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Donegal County Council Piers & Harbours – Glengad Pier

Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening

Donegal County Council

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Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AASS	Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement
СЕМР	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DCC	Donegal County Council
EEC	European Executive Committee
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
European Sites	Appropriate assessment tests whether a plan or a project is likely to have
	a significant negative impact on any Special Protection Areas, Special
	Areas of Conservation, and/or Ramsar sites. Jointly, these are called
	'European sites'.
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
km	Kilometre
mm	Millimetres
NMS	National Monuments Services
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Natura 2000	Natura 2000 is a network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and
	threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are
	protected in their own right. It stretches across all 27 EU countries, both
	on land and at sea.
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCIs	Special Conservation Interests
SPA	Special Protected Area
QIs	Qualifying Interests
WFD	Water Framework Directive
Zone of Influence	The area where potential environmental changes may potentially impact
ZOI	upon sensitive environmental receptors, considering the spatial scope of
	the proposed scheme.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Donegal County Council (DCC) propose to carry out structural repair works at the Glengad Pier, east of Culkeeny, County Donegal (see Figure 1-1). It is proposed to construct a new reinforced concrete pier wall offset from the existing pier wall, backfill behind the proposed wall and extend the pier deck slab to tie into the proposed wall.



Figure 1-1: Glengad Pier, County Donegal

The works ares being undertaken as part of a package of works, including the maintenance/ upgrade/ construction of twelve various piers and harbours within County Donegal.

ByrneLooby has been commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Assessment for these planned works.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

As part of the proposed project, this Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report has been prepared to determine whether or not an EIA is likely to be required as

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a project listed in Annex II of the EIA Directive (Annex II Projects) and transposed into Irish Planning Law in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020. Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations identify the criteria for determining if a subthreshold development (as identified in Schedule 5) will require an EIA.

1.3 Project Background

A dive survey was carried out in 2018 to assess the condition of the pier wall and slipway at Glengad Pier and found that the pier has suffered from undermining at multiple locations along the wall and requires refurbishment / repair work to be completed. DCC propose to carry out repair works including the construction of a new reinforced concrete pier wall, offset from the existing pier wall, and extension of the pier deck slab to tie into the proposed wall.

1.3.1 Construction Programme

The construction works are planned between March 2023 and November 2023.

1.3.2 Construction Method Statement

Traffic management will be set up and the worksite separated from the public. The pier will remain operational, however, berthing and usage will be restricted.

Due to the presence of rock, it is proposed to construct precast wall units alongside the existing deteriorating quay wall, below the low water level and these will be lifted into place using a crane. The cavity between the proposed precast wall units and the existing quay wall will be filled with concrete with the concrete placed by using the tremie pipe method. This method eliminates segregation of the concrete and maintains its durability however, this also significantly reduces the amount of cement/aggregate that can escape into the water column. Anti-wash admixture will also be added to maintain the strength of the concrete in marine conditions. Above the water mark the concrete wall will be cast in situ using standard formwork. The precast units will include exposed rebar to tie into the proposed cast in situ sections of wall.

The equipment/plant required includes a 13 tonne Excavator including compacting plate attachment, a crane, a 32 Tonne Tipper Lorry, a Concrete Lorry, and a 6 tonne dumper.

The materials required includes precast concrete units, engineered granular fill material, steel reinforcement, cast in situ concrete for the retaining wall and slipway deck.

1.3.2.1 Environmental Considerations

Precast units are to be used to alleviate potential for water contamination. All equipment will be checked daily and to have maintenance records to reduce excess noise generation. Excess light pollution will be avoided with the use of lighting towers. The fuelling station will be located away from the water's edge and will have spill kits. Further, all liquids will be stored in a bunded spill tray.

2 Description of Project Area and Baseline Conditions

The Glengad Pier is located east of Culkeeny in an area of County Donegal classified as having low population density and scattered urban development. It is a working fishing pier with limited mooring capacity (up to 5 vessels). There is a single residential property overlooking the pier, and a number of caravans parked in the vicinity. Other residential properties are located >300m from the pier. No commercial facilities are present in the immediate area.

