frequency of such an event would also be extremely limited. Continuous monitoring of final effluent will also alert operators to any non-routine occurrences. The proposed plant will ensure increased capacity and storage, and will ensure wastewater is treated to a higher quality than is currently achieved.

2.8.3 Potential In Combination Impacts

In order to address the cumulative impacts of the proposed Scheme, a review of Sligo County Council's planning search online mapping application was carried out to determine

other proposed developments/projects in the Strandhill area. There is one development proposed in the vicinity of the site as listed below:

- Development of a two-storey extension to the existing coastguard (CHC Ireland Ltd.) hangar 4, retention permission is also sought for the continued use as car parking of the existing fenced car park area at Sligo Airport

No negative in combination impacts with the above proposed development during the operation and construction of the proposed WwTW upgrade are predicted once the above development complies with their specific planning conditions. Refer to **Section 2.7.3** for potential in combination impacts with plans and projects pertinent to Strandhill and its surrounding environs.

It is also worth noting that in line with **Policy P-DCA-4** of the County Development Plan (*i.e. Any development proposal in coastal areas will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, including the assessment of potential cumulative, in-combination effects in association with other, plans, programmes, projects and works.*), any future projects or plans in Strandhill and its coastal environs will require Appropriate Assessment screening and therefore future in combination impacts are not anticipated.

2.9 Likely changes to the site as a result of the project/plan

The likely changes to Natura 2000 sites as a result of the project are presented below in **Tables 2.5, 2.6, 2.7** and **2.8**.

Table 2.5 Summary of changes to Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC as a result of the project

Impact Type	No Significant Changes Anticipated
Disturbance	No disturbance to habitats.
Water Quality	No adverse impacts.
Fragmentation	No fragmentation of habitats.
Species density/ abundance	No adverse impacts, no changes in species abundance/density.
Water resources	No adverse change.

Table 2.6 Summary of changes to the Ballysadare Bay SAC as a result of the project

Impact Type	No Significant Changes Anticipated
Disturbance	No disturbance to habitats.
Water Quality	No adverse impacts
Fragmentation	No fragmentation of habitats
Species density/ abundance	No adverse impact, no changes in species abundance/density
Water resources	No adverse change

Table 2.7 Summary of changes to the Cummeen Strand SPA as a result of the project

Impact Type	No Significant Changes Anticipated
Disturbance	Potential disturbance impacts to small numbers of overwintering bird species that frequent this site as a result of increased human activity and increased noise close to the designated site. Disturbance could result in the temporary redistribution of designated site feature species. However, any disturbance to species is not considered significant.
Water Quality	No adverse impacts
Fragmentation	No fragmentation of habitats
Species density/ abundance	No adverse impact, no changes in species abundance/density
Water resources	No adverse change

Table 2.8 Summary of changes to the Ballysadare Bay SPA as a result of the project

Impact Type	No Significant Changes Anticipated
Disturbance	Potential disturbance impacts to small numbers of overwintering bird species that frequent this site as a result of increased human activity and increased noise close to the designated site. Disturbance could result in the temporary redistribution of designated site feature species. However, any disturbance to species is not considered significant.
Water Quality	No adverse impacts
Fragmentation	No fragmentation of habitats
Species density/ abundance	No adverse impact, no changes in species abundance/density
Water resources	No adverse change

2.10 Likely Impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole

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

The potential impacts of the proposed works (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) on Natura 2000 sites are listed below.

- *Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site:*

The structure of the Natura 2000 sites will not be impacted by the construction upgrade works and operation of the WwTW and associated Pumping Stations.

- *Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site:*

The function of the Natura 2000 sites will not be impacted by the construction upgrade works and operation of the WwTW and associated Pumping Stations.

3. CONCLUSION

No significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are predicted from the proposed upgrade of the Strandhill WwTW and West End (Caravan Park) Pumping Station or maintenance works required at the Bridge and Airport Pumping Stations (alone or in combination with other projects or plans).

In identifying the potential issues which could affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites a range of factors were taken into account, including possible effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term and in combination effects. In addition, the precautionary principle was adhered to in the carrying out of this assessment.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites, it is concluded that the proposed Strandhill WwTW upgrade will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

4. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT (FONSE) REPORT

A Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSE) Report is the output document from the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening process where the project is not considered to be likely to have significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites. **Table 4.1** below presents the FONSE Report for the Strandhill WwTW upgrade.

