

Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Ballymoneen Road –
Section 5 Application





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1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1

Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment to inform the Section 5 exemption application for a construction compound and haul route for the Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) at Ballymoneen Road, Co. Galway (Planning Authority Ref 2460270 / An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref 321970, as amended under Planning Authority Ref 2560285).

The construction compound area and associated haul route, which are subject to this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, will hereafter be referred to as the “Works”.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study undertaken in January 2026 and field surveys undertaken on the 28th of January 2026 by MKO. It specifically assesses the potential for the Works to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010) and the Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin 7, Ireland OPR (2021).

1.2

Statement of Authority

A baseline ecological survey was undertaken on the 28th of January 2026 by Amy McDermott (B.Sc.) and Chandra Walter (B.Sc.) of MKO. The ecological surveyors possess the relevant academic qualifications and are competent in undertaking the ecological surveys in which they were involved.

This report has been prepared by Amy McDermott. This report has been reviewed by Katy Beckett (B.A., M.Sc.) and Sarah Mullen (B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., ACIEEM). Katy and Sarah are experienced ecologists with over two and six years' experience in ecological assessment, respectively. They have extensive experience undertaking ecological surveys in a range of habitats and have worked on Appropriate Assessment and Ecological Impact Assessment for a wide range of developments.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS

2.1 Site Location

The site of the construction compound area and associated haul route is located on lands immediately west of the Ballymoneen Road, Co. Galway (ITM Grid Reference: X 525220, Y 725634). The Works are located approximately 800m north of the Western Distributor Road.

The site location is shown in Figure 2-1.

2.2 Description of the Works

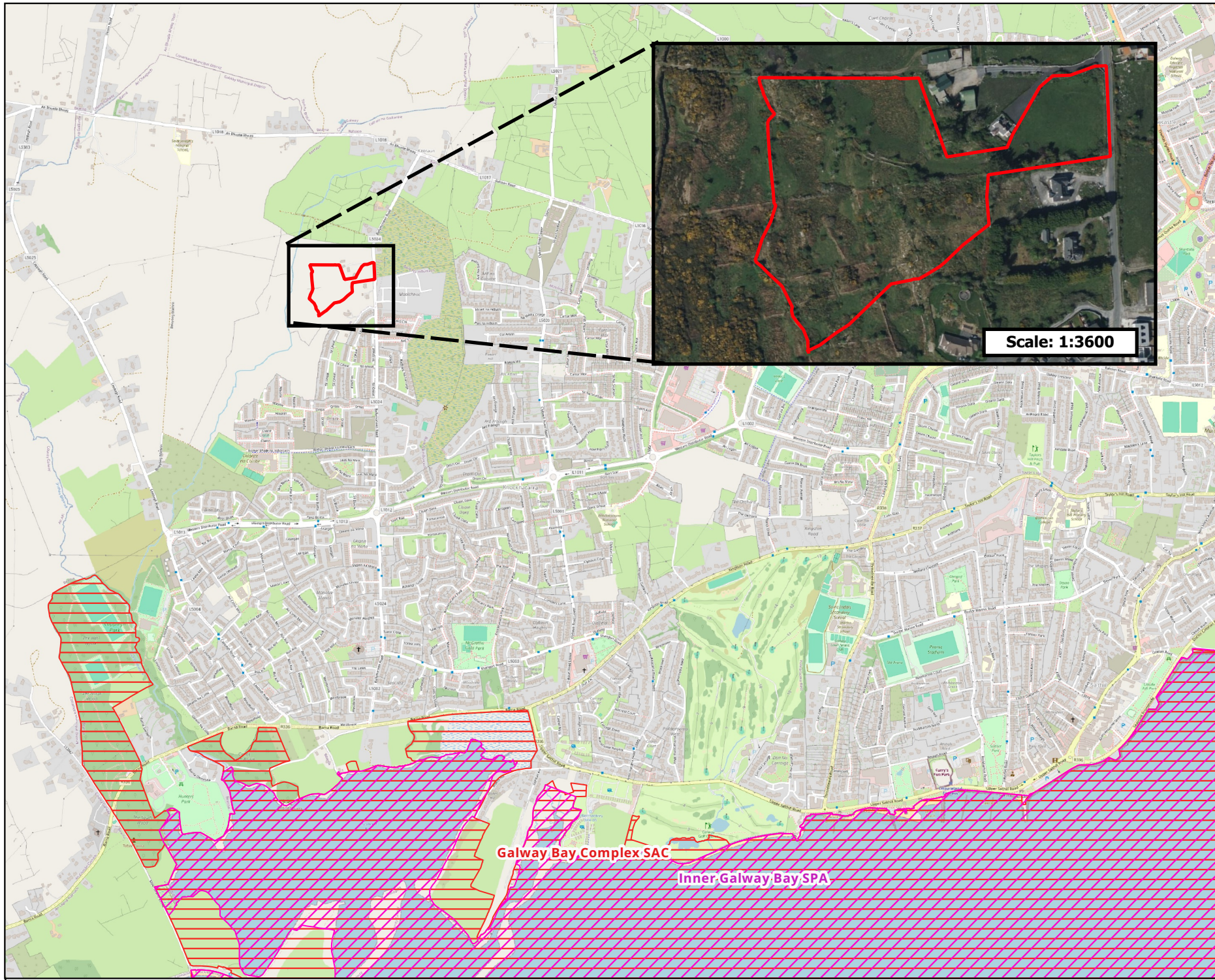
This Section 5 application seeks a declaration from Galway City Council on the following:

“That the proposed temporary construction compound area to the north of the application site is exempted development under Class 16 of the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).”

The proposed Temporary Compound Area will comprise various structures, works, plants, and machinery. All elements associated with the works will be fully removed, and the lands will be reinstated upon completion of the construction phase.

The Works consists of a construction compound area and associated haul route forming part of a consented LRD. The LRD is located to the south-west of the Ballymoneen Road (L5024). The haul route spans a length of approximately 200 m and is situated to the north of the LRD, originating perpendicular to Ballymoneen Road (L5024). The construction compound is located to the south of the haul route and north of the boundary of the LRD. The total site area proposed for the works is approximately 1.82 hectares (ha). The Works are transient in nature, intending to be removed upon completion of the LRD.

The site layout is shown in Figure 2-2.



Map Legend

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Site Boundary



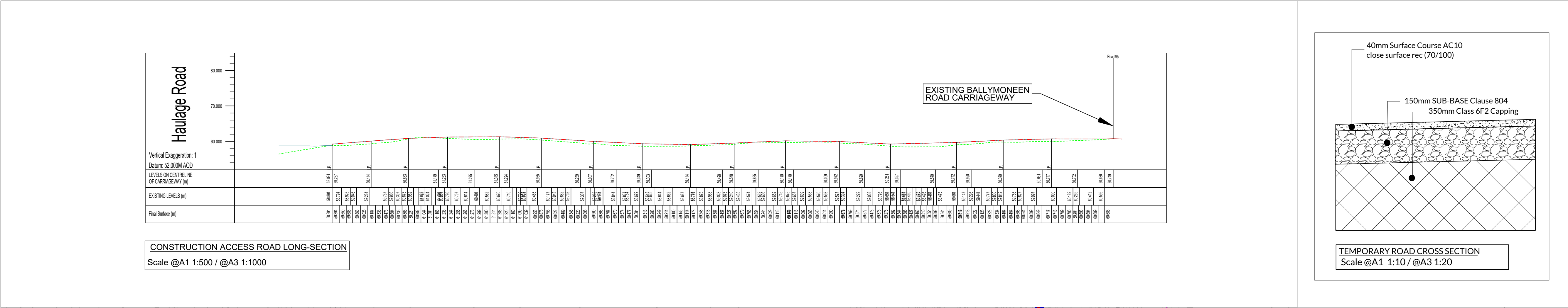
Drawing Title

Site Location

Project Title Ballymoneen Road – Section 5 Application	
Drawn By AMCd	Checked By KB
Project No. 220137-e	Drawing No. Figure 2-1
Scale 1:19,500	Date 20.02.2026