The project site lies within the North Inishowen Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as 6 nos. other Natura 2000 Sites within a 15km range, including (see Figure 2-1) (EPA Map Viewer, 2022):

- 1. Inishtrahull SAC
- 2. Magheradrumman Bog SAC
- 3. Hempton's Turbot Bank SAC
- 4. Trawbreaga Bay SPA
- 5. Inishtrahull SPA
- 6. Malin Head SPA

The qualifying interests of the North Inishowen Coast SPA include the Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and various coastal and mudflat habitats including mudflats, sandflats, perennial vegetation, vegetated sea cliffs, coastal dunes and dry heaths (NPWS, 2014).

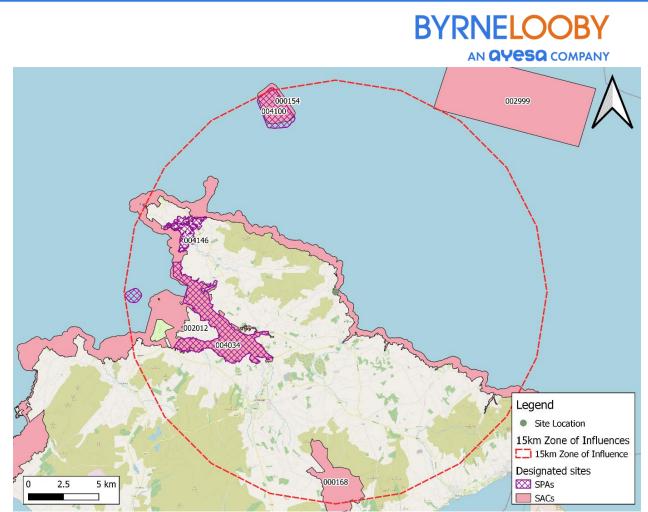
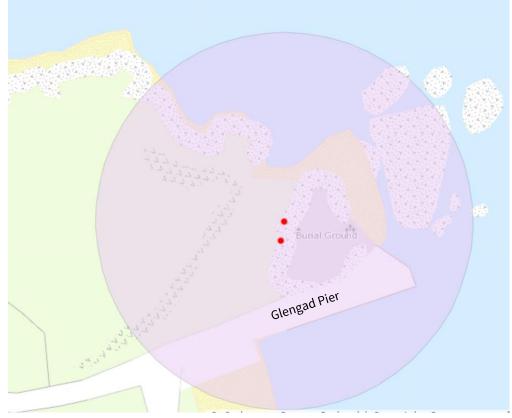


Figure 2-1: Natura 2000 sites within the 15km Zone of Influence

There are no World Heritage Sites, UNESCO sites, Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) or Heritage Towns in the vicinity of the Project (Historic Environment Viewer, 2022). There is however a graveyard located behind the pier, with two associated sites recorded on the National Monuments Service (NMS). These include:

- DG005-02001 'Burial Ground Coolkill Burial Ground'.
- DG005-02001 'Cross-inscribed Stone'

Both sites are recorded to have Zone of Notification and are planned to be included in the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Accordingly, planning consent is required from the NMS for any works occurring within the Zone of Notification, which is the case for the Glengad Pier Project (see Figure 2-2).



Source: (Historic Environment Viewer, 2022).

Figure 2-2: National Monument Service (NMS) Sites and Zone of Notification

Seven wrecks are recorded in the general area around 'Glengad Head', however none are referenced as being in the vicinity of the Glengad Harbour (NMS, 2022) (NMS Wreck Inventory of Ireland: Donegal, 2022).

The Portaleen River (PORTALEEN_010) flows into the marine environment directly adjacent to the Glengad Pier and is assigned as an 'at risk' waterbody by the Water Framework Directive (WFD) with 'poor' ecological status and significant pressure (EPA Map Viewer, 2022). Elevated ammonia concentrations are noted here, mostly on account of agricultural pressures and surrounding septic tanks (WFD, 2019). The Glengad Housing Scheme sewage discharge (primary treatment of agglomeration PE <500) flows into the Portaleen River (Emission ID TPEFF0600A0452SW001) (EPA Map Viewer, 2022).



3 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

3.1 Introduction

EIA Screening is the process of deciding whether a development requires an EIA. The EIA screening exercise initially assesses the development for Mandatory EIA using classifications defined in the appropriate legislation. Where no mandatory requirement is concluded, screening advances to Sub-Threshold Development Assessment, where the competent authority evaluates whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, with reference to its scale, nature, location and context.