Table 4.1 Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSE)

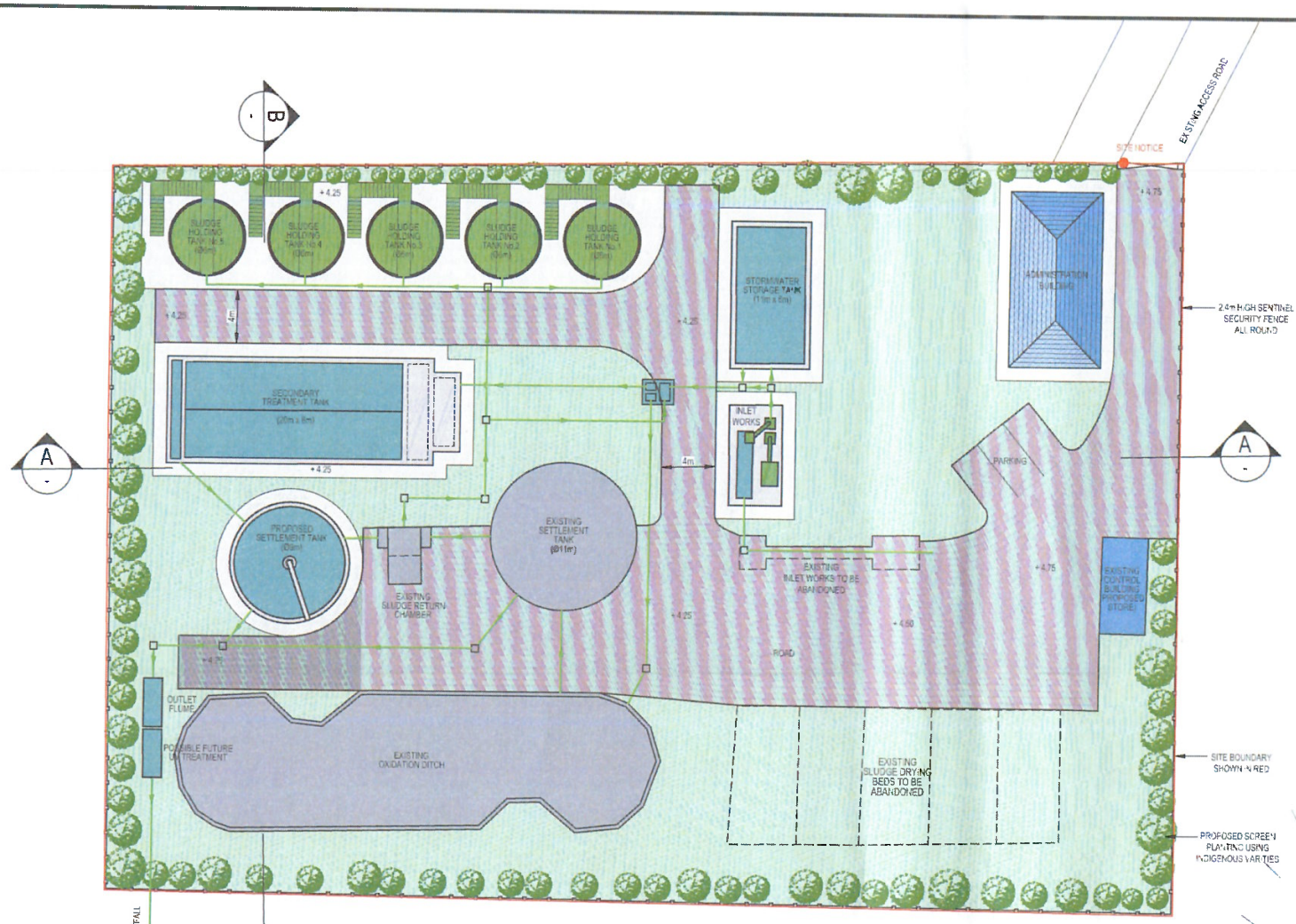
Project Description	
Name of project or plan	Strandhill WwTW Upgrade
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	Special Area of Conservation: • Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC • Ballysadare Bay SAC • Cummeen Strand SPA • Ballysadare Bay SPA
Description of the project or plan	The proposed scope of the works involved under the Proposed Scheme is summarised below and detailed further in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this report. The works shall be designed to treat wastewater from Strandhill to a PE equivalent of 3,000 and will consist of the following elements: • Administration building • Preliminary Treatment Units • Secondary Treatment Units • UV treatment • Storm Water Holding Tank • Sludge Holding Tank The proposed discharge will be through the existing outflow just below the low water mark at the northern end of Strandhill beach. As part of the Scheme, maintenance works will take place at the Bridge and Airport Pumping Stations within their site boundaries (*e.g.* pump replacement, electrical system upgrade). Due to the nature of these works no impacts are predicted on Natura 2000 sites. However, with regard to the West End (Caravan Park) PS, along with general maintenance works, this station will require the addition of a new storm tank with a capacity of 20 m^3 to provide storage for peak flows, a Control Kiosk and the mechanical upgrade of the pumping station.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No