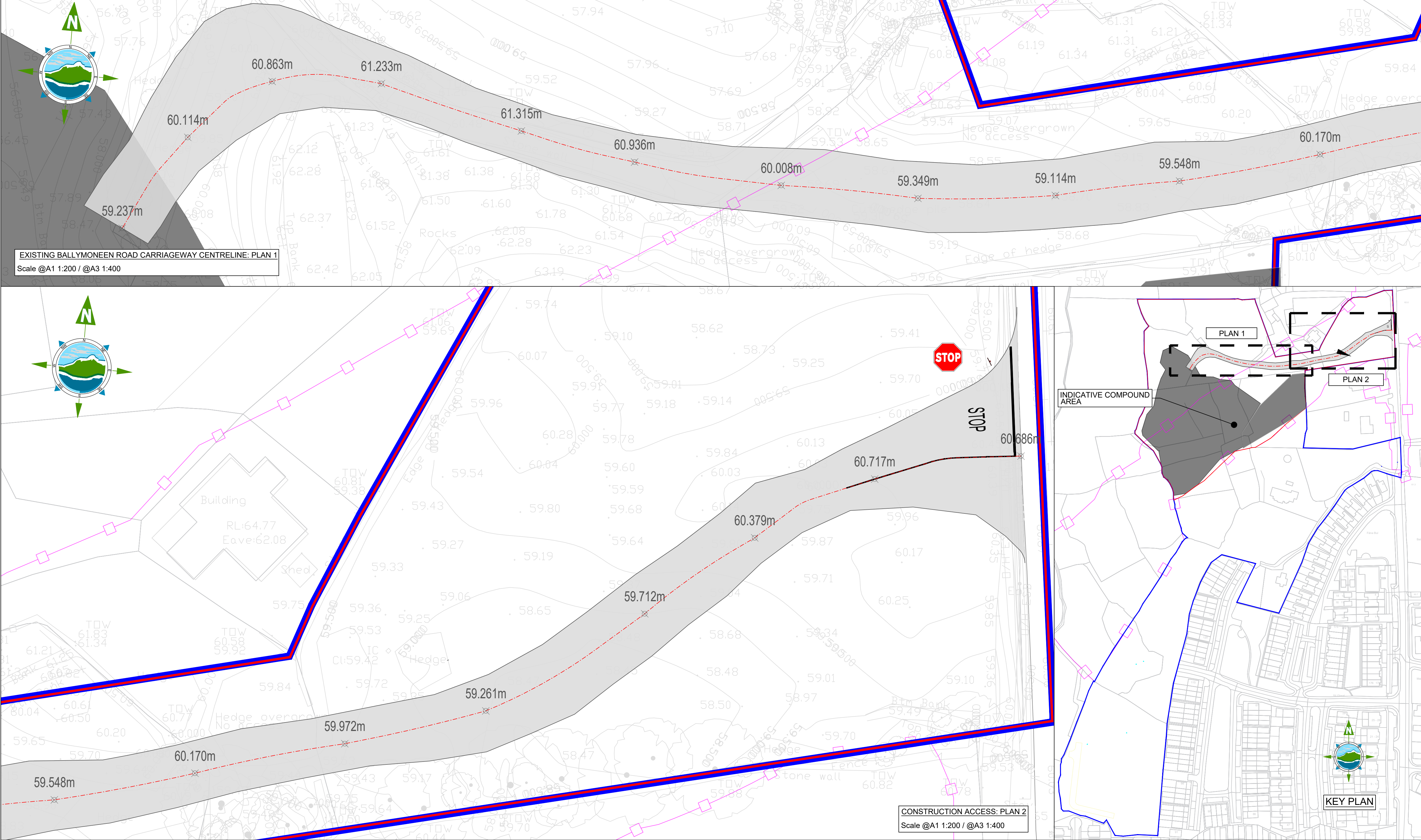
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS DRAWING IS TO THE TAILTE ÉIREANN - SURVEYING ITM COORDINATE SYSTEM

- LEGEND:
- Site Boundary -
- Client Ownership Boundary
- Traffic Sign & Post as per Traffic Sign Manual - Chapter 7
- Proposed Spot Level 60.557m
- Proposed Temporary Haul Road Centre Line
- Existing Ground level
- CPO Boundary

- NOTES:
- FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS DRAWING.
 - ALL DRAWINGS TO BE CHECKED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE.
 - ENGINEER/EMPLOYERS REPRESENTATIVE, AS APPROPRIATE, TO BE INFORMED BY THE CONTRACTOR OF ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE ANY WORK COMMENCES.
 - THE CONTRACTOR SHALL UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH CHECK FOR THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF ALL SERVICES/UTILITIES, ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND, BEFORE ANY WORK COMMENCES.
 - ALL LEVELS SHOWN RELATE TO ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM AT MALIN HEAD.



Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
P02	17.02.2026	Construction Access Road Re-aligned	CK	RB
P01	20.10.2025	INFORMATION	TA	RB

Client: CAIRN

Project: Proposed Residential Development, Ballymoneen Road, Galway.

Title: Temporary Haul Access Road

Scale @ A1: As Shown

Prepared by: TA Checked by: RB Date: Feb 2026

Drawing Status: INFORMATION

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Drawing No.: 136GY-01-95-SW-XX-XXX-DR-TOB-CE-02080
Revision: P02

2.3

Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

Assessing the impacts of any project and associated activities requires an understanding of the ecological baseline conditions prior to and at the time of the project proceeding. Ecological baseline conditions are those existing in the absence of proposed activities (CIEEM 2018).

2.3.1

Multidisciplinary Ecological Walkover Survey

A multidisciplinary ecological walkover survey was conducted on the 28th of January by Amy McDermott (B.Sc.) and Chandra Walter (B.Sc.) of MKO in line with TII (2011) guidelines (Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes). Habitats were identified in accordance with level three of the Heritage Council's 'Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt, 2000). Plant nomenclature for vascular plants follows 'New Flora of the British Isles' (Stace, 2019), while mosses and liverworts nomenclature follows 'Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland - a field guide' (British Bryological Society, 2010). During the surveys, the site was searched for species listed on the First Schedule of the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 374 of 2024) and the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).