3.2 Legislative Context

The requirement for an EIA derives from Council Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Council Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC and as codified and replaced by Directive 2001/92/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (and as amended in turn by Council Directive 2014/52/EU).

The mandatory requirement for an EIA is generally based on the nature or scale of a proposed development, as set out in EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC).

The 2014 Directive defines the EIA as a process, the responsibility for which lies with the developer, to prepare an EIAR for examination by the Competent Authority to allow reasonable conclusions to be drawn on the proposed development.

These requirements are transposed into Irish Law and included in the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020 as necessary. The Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020 also identify certain types and scales of development, generally based on thresholds of scale, for which an EIA is mandatory.

In addition, there can be a requirement to undertake an EIA for 'sub-threshold' developments. In this respect, it is necessary to undertake a screening exercise to assess whether the proposed development requires an EIA (either mandatory or sub-threshold).

This EIA Screening Report references the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2020 when describing the EIA threshold criteria (Schedule 5 and 7).

3.3 Methodology

EIA Screening for the proposed scheme was undertaken with consideration of the following legislation and guidance:

• Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2020.

- Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 to 2020 (including Schedules 5 and 7).
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), European Commission (EC), 2017.
- Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2017).
- Draft Advice Notes on Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015).
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHPLG, 2018).
- Annex IIA of Council Directive 2014/52/EU.
- Annex III of Council Directive 2014/52/EU.
- EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC).

3.3.1 Screening for Mandatory EIA

Screening for Mandatory EIA requires a developer to provide the information listed in Annex IIA and to determine the need against the Criteria in Annex III to the 2014 Directive. The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) also apply and must be considered as the legislation specifies projects in Schedule 5 of the Regulations that must undergo mandatory EIA.

If the project does not require a mandatory EIA under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended), it may still be required under Article 103 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) where the Competent Authority considers that the development would be likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

3.3.2 Screening for Sub-Threshold EIA

Screening for a Sub-Threshold EIA addresses the possible need for EIA below the Annex II national thresholds. There is a requirement to carry out EIA where significant effects may arise due to the nature of the proposed development, its scale or extent and its location in relation to the characteristics of the receiving area, particularly sensitive environments.

Annex III of Council Directive 2014/52/EU sets out the criteria for assessing whether or not a project will have "likely" and "significant" effects on the environment, in which case an EIA is also required.

4 Screening for Mandatory EIA

4.1 Methodology

The methodology for screening for mandatory EIA involved:

- A desktop study of the baseline environmental conditions and environmental receptors within the vicinity of the proposed development. Identification of the potential impacts and effects.
- An examination of the proposed scheme against Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- An examination of the proposed scheme against Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) (refer to Appendix A).

4.2 Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020 Review

The proposed scheme falls within the relevant categories listed overleaf as described within Schedule 5 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001-2020.

Statutory Reference	Mandatory Threshold	Screening Conclusion
Schedule 5, Pa	rt 1	
The Project is I	not listed.	
It therefore is n	ot subject to Mandatory EIA under this Schedu	le.
Schedule 5, Pa	rt 2	
Schedule 5 Part 2 Section 10(e)	New or extended harbours and port installations, including fishing harbours, not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, where the area, or additional area, of water enclosed would be 20 hectares or more, or which would involve the reclamation of 5 hectares or more of land, or which would involve the construction of additional quays exceeding 500 metres in length.	The proposed project includes small-scale replacement of a ca. 60m concrete pier wall masonry quay wall through placement of precast and cast concrete sections. No extension or reclamation exceeding 20 hectares is proposed, nor is the construction of additional quays extending 500m in length.
Schedule 5 Part 1 Section 12(b)	Sea water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 300 and freshwater marinas where the number of berths would exceed 100.	Mandatory threshold is not reached. The proposed project includes small-scale replacement of a ca. 60m concrete pier wall masonry quay wall with berthing capacity of up to 5 vessels.
		Mandatory threshold is not reached.

Table 4-1: Relevant Extracts from Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001



Statutory Reference	Mandatory Threshold	Screening Conclusion
Schedule 5 Part 2 Section 15	Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development, but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.	See the sub-threshold screening outlined in Chapter 5.

In summary, the proposed development does not fall under any of the thresholds in Schedule 5 Part 1 for mandatory EIA and it does not meet/exceed the thresholds for which it falls under in Schedule 5 Part 2. Therefore, it is considered that a mandatory EIA is not required and that it is a sub-threshold project.



