Report supporting the Appropriate Assessment Screening of Foreshore License (FC/15/28) in Burtonport, Co. Donegal

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Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CM	Conservation measure
COs	Conservation Objective(s)
DAFM	Department of Food Agriculture and the Marine
DEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment report
European site	Natura 2000 site
FCS	Favourable conservation status
IROPI	Imperative reasoning of overriding public interest
Natura 2000	Network of nature protection areas, Including the SACs and SPA designated under the Habitats Directive
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
QIs	Qualifying Interest(s)
SAC	Special Area(s) of Conservation
SCI	Special Conservation Interest(s)
SPA	Special Protected Area(s)

Executive Summary

The Marine Institute has been requested to review an application for foreshore activities for installation of a pontoon in Burtonport, Co. Donegal (FC/15/28). This report documents the Stage 1 screening process of the Appropriate Assessment of this proposed activity as specified under the Habitat Directive (European Community (EC) Directive 92/43/EEC).

The proposed site does not overlap with any Natura sites, but is adjacent to a 8 SACs (within 15km) and 18 SPAs (within 50km).

Based on the location, nature and zone of impact of potential effects, and the best scientific information available, this screening assessment has identified QIs or associated conservation features in the Natura sites that the proposed activities will spatially overlap with or has the possibility to significantly affect.

On the basis that likely significant effects of the proposed activity on the European sites cannot be ruled out, the following QIs are brought forward for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

SAC QIs

- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
- Reefs [1170]
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour seal) [1365]

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of this document

This is an Appropriate Assessment screening supporting the Appropriate Assessment of foreshore activities in Burtonport, Co. Donegal (FC/15/28).

This report is to consider if the proposed activities are likely to significantly affect the Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Natura 2000 sites in view of their Conservation Objectives (COs), and any adjacent sites, individually or in combination with existing or planned activities. This is achieved by following the screening process outlined in this document. If there is potential for the activities considered to likely, significantly affect QIs and their conservation features, they will be carried forward for full assessment and considered on a cumulative basis with other activities and other potentially disturbing activities.

1.2 Legislative Context

Articles 3 - 11 of the European Community (EC) Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (the **Habitats Directive**[1]) provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the conservation of an EU-wide network of protected sites, known as **Natura 2000** sites[2]. The Habitats Directive was originally transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997). The 1997 Regulations were subsequently replaced by the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*[3], as amended (referred to as the *2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations*). Natura 2000 sites are referred to as European sites in these Regulations.

The terms Natura 2000 sites and European sites are synonymous - the term Natura 2000 sites is used in this report. Natura 2000 sites in Ireland form part of the Natura 2000 European network of protected sites. SACs are designated due to their significant ecological importance for habitats and for species protected under Annex I and Annex II respectively of the Habitats Directive. SPAs are designated for the protection of populations and habitats of bird species protected under the Birds Directive, EC 79/409/EEC[4]. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are the competent authority for the management of Natura 2000 sites in Ireland.

The specific named habitats and/or (non-bird) species for which an SAC or SPA are selected are called the Qualifying Interests (QI), of the site. The specific named bird species for which a SPA is selected is called the 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI). However, in practice, the common terminology of QI applies also to SCI. The term QI is used throughout this report.

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive any plan or project likely to significantly affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site must be subject to an Appropriate assessment (AA). The AA focuses on the likely significant effects of a plan or project on a Natura 2000 site and considers the implications for the site in view of its Conservation Objectives (COs). Every Natura 2000 site has COs which are set out by the NPWS.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm
[3] https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/made/en/print
[4] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

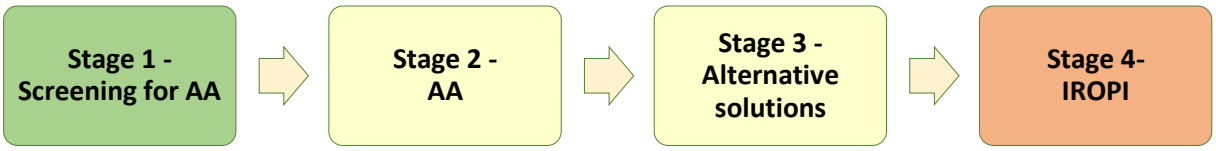
The licensing authority determines applications for foreshore licences and are also the competent authority responsible for undertaking AA of applications. As part of the process, they must determine if the proposed activities, individually or in-combination with other activities, are likely to significantly affect the Conservation Status of QIs and the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. They must base their determination on an AA and they are also responsible for ensuring that an AA is carried out.

1.3 Appropriate Assessment (AA) Process

The requirement for an AA derives directly from Article 6(3), which outlines the decision-making tests for considering plans and projects that may have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. No definition of the content or scope of AA is given in the Habitats Directive, but the concept and approach are set out in EC guidance [5].

The *Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland* document[6] published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2009, sets out how an AA of plans or proposals in Natura 2000 sites in Ireland should be carried out in alignment with EC guidance. In 2021, the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) published a practice note on AA Screening[7], which provides guidance on how a planning authority should screen an application for planning permission for AA.

The *Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland* document promotes a four stage process to complete the AA. The four stages are:



The key procedures involved in completing the first two stages of the AA process are described below. Stage 3 and Stage 4 (Imperative reasoning of overriding public interest) are not applicable here.