The walkover surveys were designed to detect the presence, or likely presence, of a range of protected habitats and species. The multidisciplinary ecological walkover surveys comprehensively covered the entire Works site.

The Works site is accessed via Ballymoneen Road located to the northeast. The development comprises an access haul route classified as **Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)** (Plate 2-1). This haul route extends westwards from the northeastern boundary for approximately 200m. The southern section of the site also comprises Buildings and artificial surfaces as this area consists primarily of gravelled ground used for vehicle access, material transport, and car parking. The construction hardstand is also located within this area (Plate 2-2). The construction compound and haul route are located entirely within the Works site boundary.

The northern section of the site is dominated by **Wet grassland (GS4)** habitat (Plate 2-3). Species recorded within this habitat include ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*; occasional), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*; abundant), common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*; frequent, encroaching from adjacent stone wall), daisy (*Bellis perennis*; occasional), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.; occasional), dock species (*Rumex* spp.; rare), and creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*; occasional).

Spoil and bare ground (ED2) habitat was identified throughout the site. Areas comprised of spoil heaps of construction material and areas where topsoil had been cleared and piled. Other areas of spoil and bare ground comprised of loose gravel along the outer edges of the carpark area and haul route.

A stone wall classified as **Stone walls and other stonework (BL1)** is located within the grassland habitat immediately south of the haul route (Plate 2-4). This feature forms a boundary between the ED2 spoil and bare ground habitat and the GS4 wet grassland habitat. Construction works were ongoing immediately to the south of the wall and were slightly encroaching upon the southern side of the wall. Two additional stone walls are present to the west of the Works area.

A small area of **Scrub (WS1)** is located in the northwestern corner of the site and consists predominantly of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) with a bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) understory.

An area of **Exposed siliceous rock (ER1)** habitat was identified south of the identified haul route and adjacent to the wet grassland habitat within the east of the site. This area consists of exposed rock where topsoil had been removed due to the adjacent construction works occurring (Plate 2-5).



Plate 2-1 View of the haul route identified as Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)



Plate 2-2 View of Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) consisting of carpark, hardstanding and construction material storage areas



Plate 2-3 View of Wet grassland (GS4) habitat in the northern section of the site



Plate 2-4 View of Stone wall and other stonework (BL1) habitat separating Spoil and bare ground (ED2) habitat to the north and Wet Grassland (GS4) habitat to the south



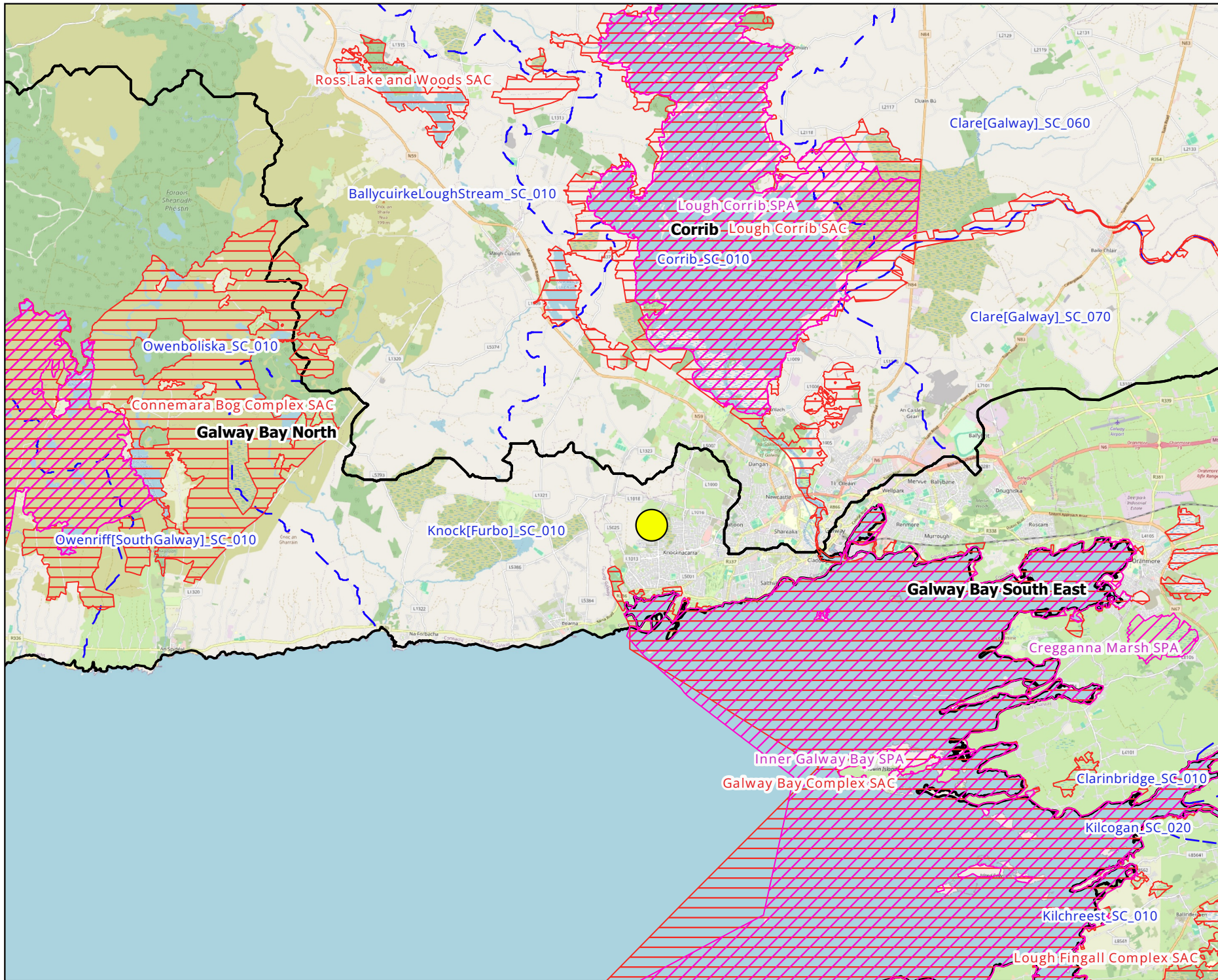
Plate 2-5 View of Exposed siliceous rock (ER1) habitat in the eastern section of the site, south of the identified haul route.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