5 Sub-Threshold EIA Screening

Sub-threshold development is defined in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018 Part 10 Section 92 as "development of a type set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5 which does not equal or exceed, as the case may be, a quantity, area or other limit specified in that Schedule in respect of the relevant class of development". This is the case for this Project.

The Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018 Part 10 Section 120 outline the requirements for proposed sub-threshold developments in relation to EIA, and state:

(1) (a) Where a local authority proposes to carry out a subthreshold development, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.

(b) Where the local authority concludes, based on such preliminary examination, that—

(*i*) there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall conclude that an EIA is not required,

(ii) there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination, or

(iii) there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall

- (I) conclude that the development would be likely to have such effects, and
- (II) prepare, or cause to be prepared, an EIAR in respect of the development.

On this basis, a preliminary screening examination of the proposed project was undertaken using the criteria outlined in Schedule 7 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001-2020. This is outlined in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Sub-Threshold Screening in Accordance with Schedule 7

Criteria in Schedule 7 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001- 2020. Characteristics of the proposed development, in particular:		Review	
		The proposed project includes small-scale replacement of a ca. 60m concrete pier	
(a)	the size and design of the whole of the proposed development.	wall masonry quay wall through placement of precast and cast concrete sections. The works are not anticipated to extend beyond the pier itself, and within a	
(b)	cumulation with other existing development and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of	limited (1-2m) offset from the existing concrete wall.	
	section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment.	The Project is located in a rural hinterland of Culkeeny with limited residential properties. There is a single residential property overlooking the pier, and a number of caravans parked in the vicinity. Other residential properties are located >300m from the pier and n commercial facilities are present.	
(c)	The nature of any associated demolition works.		
(d)	the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity.	Cumulative impacts have been assessed through review of the Donegal Planning Applications Viewer and those projects with planning consent. There are records of small works ongoing in the vicinity, including the provision of seasonal floating	
(e)	the production of waste.	pontoons for leisure activities at the Glengad Pier and construction of storage sheds at the pier. These works are minor in scale and will unlikely give rise to	
(f)	pollution and nuisances.	cumulative impacts.	
(g)	the risk of major accidents, and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge.	The use of natural resources such as aggregates, steel, concrete materials and energy will be required during the construction stage of the proposed scheme however the quantity is minimal and the resources to be used are common construction materials.	
(h)	the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air		
	pollution).	Wastes will be generated in the construction phase, comprising of common construction materials (i.e., waste concrete and steel) and facilities waste for contractors working onsite (i.e., food waste). Volumes will be minimal and appropriately managed.	

Criteria in Schedule 7 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001- 2020.	Review
	The generation of air pollution is considered minimal, limited to the operation of various construction plant (i.e., machinery/generators). The works will generate noise and given the proximity of residential receptors to the harbour some impact is likely. However, these nuisances are deemed manageable through best practise construction mitigation. Further, the construction timeline is short (maximum 8 months), so all impacts are considered temporary.
	As works are ongoing adjacent to the marine environment, there is the potential for accidental release of waste and hazardous substances from accidental spillage of fuels and breakdown of equipment/machinery. The quantities to be present on site are however anticipated to be minimal and best practise construction mitigation will provide appropriate management of these impacts.
The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development, with particular regard to:	As identified in the AA Screening, the qualifying interests of the North Inishowen Coast SAC are considered to have high sensitivity given the works location within its borders. Sensitivities were established as a result of potential risks from
(a) the existing and approved land use(b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in	hydrocarbon contamination. Further, the three SPA sites located within 15km also required a more detailed screening assessment on the basis that noise impacts from construction could disturb breeding or foraging avifauna.
the area and its underground(c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:	The graveyard's associated sites recorded on the NMS, as outlined in Chapter 2, are within a Zone of Notification and are listed as planned to be included in the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The sites would therefore be considered to
 wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths. coastal zones and the marine environment. mountain and forest areas. 	have a high sensitivity to potential impacts of this Project. Planning consent is required from NMS, as works are planned to occur within this zone and have the potential to cause impact to the integrity of the features.
 nature reserves and parks. areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. 	Seven wrecks are recorded in the general area around 'Glengad Head', however none are referenced as being in the vicinity of the Glengad Harbour (Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland Data: Donegal).