1.3.1 Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment Screening

Stage 1 AA Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of the site's COs. If the effects, on the basis of objective information, are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or if the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to *Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment*. Screening should be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation. The triggers for appropriate assessment screening are based on a '*likelihood*' (read as '*possibility*') of a potential significant effect occurring and not on certainty. This test is based on the precautionary principle[8]. The greatest level of evidence and justification will be needed in circumstances when the process ends at screening stage on grounds of no effect.

[5] EC 2018. Guidance on Aquaculture and Natura 2000 Sustainable aquaculture activities in the context of the Natura 2000 Network Link
[6] DEHLG, 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Link
[7] OPR - Office of Planning Regulator (2021). Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. March 2021. 43pp Link
[8] OPR - Office of Planning Regulator (2021). Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. March 2021. 43pp Link

1.3.2 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects. This stage requires a targeted scientific examination of the plan or project and the relevant Natura 2000 sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications for the site in view of the site's QIs and COs, taking account of in combination effects.

The sensitivity of identified QIs in relation to the proposed activities is assessed and the significance of any identified adverse effects is the then determined. If significant effects are determined to be likely, then their scale, magnitude, intensity, and duration are considered in light of the COs and relevant guidance documents. If the assessment is negative, then recommendations on mitigation measures or on licensing decisions will be made.

1.4 Structure of Report

This screening report provides:

1. **Introduction -** an outline of the legislative context and the processes.
2. **Appropriate Assessment Screening -** providing details of the AA screening undertaken, and the conclusions.
3. **Stage I Conclusions and recommendations** - provides an outline of the findings from the screening process.

1.5 Data sources

This process and report rely on data and information from a broad and diverse range of sources. Some of the key sources of information that are generally viewed, consulted and/or utilised to inform the screening and AA processes are listed below. Others are consulted as required, and significant sources are cited in the reports.

Reference documents and Sources of information used to inform this process include:

- The Application
- National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site information Link
- NPWS conservation objectives Link and nature reserves Link
- NPWS Guidance documents Link
- Targeted scientific studies
- Primary research literature
- Grey literature, reviews and report documents
- Expert opinion
- Direct queries to applicants through licensing authority
- Foreshore Act, 1933 Link
- Ireland's Marine Atlas Link
- DHPLG Foreshore licencing database Link
- DAFM website Link
- EPA GeoHive Link
- EPA maps tool Link
- Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland – Article 17 (Habitats & species) Link

- Birdwatch Ireland Link
- Bird status and trends Article 12 web tool - Link
- Marine Life Information Network Link
- EPA Catchments.ie dashboard Link
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) Link
- National Biodiversity Data Centre Link
- European Environmental agency Link
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. March 2021; Office of Planning Regulator (OPR, 2021). Link
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive Link
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. NPWS, 2009 – updated in 2010 with reference to Natura Impact Statement. (DEHLG, 2009) Link
- NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill Link
- NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill Link
- NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill Link
- The European ecological network "Natura 2000" and the appropriate assessment for projects and plans under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive. Nature Conservation, 23. Möckel, S., 2017. Link.
- EC Article 6 - Managing and protecting Natura 2000 sites Link
- EC Management of Natura 2000 sites: Best Practice Link
- EC 2000. Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. Link
- EC 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. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. Link
- EC 2006. Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. Link
- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for the FFH impact assessment Link
- Marlin.ac.uk Link
- AMBI Sensitivity Scale Link
- MarESA Link
- Open Street Maps Link
- Google Earth and Bing aerial photography

2 Appropriate Assessment Screening

2.1 Assessment of Activities

The Marine Institute has been requested to review an application for foreshore activities (**Figure 2-2**) for the refurbishing of the port wall at Burtonport Harbour, Co. Donegal.

This section identifies the proposed activities related to the development to be considered as part of the screening exercise in this report, and then considers whether these activities are likely to significantly affect the QIs of the Natura 2000 sites, in view of their Conservation Objectives (COs).

This is achieved by following the Screening Process as outlined in here If there is potential for the activities considered to have likely significant effects on the QI and their conservation features, they will be carried forward for full assessment. These activities are considered in-combination with other similar practices and on a cumulative basis with other likely disturbing activities.

2.1.1 Details of Proposed Foreshore Activities

The methodology text in this Section has been synthesised from the applicant's supplied documentation. The coastal village of Burtonport is located in a deep inlet in west Donegal. Burtonport Pier is used year round for fishing mainly of brown crab but also lobster and velvet crab. Ferry operations operate year round with seasonal charters and leisure activity. Burtonport Harbour is an important connector with Arranmore Island where two separate ferry companies provide 12 return journeys daily. Burtonport is extremely busy throughout the summer months due to increased traffic from tourism and seasonal fishing, so it is not desirable to impact the harbour or to carry out construction works with such congestion. The harbour in Burtonport is well sheltered and the weather or sea conditions will not significantly impact construction works. Other sites in the harbour are anticipated to go through redevelopment, such as demolishing the existing auction hall and ice plant buildings, and developing car parking and a new ferry terminal building. These redevelopment projects are dependent on the refurbishment of the quay wall to support the proposed increase level of the adjacent road (~500mm) to alleviate existing flooding issues encountered during high tides.