The following methodology was used to establish any European Sites upon which there is a potential for a likely significant effect to occur either individually or in combination with other plans and projects as a result of the Works:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website (<https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data>) and the EPA website (<https://gis.epa.ie/GetData>) on the 23/01/2026.
- All European Sites that could potentially be affected were identified using a source-pathway - receptor model. To provide context for the assessment, European Sites surrounding the Works Site are shown on Figure 3-1. Information on these sites according to the site-specific conservation objectives is provided in Table 3-1. Sites that were further away from the Works were also considered and no complete source-pathway-receptor chain for significant effect was identified for any other European Site.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the Works Site and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3-1.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, '*Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)*' (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between Works and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- Table 3-1 provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses the potential for likely significant effects on each.
- The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect effects of the Works, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of criteria including the following: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this assessment.
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report 23/01/2026.
- The potential for the Works to result in cumulative effects on any European Sites in combination with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment that is presented in Table 3-1. Plans and projects considered include those that are listed in Section 3.2.



Map Legend

- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- WFD Hydrological Subcatchments
- WFD Hydrological Catchments
- Site Location

Microsoft product screen shots reprinted with permission from Microsoft Corporation

Drawing Title
European Designated Sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

Project Title
Ballymoneen Road – Section 5 Application

Drawn By AMcD	Checked By KB
Project No. 220137-e	Drawing No. Figure 4-1
Scale 1:128,000	Date 20.02.2026

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Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)				
Galway Bay Complex SAC [000268] Distance: 1.3 km	➤ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ➤ [1150] Coastal lagoons* ➤ [1160] Large shallows inlets and bays ➤ [1170] Reefs ➤ [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks ➤ [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ➤ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) ➤ [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ➤ [1365] Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) ➤ [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ➤ [3180] Turloughs* ➤ [5130] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ➤ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) ➤ [7210] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>* ➤ [7230] Alkaline fens	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, April 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SAC as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works site and the Galway Bay Complex SAC as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, while the Works site and this SAC are underlain by the same groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater catchment, due to the nature and scale of the Works and the intervening distance between the Works site and the SAC, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects to occur on this SAC as a result of groundwater deterioration. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Galway Bay Complex SAC, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	No

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
Lough Corrib SAC [000297] Distance: 3.3 km	➤ [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ➤ [1092] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ➤ [1095] Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ➤ [1096] Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ➤ [1106] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ➤ [1303] Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ➤ [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ➤ [1393] Slender Green Feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>) ➤ [1833] Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) ➤ [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ➤ [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the (<i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i>) and/or (<i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i>) ➤ [3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. ➤ [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion <i>fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation ➤ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, April 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SAC as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works Site and the Lough Corrib SAC as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, the Works site is underlain by a separate groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater catchment, to this SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SAC as a result of water quality deterioration. The Works site is located 3.3 km southwest of the SAC and as such is outside the 2.5km core foraging range of lesser horseshoe bat (NPWS, 2018). Therefore, there is no potential for significant effect to this QI species due to disturbance or displacement as a result of the Works. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Lough Corrib SAC, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	No