Assessment of Significance	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site.	The proposed works are not located within a SAC or SPA but are within the potential impact zone of the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC, Ballysadare Bay SAC Cummeen Strand SPA and Ballysadare Bay SPA. The following are the key issues which are considered to be of importance in maintaining the integrity of the above sites and which could be affected by this project: • Protection of water quality • Maintain hydrogeological regime • Avoid disturbance of wintering birds protected by SPA • Ensure protection of terrestrial habitat/species protected by SAC.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	No significant impacts (either alone or in combination) are likely to effect the Natura 2000 sites as: • Existing habitat within the WwTP compound are already disturbed and irrecoverable. • Measures in design will be taken to maintain hydro/water quantity regime on site. • No soil import to site and biosecurity protocols adopted. • Implementation of best construction practices for protection of water quality during construction activities will ensure no significant impact on the SACs/SPAs. • Construction works will be limited to within the current boundaries of the WwTW and PS sites. • The effluent discharged from the WwTW will be of high standard, in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and the Surface Water Regulations 2009 and consider the Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (amended 2009). It is anticipated that the water quality of the Killaspug outflow point will improve as a result of the upgrade. • The plant will be designed to a very high specification ensuring that any maintenance/operation issues and emergency events are dealt with appropriately. Therefore, no significant impacts are predicted on species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 sites are designated.
List of agencies consulted	This Screening Report will be sent to the prescribed bodies (NPWS) as part of the consultation process.
Response to consultation	To be completed at end of the consultation process.

Overall Recommendations & Conclusions	
Overall recommendation and conclusion	Having regard to the location, nature and scale of the proposed project, it is considered that there is no potential for significant effects either from the proposed project on its own or in combination with other plans and projects, and therefore a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this instance.
Explain how the overall conclusion that there are no significant effects on the Natura 2000 site was arrived at	The overall conclusion that no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are likely was determined following a methodological assessment carried out having regard to the guidance documents outlined in the following section of this FONSE report (Data collected to carry out the assessment). In identifying the potential issues which could affect the integrity of the Natura sites a range of factors were taken into account, including the possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term and in combination effects. In addition the precautionary principle was adhered to in the carrying out of this assessment.

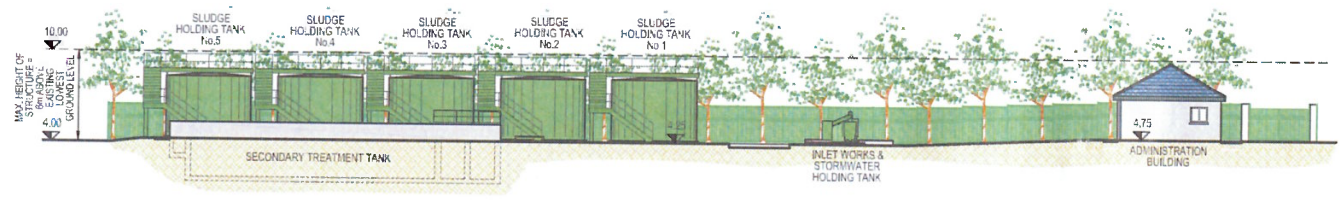
Data collected to carry out the Assessment			
Who carried out the assessment	**Sources of data**	**Level of assessment completed**	**Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed**
Serena Keane BMSc, Mres, Ecologist/Environmental Scientist Nicholas O Dwyer Ltd. Suvi Harris BSc, PhD, Ecologist/Environmental Scientist Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. Cróna Sheehan BSC, PhD, MCIEEM Environmental Scientist Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd.	DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities. European Commissions: Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC European Commission: Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Guidance document on Article 6(4) of 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland 2008, NPWS Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2015 Ballysadare Bay and Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Mini-Plan Sligo County Council – Strandhill WwTW: Coastal Protection Scheme July 2009 Technical Feasibility Report Strandhill Beach Erosion Protection: Natura Impact Statement (to inform Appropriate Assessment) 20th September 2012	Desk Top and Site Visit by Evelyn Moorkens.	This report.