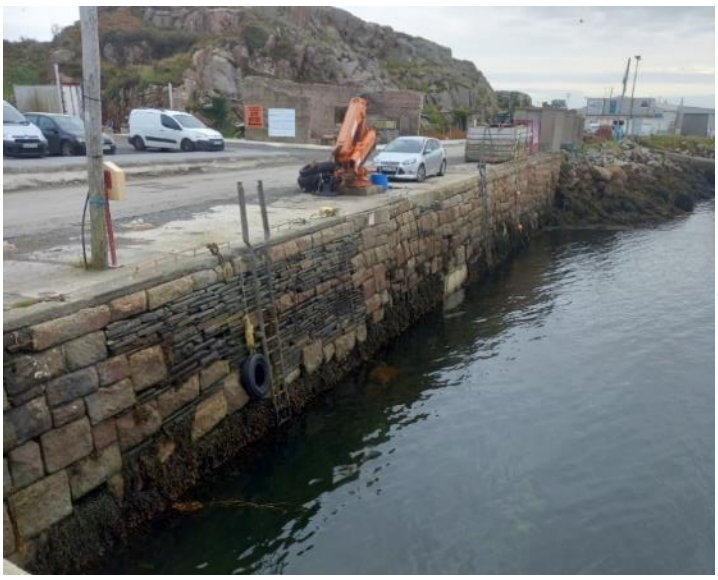


Figure 2-1. The current pier and location

Currently, the quay wall (Figure 2-1) is losing fine particulate as it gets washed out from behind the quay wall. The extent of movement from settlement is predicted to lead to the collapse of the quay wall. A recent condition report confirmed the wall requires attention and suggested providing a line of sheet piles in front of the existing wall, providing a reinforced concrete pile cap and providing ties to tie the proposed quay wall back to a ground beam. It is therefore proposed to construct a new sheet piled quay wall parallel to the existing stone wall to form a new quay wall to prevent collapse of the existing wall. Piling works are to be scheduled after tourism season between October and March.

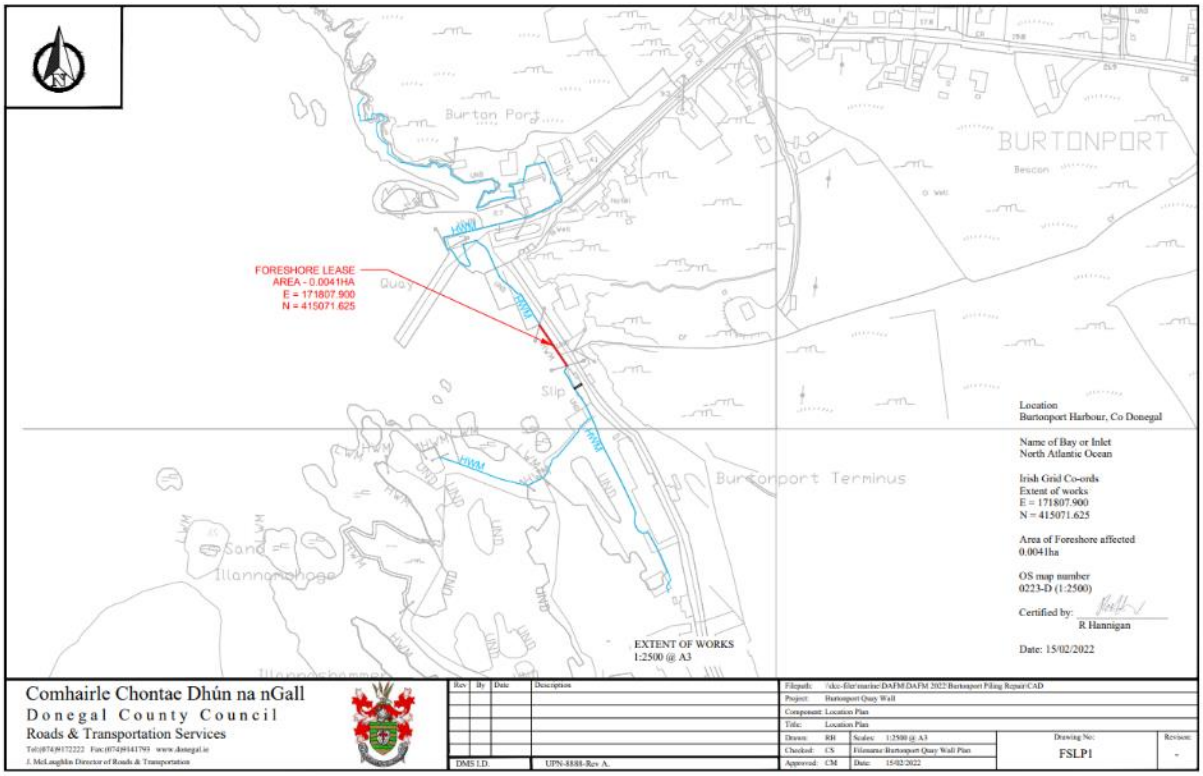


Figure 2-2 The proposed project site layout, project in red. Burtonport Quay Wall Location Plan (from applicant documents).

Machinery to be used include: 20 T excavator; 80 T crane; piling hammer (hydraulic); piling vibrator (hydraulic); 32 T tipper lorry; 6 T dumper; and compressor. Materials include: steel piles; steel waling beams; tie rods; precast concrete units; steel reinforcement; and granular fill material.

Due to the proximity of the road and the existing quay wall it will be necessary to restrict all traffic to this section of road during the construction works. An alternative route is available for diversion of traffic and a road closure will be put in place. The proposed work site will incorporate, by agreement, sections of existing pier and newly constructed car park.