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
	(<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ➤ [6410] <i>Molina</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ➤ [7110] Active raised bogs ➤ [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ➤ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ➤ [7210] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> ➤ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) ➤ [7230] Alkaline fens ➤ [8240] Limestone pavements ➤ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ➤ [91D0] Bog woodland			
Connemara Bog Complex SAC [002034] Distance: 8.3 km	➤ [1065] Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas Aurinia</i>) ➤ [1106] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ➤ [1150] Coastal lagoons ➤ [1170] Reefs ➤ [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ➤ [1833] Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) ➤ [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, October 2015), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SAC as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works Site and the Connemara Bog Complex SAC as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution.	No

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
	➤ [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> ➤ [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ➤ [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation ➤ [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ➤ [4030] European dry heaths ➤ [6410] <i>Molina</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ➤ [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ➤ [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs ➤ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ➤ [7230] Alkaline fens ➤ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles		Furthermore, while the Works site and this SAC are underlain by the same groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater body, due to the nature and scale of the Works and the intervening distance between the Works site and the SAC, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SAC as a result of groundwater deterioration. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Connemara Bog Complex SAC, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	
Ross Lake and Woods SAC [001312] Distance: 11 km	➤ [1303] Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ➤ [3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, October 2018), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SAC as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. The Works site is located 11 km south of the SAC and as such is outside the 2.5km core foraging range of lesser horseshoe bat (NPWS, 2018). Therefore, there is no potential for significant	No

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			effect to this QI species due to disturbance or displacement as a result of the Works. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works Site and the Ross Lake and Woods SAC as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, while the Works site and this SAC are underlain by a different groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater body, due to the nature and scale of the Works and the intervening distance between the Works site and the SAC, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SAC as a result of groundwater deterioration. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Ross Lake and Woods SAC, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	
Special Protection Area (SPA)				
Inner Galway Bay SPA [004031] Distance: 1.8 km	➤ [A003] Great Northern (<i>Diver Gavia immer</i>) ➤ [A017] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ➤ [A028] Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) ➤ [A046] Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ➤ [A050] Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>)	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, May 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SPA as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works Site and the Inner Galway Bay SPA as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could	No

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
	➤ [A052] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ➤ [A056] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ➤ [A069] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) ➤ [A137] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ➤ [A140] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ➤ [A142] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus Vanellus</i>) ➤ [A149] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ➤ [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ➤ [A160] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) ➤ [A162] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) ➤ [A169] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) ➤ [A179] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ➤ [A182] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) ➤ [A191] Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) ➤ [A193] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ➤ [A999] Wetlands		act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, while the Works site and this SPA are underlain by the same groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater body, due to the small nature and scale of the Works and the intervening distance between the Works site and the SPA, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SPA as a result of water quality deterioration. The Works site, which is dominated by Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat, does not provide significant supporting habitat for SCI species associated with the Inner Galway Bay SPA. Therefore, ex situ disturbance and displacement of these species can be excluded. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Inner Galway Bay SPA, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	
Lough Corrib SPA [004042] Distance: 3.4 km	➤ [A051] Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) ➤ [A056] Shovler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ➤ [A059] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) ➤ [A061] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fluigula</i>) ➤ [A065] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) ➤ [A082] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) ➤ [A125] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ➤ [A140] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, January 2023), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SPA as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works site and the Lough Corrib SPA as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, the Works site is	No

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
	> [A179] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) > [A182] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) > [A193] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) > [A194] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) > [A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) > [A999] Wetlands		underlain by a separate groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater body, to this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SPA as a result of water quality deterioration. The Works site, which is dominated by Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat, does not provide significant supporting habitat for SCI species associated with the Inner Galway Bay SPA. Therefore, ex situ disturbance and displacement of these species can be excluded. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Lough Corrib SPA, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	
Cregganna Marsh SPA [004181] Distance: 12.5 km	> [A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, January 2023), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SPA as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works site and the Cregganna Marsh SPA as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, the Works site is underlain by a separate groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater body, to this SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SPA as a result of water quality deterioration.	