Criteri	a in Schedule 7 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001- 2020.	Review
-	areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure. densely populated areas.	The works are not anticipated to worsen the risk and ecological status of the Portaleen River as all construction is located downstream (at the river mouth).
	andscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological ignificance.	
relation to of the pro	significant effects on the environment of proposed development in o criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact ject on the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(I) to (V) of the of 'environmental impact assessment report' in section 171A of the	The magnitude and special extent of the works is minimal, limited to the immediate vicinity of the existing harbour infrastructure (existing concrete pier wall).
	g into account—	The works will occur within the marine environment and impact the existing seabed however the footprint of impact is very minimal (a 1m offset from the
	he magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	existing wall) and given the nature of the area as a fishing harbour basin, it is not anticipated to contain habitats of significant ecological value. The impact is therefore considered minimal.
(b) t	he nature of the impact,	
(c) t	he transboundary nature of the impact	Following a screening assessment and review of potential risks without mitigation, the AA Screening determined beyond reasonable scientific doubt that significant effects to the North Inishowen Coast SAC were highly unlikely, alone or
(d) t	he intensity and complexity of the impact	in combination with other plans or projects. Effects of hydrocarbon spill were
(e) t	he probability of the impact,	considered negligible given the planned location of the refuelling area. Noise impacts to the SPAs were deemed negligible given that the quayside and pier are
	he expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the mpact,	adjacent to an existing marine supply store and yard, and therefore existing background noise levels were considered to be comparable to noise generated by the proposed works. In addition, the suitable habitat (sea cliffs) for these birds is
d	he cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or levelopment the subject of a consent for proposed development for he purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the	located behind the proposed works area, beyond an area of raised ground provides a natural barrier to noise transmission. Therefore, it was determined that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this Project.

Criteria in Schedule 7 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001- 2020.	Review
subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment, and	As well as the ecological interests, there are residential areas located within a 300m buffer of the planned works area and may be impacted by effects of construction noise, generation of pollutants and increased traffic movements in the area. However, the construction timeline is short (8 months) and therefore
(h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	all impacts are considered temporary. Further, these impacts are entirely management through implementation of best practise construction mitigation in line with a site-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
	Regarding the recorded presence of wrecks within the general Glengad Head area, the works are planned within a 1-2m offset from the existing pier and slipway and therefore physical impact to wrecks and stray finds is considered unlikely. In any case, pre-construction topographic and bathymetric surveys are planned to be undertaken pre-construction, whereby the presence of any physical archaeological structures or stray finds will be detected. Should anything be found, appropriate due diligence and statutory consultation will take place ahead of works commencing. Further, it is recommended that National Monuments Service (NMS) is consulted with ahead of the works, to ensure appropriate due diligence is undertaken.
	Given the nature and scale of the works, impact to the NMS recorded archaeological features (as outlined in Chapter 2) is not considered significant as the sites are not located within the works area but still warrants appropriate due diligence and construction mitigation and monitoring. The project team will need to seek planning consent from the NMS given that the works occur in the Zone of Notification of these features and, as such, it is possible that the Project will need to undergo specific archaeological assessment on account of these protected features.

6 Screening Conclusion

The proposed project has been assessed in terms of the mandatory requirement for an EIA based on the nature or scale of the development, as addressed in the EU Directive 2014/52/EU. It is considered that the proposed project does not fall within the scope of mandatory EIA and is a subthreshold EIA.

In consideration of the nature, scale and location of the development Project according to the criteria outlined in Schedule 7 of the Planning Development Regulations 2001-2020, it is concluded that there is no significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development.

An EIA is not considered to be required in this instance.

Reasons for conclusion:

- The planned works associated with the Project are substantially below relevant mandatory EIA thresholds.
- Cumulative and in combination effects are able to be sufficiently managed through appropriate project phasing. The short construction timeline (maximum 8 months) enables this.
- There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development.
- The implementation of appropriate pre-construction planning and preparation of a CEMP with appropriate measures are considered sufficient to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.
- The potential for impacts on unknown archaeological assets within the 'zone of notification' shall be assessed and managed via the archaeological licensing process (see below).

The recorded archaeological interests and associated Zone of Notification in the project vicinity will require appropriate consent from the NMS pre-construction. Whilst these features are a consideration for the Project, it is assumed that the combination of construction due diligence and statutory consultation will be sufficient to limit impact.