No vessels will be permitted to berth at the quay wall during these works and the Burtonport Harbour Master will convey this message to all harbour users. A Marine Notice will also issue to inform mariners of the restrictions to berthing at Burtonport. The Burtonport Harbour Master will also liaise with ferry operators and advise on the restrictions to berthing and also the works taking place within the harbour that will impact their operations.

After mobilisation and site set-up the initial works will be the installation of the sheet piles into the seabed parallel to the existing masonry wall face, using a crane mounted vibratory piling rig. The crane will be located in the car opposite at least 10m away from the existing quay wall. Following installation

of the piles stone fill and concrete will be placed between the sheet piles and the existing quay wall to a level not greater than 1.5m above existing bed level.

The area behind the existing quay wall and underneath the carriageway will be excavated to install the precast anchor wall and tie rods. The excavation for the anchor wall will be supported using trench sheets, railings and struts. The tie rods can then be installed and the excavation backfilled with temporary supports removed as backfilling proceeds. When backfilling and compacting is completed to new road formation level the tie rods can be tightened enough just to take up the slack. At this point backfilling and compacting between the existing wall and the new sheet pile wall can be completed. A cast in-situ piling cap can then be constructed on top of the piles and this will be followed by new pier decking and new road.

As highlighted in the method statement two main environmental considerations were identified: noise and contamination. To mitigate against these modifications have been identified. With regards to noise, a vibratory piling rig will be used to reduce noise pollution above and below water level. All equipment to be checked daily and to have maintenance records to reduce excess noise generation. With regards to contamination, precast concrete caisson units will be used under water to prevent pollution wherever possible. In-situ concreting will be done with care. The fuelling station will be located away from the quay wall with adequate spill kits. All oils and chemicals to be stored in locked containers.

2.2 Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites and QIs

The proposed site does not overlap with any SACs – although it is 0.2 km from Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283) (**Figure 2-3**)-- and does not overlap with any SPAs (Error! Reference source not found.).

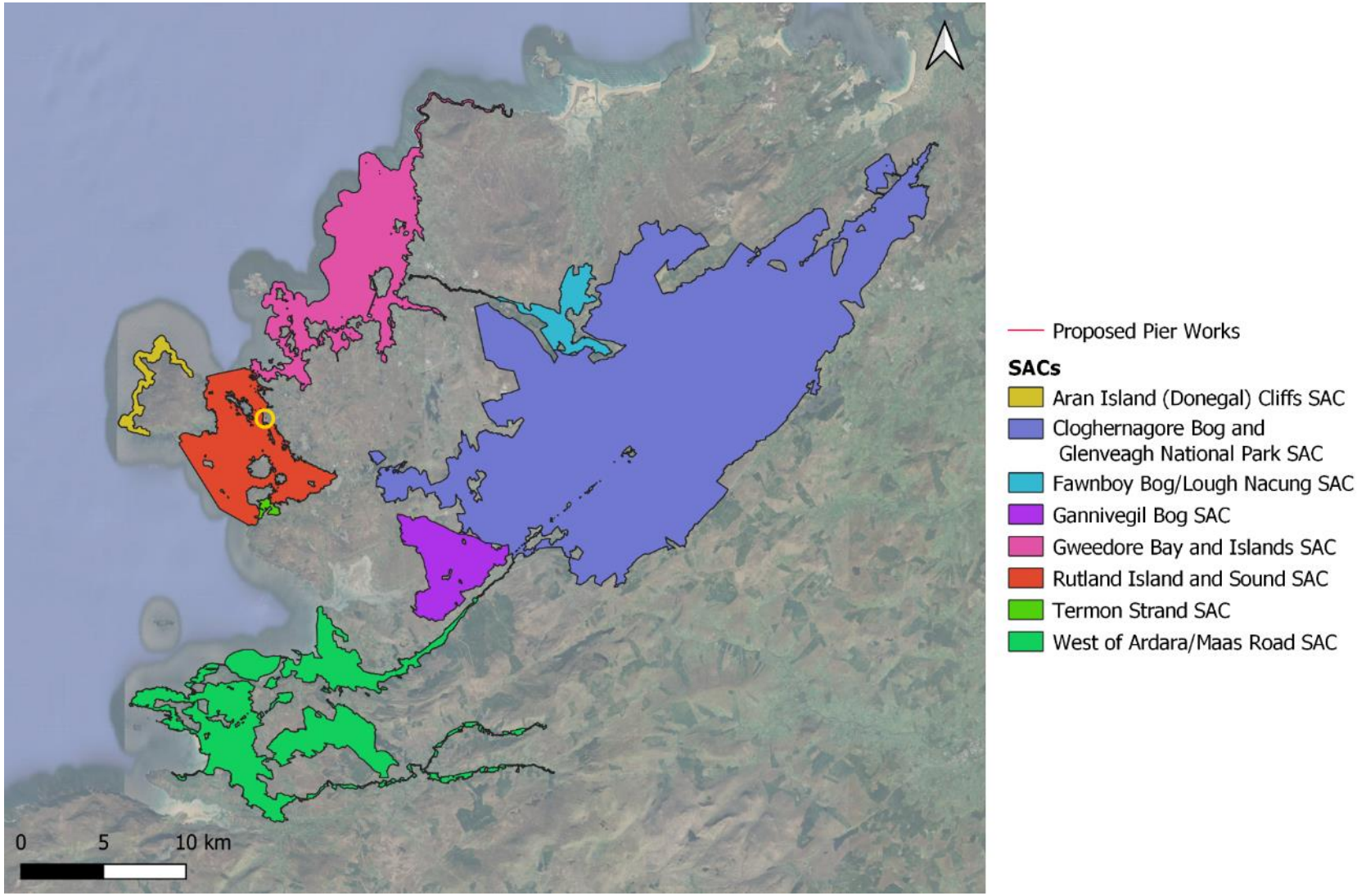


Figure 2-3 Natura 2000 SAC sites overlapping and adjacent to the application site (within 15km). Application site in yellow circle.