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			Furthermore, while the Works site does provide some suitable habitat or resources for the listed SCI species and the site is located within the core foraging range of Greenland White-fronted Goose (5-8 km, SNH 2016) , these areas are not significant and there will be no permanent loss of any suitable habitat as a result of the Works. The Works site, which is dominated by Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat, does not provide significant supporting habitat for SCI species associated with the Inner Galway Bay SPA. Therefore, ex situ disturbance and displacement of these species can be excluded. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Inner Cregganna Marsh SPA, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	
Connemara Bog Complex SPA [004181] Distance: 12.8 km	➤ Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ➤ Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ➤ Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ➤ Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, January 2023), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There is no potential for direct effects on this SPA as the footprint of the Works is located entirely outside the designated site. No surface water connectivity was identified between the Works Site and the Connemara Bog Complex SPA SPA as there are no watercourses or drainage pathways within or adjacent to the site which could act as conduits for pollution. Furthermore, the Works site and this SPA are underlain by the same groundwater body, the Spiddal groundwater body. However, due to the small	

European Sites and Distance from the Works	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 26/01/2026	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Influence Determination	Potential for Likely Significant Effects
			nature and scale of the Works and the intervening distance between the Works site and the SPA, there is no potential for likely significant indirect effects on this SPA as a result of groundwater deterioration. The Works site, which is dominated by Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) habitat, does not provide significant supporting habitat for SCI species associated with the Inner Galway Bay SPA. Therefore, ex situ disturbance and displacement of these species can be excluded. As a result, no complete source pathway receptor chain for likely significant effects was identified between the Works and the Connemara Bog Complex SPA, therefore the site is not within the Likely Zone of Influence and no further assessment is required.	

3.2

Likely Cumulative Effect of the Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects

The potential for the Works to contribute to a cumulative effect on European Sites was considered. Assessment material for this in-combination impact assessment was compiled on the relevant developments within the vicinity of the Works and was verified on the 26/01/2026. The material was gathered through a search of relevant online Planning Registers, reviews of relevant documents, planning application details and planning drawings, and served to identify past and future projects, their activities, and their environmental effects. All relevant projects were considered in relation to the potential for in-combination effects. All relevant data was reviewed (e.g., individual EISs/EIARs, layouts, drawings etc.) for all relevant projects where available. Projects in the vicinity of the Works within the last 5 years include extensions to houses, change of use, small alterations and the following:

- **Planning Ref. 22179:** Permission for development which will consist of construction of one pair of two-storey semi-detached dwelling houses to replace the approved two-storey dwelling house (Pl. Reg. Nos. 17/202 and 11/265) and complete all associated site Works
- **Planning Ref. 2460072:** Permission for a development which consists of the construct a new vehicle site entrance
- **Planning Ref. 2460280:** Permission for development which consists of; 3 Storey Apartment Building Comprising of 12 No. apartments and associated balconies. The Works will include 5 no. 1 bedroom apartments and 7 no. 2 bedroom apartments, an integrated bicycle store, solar PV array at roof level, bin store, parking, revised vehicular access arrangement and new pedestrian entrances to the Ballymoneen Road, and along north boundary, boundary treatments, site landscaping and all associated site Works and services at Ballyburke, Galway.

The following planning applications relate to the granted Ballymoneen Road Large-scale Residential Development (Pl. Ref. 2460270) and amendment application (Pl. Ref. 2560285). The Works site is located immediately adjacent to the site of this existing development which is currently under construction.

- **Planning Ref. 2460270:** LRD Permission for development which consists of the following:
 1. Demolition of 2 no. existing dwellings including 1 no. two-storey dwelling (199 sqm) and shed (13.64 sqm).
 2. Construction of 156 no. residential units comprising of:
 - a. 113 no. houses (16 no. 2-bed, 91 no. 3-bed, and 6 no. 4-bed).
 - b. 43 no. apartment units (21 no. 1-bed, 22 no. 2-bed).
 3. Provision of a creche (179 sqm).
 4. Provision of all surface water, watermain and foul water services and connections to existing facilities on Ballymoneen Road (L5024).
 5. Provision of a new vehicular and pedestrian access with the Ballymoneen Road (L5024) and the provision of a new pedestrian crossing on the Ballymoneen Road (L5024). Provision of a grass verge and cycle lane in accordance with the Galway Transportation Strategy.
 6. Provision of a potential pedestrian and cyclist connection on the eastern site boundary to the existing Slí Gheal development and the provision of 2 no. potential pedestrian connections from the proposed play area to the adjoining Slí Gheal development.
 7. The provision of landscaping including play areas and SUDS features.
 8. Provision of shared communal and private open space, resident and visitor car parking, electric vehicle charging points, bicycle parking, refuse storage, site landscaping and public lighting, and all associated site development Works.

9. Erection of a retaining wall varying in height from 0.5m to 3.5m along parts of the western boundary of the site to be constructed in the event the subject site is developed prior to the proposed N6 Galway City Ring Road Strategic Infrastructure Development (AMP-318220-23).

The application contains a statement setting out how the proposal will be consistent with the objectives of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029.