4/10

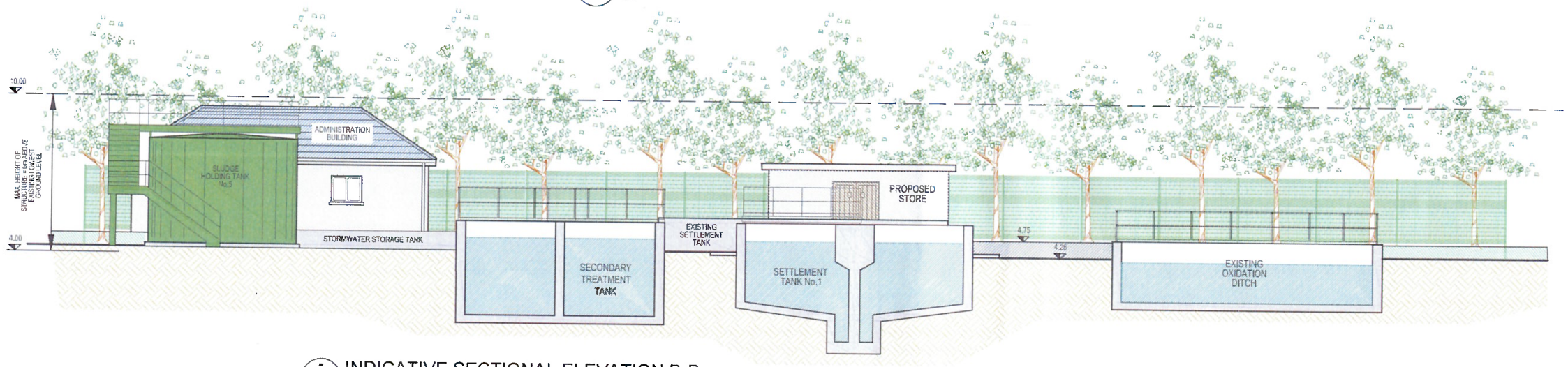


INDICATIVE SITE LAYOUT PLAN
1:250

INCLUDES ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND DATA REPRODUCED UNDER O.S.I. LICENCE NUMBER 2003/27/CCMA/SLIGO LOCAL AUTHORITIES. UNAUTHORISED REPRODUCTION INFRINGES ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND COPYRIGHT.



INDICATIVE SECTIONAL ELEVATION A-A
1:250



INDICATIVE SECTIONAL ELEVATION B-B
1:100

NOTES

LEGEND

- EXISTING FENCELINE
- EXISTING TREATMENT UNITS / STRUCTURES
- PROPOSED TREATMENT UNITS / STRUCTURES
- PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
- PROPOSED GRASSED AREA
- PROPOSED PROCESS PIPEWORK

0m 5m 10m
SCALE 1 : 250

5000mm 0 5000mm
SCALE 1 : 100

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	D	C	A
A	01.06.07	CLIENT'S COMMENTS INCORPORATED	D.S.	M.D.	M.D.

PLANNING

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PROJECT
TUBBERCURRY,
GRANGE AND STRANDHILL
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

TITLE
STRANDHILL
PROPOSED INDICATIVE
SITE LAYOUT PLAN & SECTION

SCALES	DRAWN	CHECKED	APPROVED
1:100 1:250 1:500	S.McGUINNESS	M. MADDEN	M. DAVITT
	DATE 08-05-07	DATE 08-05-07	DATE 08-05-07

DRAWING No. 20391-PC-SL-01

REV A