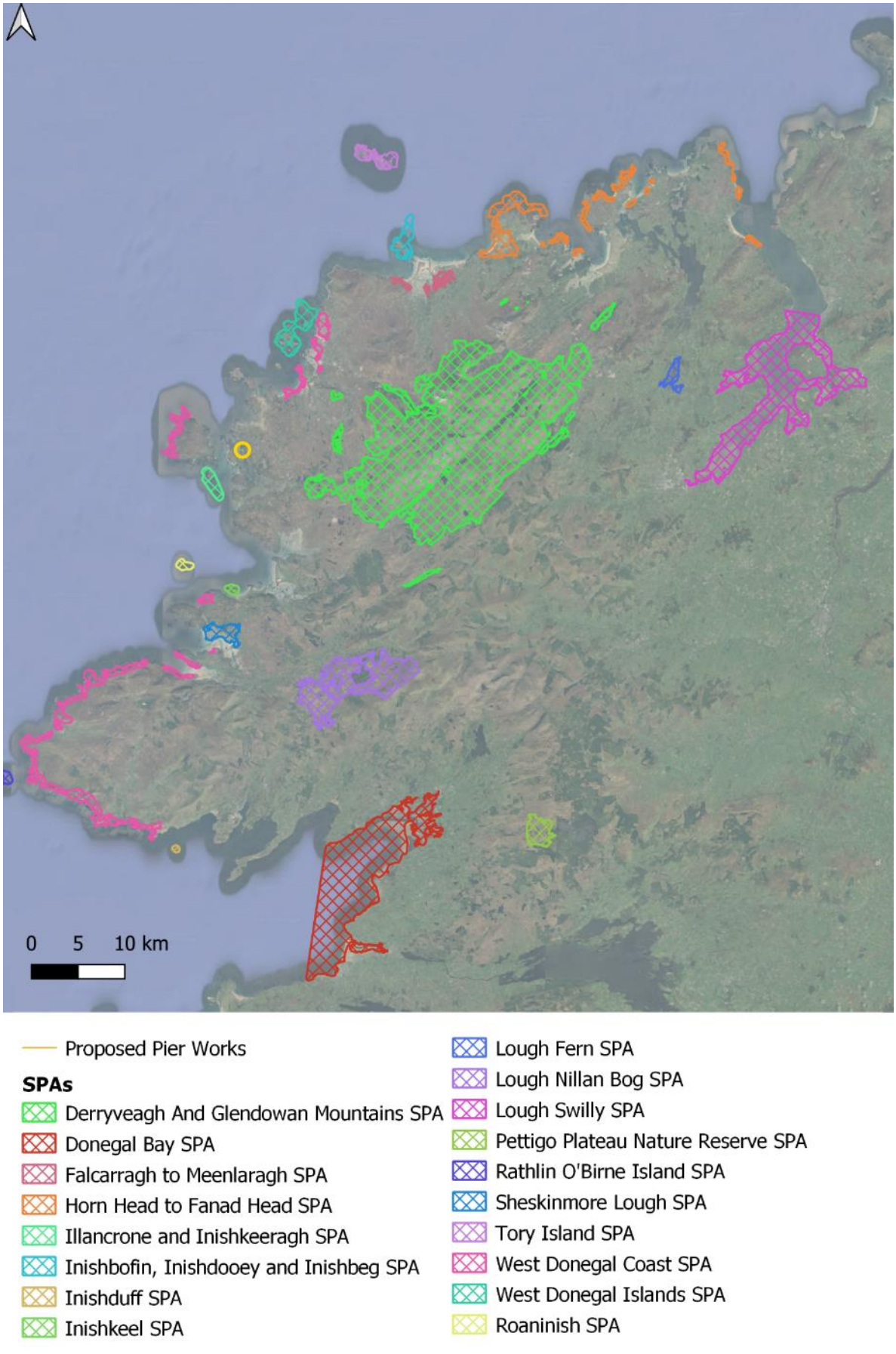


Figure 2-4 Natura 2000 SPA sites adjacent to the application site (50km). Application site in yellow circle.

2.2.1 Details of Natura 2000 Sites

SAC within 15 km are, conservatively, considered as within the zone of influence of the project. SPA within a 50 km radius are considered. A list of Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) that could be potentially affected by the proposed project have been identified and are listed in Table 2-1, and displayed in Figure 2-3. Their details and QIs are listed in Table 2-2 for the SACs and Table 2-4 for the SPAs.

Table 2-1 List and details of Natura sites adjacent to the area of the proposed activity.