- **Planning Ref. 2560285:** Permission for development which consists of: We, Cairn Homes Properties Limited, intend to apply for permission for development of an amendment to the permitted Large Scale Residential (LRD) scheme (Planning Authority Ref 2460270 / An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref 321970) located to the west of the Ballymoneen Road (L5024), in the townlands of Keeraun (An Caorán) and Ballynahown East (Baile na hAbhann Thoir), Galway. The proposed amendment the subject of this application is located in the permitted apartment block located in the southern portion of the site, in the townland of Ballynahown East (Baile na hAbhann Thoir). The development will consist of;
 1. The change of use of the excess space at the plant room on the ground floor to 1 no. 1-bedroom apartment.
 2. The proposed amendment will include modifications to the elevation of the ground floor of the apartment block to facilitate window and door openings for the additional apartment.
 3. The footprint of the apartment building remains the same as what was permitted under Pl Ref 2460270 / ACP Ref 321970.

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

- Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029
- Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032
- Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030

The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to Natura 2000 sites and natural heritage. The review of these Plans is provided below in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Review of Plans

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence	Assessment of Potential Effects on European Sites
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	Objective 2: Meet urgent conservation and restoration needs Outcome 2A: The protection of existing designated areas and species is strengthened and conservation and restoration within the existing protected area network are enhanced Outcome 2B: Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside are conserved and restored – agriculture & forestry Outcome 2C: Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside are conserved and restored – peatlands & climate action Outcome 2D: Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine and freshwater environment are conserved and restored	The Biodiversity Action Plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential pathway for likely significant effects on any European site as a result of the Works were identified. No potential for negative cumulative effects when considered in conjunction with the Works were identified.
Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032	Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 5.4: Encourage the prioritisation of Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCO) for all sites of Conservation Value, designated in EU Directive (i.e. SACs, SPAs) to integrate with the development objectives of this Strategy. RPO 5.5: Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all our natural resources, including inland waterways, peatlands, and forests in a manner which ensures a healthy society a clean environment and there is no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development supported in this strategy. Conserve and protect designated areas and natural heritage area. Conserve and protect European sites and their integrity. RPO 5.7: Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the RSES are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate.	The Spatial and Economic Strategy was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential pathway for likely significant effects on any European site as a result of the Works were identified. No potential for negative cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the Works were identified.

Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029	Policy 5.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance 1. Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national legislation. 2. Ensure that all plans or projects within the Plan area will only be authorised and / or supported after the competent authority has ascertained based on scientific evidence, screening for appropriate assessment and /or a Habitats Directive Assessment that: i. The plan or project will not give rise to an adverse direct, indirect or secondary effect on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or ii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or iii. The plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. 3. Protect, conserve and promote the nationally designated sites of ecological importance, including existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA and pNHAs) in the city. 4. Protect, conserve and support the development of an ecological network throughout the city which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	The Development Plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the biodiversity, protected species, designated sites and other natural heritage interests. No potential pathway for likely significant effects on any European site as a result of the Works were identified. No potential for negative cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the Works were identified.
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	10. Protect and conserve rare and threatened habitats and their key habitats, (wherever they occur) listed on Annex I and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and listed for protection under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 and plant species listed in the Flora Protection Order 2015. 11. Ensure that plans and projects with the potential to have a significant impact on European sites (SAC or SPA) whether directly, indirectly or in combination with other plans or projects are subject to Appropriate Assessment, under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and associated legislation and guidelines, to inform decision making. 12. Achieve a sustainable balance between meeting future recreational needs (both passive and active) and the protection of the city's ecological heritage. 13. Support the inclusion of natural features, such as trees, hedgerows, stone walls, ponds and the use of green design features and the incorporation of biodiversity measures in developments layouts. 14. Support and implement measures to control and manage alien/invasive species, where appropriate in accordance with the EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Policy 5.3 Blue Spaces: Coast, Canals and Waterways 1. Protect and maintain the integrity of the coastal environment and waterways by avoiding significant impacts and meeting the requirements of statutory bodies, national and European legislation and standards. 2. Conserve and protect natural conservation areas within the coastal area and along waterways and ensure that the range and quality of associated habitats and the range and populations of species are maintained.	
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3.2.1 Conclusion of in-combination/cumulative assessment

The review of plans and projects that is described above did not reveal any additional potential pathways for likely significant effect on European Sites that may have arisen as a result of those plans or projects.

No pathway or mechanism for the Works to result or to have resulted in any likely significant effect on any European Site, was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and therefore, there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effects when considered in-combination with any other development.

4.

ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1

Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- > Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- > Review of 2019, 2013, 2007 and 2025 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- > Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Teagasc, EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- > Review of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) in Ireland 2020-2026 (Gilbert *et al.*, 2021)
- > Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the Works.
- > Review of relevant databases including National Biodiversity Ireland Database and available literature of previous surveys conducted in the area.
- > Review of other plans and projects within the area.

4.2

Concluding Statement

It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the Works undertaken, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have and have not had a likely significant effect on any European Site.

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