7 References

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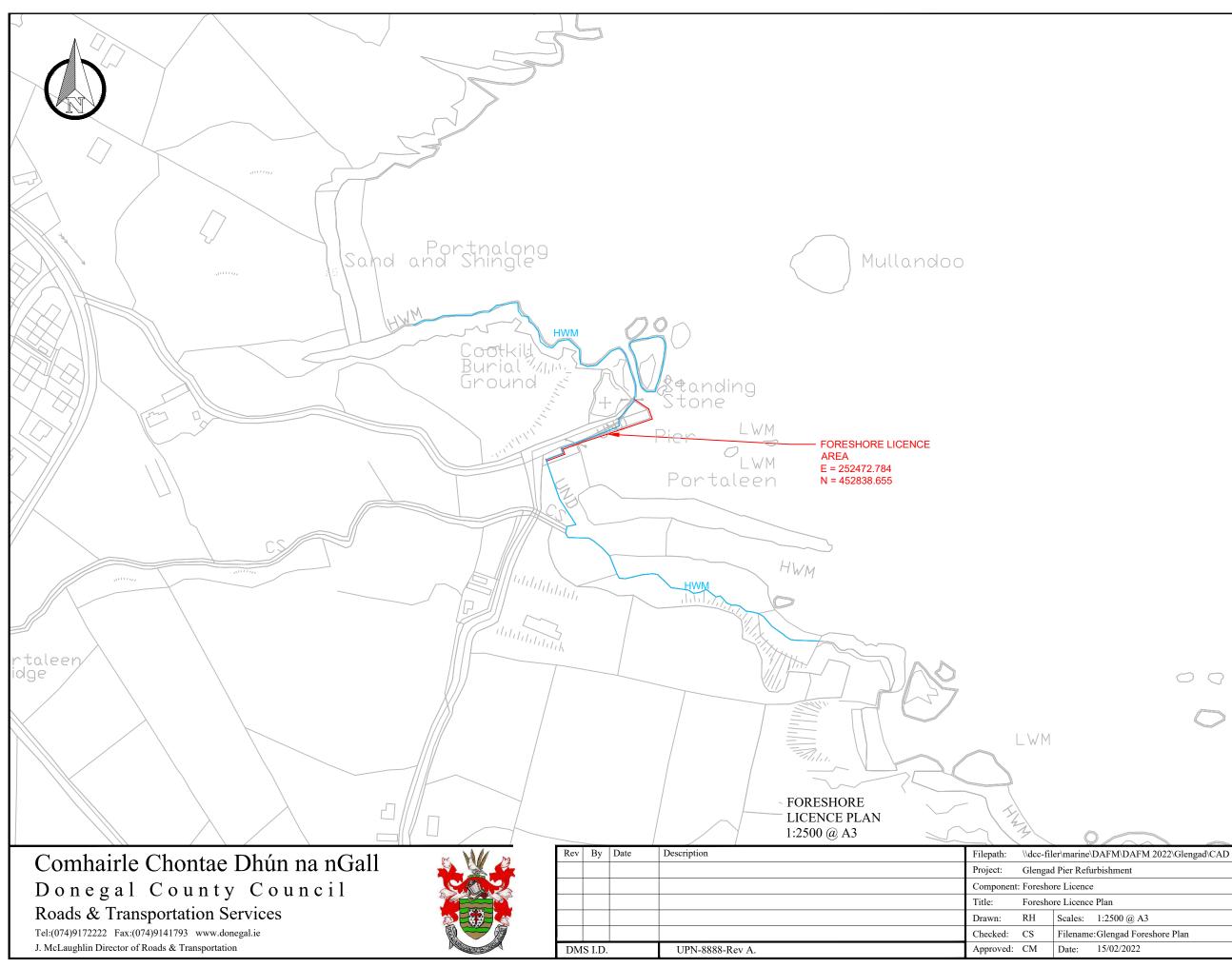
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Appendix A – Project Location Plan



Location Glengad Pier, Co Donegal

Name of Bay or Inlet North Atlantic Ocean

Irish Grid Co-ords Extent of works E = 252472.784N = 452838.655

Area of Foreshore affected 0.035ha

OS map number 0015 (1:5000)

Certified by:

R Hannigan

Date: 15/02/2022

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Drawing No: Revison: FSL 1 -



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