Natura site	Site code	SAC/SPA	Distance from Natura site at nearest point (km)	Reference
Rutland Island and Sound SAC	002283	SAC	0.2	Link
Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC	001141	SAC	2.2	Link
Termon Strand SAC	001195	SAC	4.8	Link
Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC	000111	SAC	5.1	Link
Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park	002047	SAC	6.6	Link
Gannivegil Bog SAC	000142	SAC	9.9	Link
West of Arada/Mass Road SAC	000197	SAC	11.9	Link
Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung SAC	000140	SAC	12.1	Link
Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA	004132	SPA	3.9	Link
West Donegal Coast SPA	004150	SPA	6.7	Link
Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountain SPA	004039	SPA	7.6	Link
West Donegal Islands SPA	004230	SPA	11.2	Link
Roaninish SPA	004121	SPA	13.3	Link
Inishkeel SPA	004116	SPA	14.5	Link
Sheskinmore Lough SPA	004090	SPA	18.6	Link
Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA	004149	SPA	24.1	Link
Lough Nillan Boy SPA	004110	SPA	24.4	Link
Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA	004083	SPA	26.5	Link
Horn Head to Fanad Head	004194	SPA	33	Link
Tory Island SPA	004073	SPA	33.7	Link
Donegal Bay SPA	004151	SPA	40.8	Link
Inishduff SPA	004115	SPA	42.9	Link
Lough Fern SPA	004060	SPA	44.8	Link
Lough Swilly SPA	004075	SPA	46.7	Link
Rathlin O'Birne Island SPA	004120	SPA	42.6	Link
Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA	004099	SPA	49.4	Link

2.3 Screening of QIs

A key consideration as to whether or not an activity is likely to significantly affect Natura 2000 QIs, is if there is a pathway of connectivity between the QI and the sources of potential impacts associated with the activity. The QIs could be at risk of effects where a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) link exists between the proposed activities and the conservation features of the site, and the risk cannot be dismissed.

Figure 2-5 Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) link diagram.

The S-P-R model considers potential ecological links between the proposed activity and the qualifying interest of Natura 2000 site. The link can be direct and facilitated by terrestrial, aquatic and airborne transfer of a particular pressure, or the nature and location of the activity may be indirect and interact at a functional level, and impact on behaviour or resource acquisition of a qualifying interest (OPR 2021).

The screening for the presence of a S-P-R link and any potential significant effects of the proposed aquaculture activities on the QIs of the Natura will be presented in this Section. A screening assessment is an initial evaluation of the existence of S-P-R links between the proposed activities and any likely significant effects on the QIs. In this assessment, screening of the QIs against the proposed activities is, in the first instance, considered on the basis of direct spatial overlap. Indirect effects are also considered whereby the likely impact of the activity on behaviour or resources required by mobile species (mammals and birds, among others) is considered. Also considered are indirect effects facilitated by hydrological or other potential links (e.g. foraging range).

Where there is spatial overlap and reasonable potential for likely significant effects on QIs to arise, a full assessment (Stage 2) is warranted. In the instance where there is no spatial overlap between an activity and a QI, and no likely direct or indirect interactions apparent, the activity, therefore, may be screened out. If there is marginal spatial overlap but no reasonable potential for significant effects on QIs to arise then the activity may also be screened out.

The QIs of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites listed above could be at risk of effects where a S-P-R link exists between the proposed activities and the QIs of the site. The screening for the presence of a S-P-R link and any potential significant effects of the proposed aquaculture activities on the QIs of adjacent SACs and SPAs is presented here. The screening is undertaken without the inclusion of any mitigation measures.

2.3.1 Screening of QIs of Adjacent Natura 2000 Sites

The screening of adjacent Natura sites is carried to determine if the proposed activity is likely to impact on the QIs of these sites. It is primarily based upon indirect links between the proposed activity and those QIs. Guidance[9] has indicated that a screening exercise might consider the likely interactions between the QIs of Natura 2000 sites within a standard distance of 15 km from the proposed activity. While this guide value of 15 km can inform for habitats and also, for species with defined ranges, they may not apply to migratory species (e.g. some fishes or mammals) or those with large foraging ranges (e.g. birds and mammals). Such species may interact with the proposed activity as a result of the structures along their migratory route or impacting on their foraging behaviour. It is important such species are identified and should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, all QIs within SPAs within 50 km of the proposed development site are considered in the screening.

Screening outcomes in relation to the proposed activities are outlines in Table 2.2, highlighting the QIs and conservation objectives for each adjacent SAC Natura 2000 sites. Where Annex I Habitats or Annex II Species are in an SAC but are not classified as Qualifying Interests, they are not designated a Conservation Objective but are included in the table for thoroughness.

Table 2-2 Adjacent SAC Natura 2000 sites to the area of the proposed activity, with their QIs and CFs, objectives, and screening outcomes.

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons	The proposed project is adjacent to this SAC (200m). The nearest Coastal lagoons is approximately 1.5 km (straight line distance) from the project. Considering the footprint of the project, and the distance from the QI, **Coastal Lagoons [1150] can be screened out.** The QI Large shallow inlets and bays is 200m from the project. The QI reefs are adjacent to the project. The CO for reefs is to maintain favourable conservation condition. As there is a potential of a hydrological link, there may be potential "source-path-receptor" interactions with the following QIs: • Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] • Reefs [1170] **Therefore, these Annex I habitats are carried forward to Stage 2 Assessment.**
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Large shallow inlets and bays	
	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs	
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines	These QIs are related to sandy beach environments, and are located on the western side of Rutland Island, at least

[9] https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities

	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Embryonic shifting dunes	1.3 km from the project site. There is no pathway for interaction due to non-marine or terrestrial nature of these Annex I Habitats, so **likely significant effects on these QIs can be screened out**.
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	
	Humid dune slacks [2190]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks	
	Phoca vitulina (*Harbour* seal) [1365]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal	The Harbour seal is a marine QI and there may be a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction with this QI, so therefore, **carried forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.**
Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC [001141]	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons	Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC is approximately 2.2 km from the proposed project. The project has a small footprint and any effects will be localized. The proposed work is to an existing active pier. Considering the distance from the project, and the terrestrial or freshwater nature of most of these QIs, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. There are no clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these QIs and **they can therefore be screened out.**
	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs	
	Perenial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of perennial vegetation of stony banks	
	Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)	
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Embryonic shifting dunes	
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	

	Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum* [2140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*	
	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)	
	Dunes with Salix *repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunes with Salix *repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)	
	Humid dune slacks [2190]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks	
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Machairs	
	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	
	European dry heaths [4030]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths	
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alpine and Boreal heaths	
	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]		
	Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]		
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Slender Naiad	

	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort	
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Otter	Otters tend to forage within 80 m of the shoreline. The proposed work is to an existing active pier. As the boundary of this SAC is 1 km from the proposed project, there is no spatial overlap nor is there likely to be interactions nor significant affect between the proposed project and the Annex II Species. **Therefore, otter is screened out for this SAC.**
Termon Strand SAC (001195)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons	The Termon Strand SAC is located approximately 4.8 km from the closest boundary of the proposed project. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and the QI, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with this Annex I Habitat. Therefore, there is **no significant effects posed** by the proposed project on this QI.
Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC (000111)	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	The Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC is located approximately 5.1 km from the closest boundary of the proposed project. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and these Qis, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats. Therefore, **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on these QIs.**
	European dry heaths [4030]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths	
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alpine and Boreal heaths	
	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	
	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	
Clogher nagore	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters	The Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC is located

	plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]	containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	approximately 6.6 km from the closest boundary of the proposed project. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and these Qis, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats. Therefore, **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on these QIs.**
	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	
	European dry heaths [4030]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths	
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alpine and Boreal heaths	
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)	
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	
	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	
	Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnumin* the British Isles [91A0]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnumin* the British Isles	
	Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Killarney Fern	
	Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel	To achieve the conservation objective for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC, attributes and targets are concerned with impacts made to the mussels' freshwater habitat. The distance from Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitat for this SAC is over 6 km from the project site. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial

			overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and this QI, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Therefore **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on this QI.**
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon	To achieve the conservation objective for salmon in Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC, attributes and targets are concerned with impacts made to the freshwater system in the anadromous life cycle. The proposed project is 6.6 km from the SAC and not near any a salmon river. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and this QI, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with salmon. Therefore **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on this QI.**
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1135]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Otter	Otters tend to forage within 80 m of the shoreline. As the boundary of this SAC is >5 km from the proposed project, there is no spatial overlap nor is there likely to be interactions nor significant affect between the proposed project and the Annex II Species. **Therefore, otter is screened out for this SAC.**
Gannivegil Bog SAC (000142)	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	The Gannivegil Bog SAC is located approximately 9.9 km from the closest boundary of the proposed project. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and these Qis, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats. Therefore **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on these QIs.**
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	
West of	Estuaries [1130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries	The West of Arada/Maas Road SAC is located approximately 11.9 km from the closest boundary of the proposed

	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	project. The project has a small footprint and any effects will be localized. The proposed work is to an existing active pier. Considering either the distance from the project, and the terrestrial or freshwater nature of most of these QIs, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. There are no clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these QIs. Therefore, **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on these QIs.**
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Large shallow inlets and bays	
	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	
	Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)	
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes')	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') [2130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	
	Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum* [2140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*	
	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)	
	Dunes with Salix *repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*) [2170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunes with Salix *repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)	
	Humid dune slacks [2190]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks	
	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Machairs	
	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	

	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	
	European dry heaths [4030]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths	
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alpine and Boreal heaths	
	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	
	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*) [6210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)	
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)	
	Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)	
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs	
	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	
	Alkaline fens [7230]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alkaline fens	
	Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Geyer's Whorl Snail	
	Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Marsh Fritillary	
	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort	
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Slender Naiad	
	Margaritifera Margaritifera	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel	To achieve the conservation objective for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in Arada/Maas

	(Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]		Road SAC, attributes and targets are concerned with impacts made to the mussels' freshwater habitat. The distance from Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitat for this SAC is over 10 km from the project site. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and this QI, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Therefore, **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on this QI.**
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal	The Harbour seal is carried forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment based on the Rutland Island and Sound SAC.
	Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon	To achieve the conservation objective for salmon in West of Arada/Mass Road SAC, attributes and targets are concerned with impacts made to the freshwater system in the anadromous life cycle. The proposed project is >11 km from the SAC and not near any a salmon river. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and this QI, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with salmon. Therefore, **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on this QI.**
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Otter	Otters tend to forage within 80 m of the shoreline. As the boundary of this SAC is >11 km from the proposed project, there is no spatial overlap nor is there likely to be interactions nor significant affect between the proposed project and the Annex II Species. **Therefore, otter is screened out for this SAC.**
Fawnboy bog/Lough Nacung	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	The Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung SAC is located approximately 12.1 km from the closest boundary of the proposed project. The project has a small footprint and any effects will be localized. The proposed work is to an existing active pier.
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	

	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	Considering either the distance from the project, and the terrestrial or freshwater nature of most of these QIs, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. There are no clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these QIs. Therefore **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on these QIs**
	Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel	To achieve the conservation objective for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in Arada/Maas Road SAC, attributes and targets are concerned with impacts made to the mussels' freshwater habitat. The distance from Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitat for this SAC is over 12 km from the project site. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. Given the lack of spatial overlap or likely interactions identified between proposed project and this QI, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Therefore **there is no significant effects posed by the proposed project on this QI.**

The SPA identified within the 50 km zone of influence of the project are identified in Table 2-3., along with their QIs. Table 2-4 details the QIs and their screening outcomes.

Table 2-3 SPAs within 50Km of the project and their Qualifying interests.

SPA	Qualifying Interest
Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)	Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103] Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199] Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346] Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]
Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132)	Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]
Roaninish SPA (004121)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184]

Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (004099)	Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]
Rathin O'Birne Island SPA (004120)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]
Sheskinmore Lough SPA (004090	Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]
Inishkeel SPA (004116)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]
Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395] Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]
Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA	Corncrake (Crex crex) [A122]
Lough Swilly SPA	Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005] Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [A028] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048] Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050] Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052] Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053] Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056] Scaup (*Aythya marila*) [A062] Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069] Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A125] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) [A164] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395] Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]
Lough Fern SPA (004060)	Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) [A059] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA	Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001] Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466]
Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]

	Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Inishduff SPA (004115)	Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018] Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]
Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]
Tory Island SPA (004073)	Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122] Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]
West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017] Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103] Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]
West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]

Table 2-4 Adjacent SPA Natura 2000 sites with QIs and screening outcomes.

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objectives	Screening Outcome[10],[11]
Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	• Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) • Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083)	Arctic Tern is a summer visitor to Ireland, which feed on marine fish, crustaceans and insects. They are mainly a coastal breeding bird, with Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA being an important site for breeding Arctic Tern. Their foraging range is 46 km max, 25.7±14.8 km mean max and mean of 6.1±4.4 km. The project site is 3.9 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there is no likely significant overlap with potential breeding, feeding or habitat and the proposed site, **the Arctic Tern can therefore be screened out**.
Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) • Roaninish SPA (004121) • Rathin O'Birne Island SPA (004120) • Roaninish SPA (004121) • Inishkeel SPA (004116) • Inishduff SPA (004115) • Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Barnacle Goose is a winter visitor which primarily grazes on grasses and sedges on coastal pastures. They do not breed in Ireland. As the project site is 3.9 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there is no likely significant overlap with potential breeding, feeding or habitat and the proposed site, **the Barnacle Goose can therefore be screened out**.

[10] The following sources of information have been used throughout this table:

- https://birdwatchireland.ie/
- https://www.wildlifetrusts.org
- Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E. & Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019. Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening, Report of work carried out by the British Trust for Ornithology on behalf of NIRAS and The Crown Estate, ISBN 978-1-912642-12-0.
- Thaxter *et al* 2012 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320711004721
- Fijn *et al* 2017 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seares.2016.11.005

[11] Max' is the maximum foraging range from all studies (reviewed in Woodward et al 2019); 'mean max' is the maximum range reported for each colony, averaged across all colonies; 'mean is the mean foraging range reported for each colony, averaged across all colonies.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Black-headed Gulls are a resident species in Ireland. They feed on insects but have been recorded feeding on domestic and fisheries waste. They nest in colonies on the ground in wetland areas, like bogs and marshes. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there is no likely significant overlap with potential breeding, feeding or habitat and the proposed site, **Black-headed Gull can be screened out**.
Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	A resident species to Ireland, Chough prefers undisturbed cliffs for nesting. Most pairs stay near breeding sites all year round. They prefer coastal grassland for feeding. The foraging ranges of Chough can be up to 30 km from their roosting sites feeding mostly on terrestrial insects, worms, terrestrial invertebrates in soil. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. The project is on an already existing, active pier. The project site is 6.7 km from the closest SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. The likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Chough can be screened out.**
Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075) • Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Common Gull is a local breeding species, which feeds on terrestrial and aquatic insects and invertebrates, and fish, with a foraging range of 50 km. They breed on the coast and inland in nests on the ground. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. The project is on an already existing, active pier. As the project site is 6.7 km from the closest SPA for this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitat and the site, **the Common Gull can be screened out.**
Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	Common Scoter are resident and winter visitors to Irish coasts between October and April. In summer they have a varied diet including aquatic plants, insect larvae and freshwater crustaceans. In winter, they tend to forage in waters less than 20m for benthic bivalves. They nest on islands with dense covering of scrub and tree cover. They winter in the marine environment (shallow waters). As the project site is 40.8 km from Donegal Bay SPA, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha and the effects from the construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Common Scoter can be screened out.**
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]	• Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Common Tern is a summer visitor to Ireland, which feeds chiefly on fish. They nest colonially on the ground from April to October. Common Tern breeds on the coast, and also inland on islets in freshwater lakes. They have a breeding season foraging range of 30 Km, with a mean of 6.4 km. The project is 3.9 km from the nearest SPA for this species. The footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. The project is on an already existing, active pier. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. The likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project

		are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitat and the site, **the Common Tern can therefore be screened out.**
Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A125]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Coot, an omnivorous bird feeding on plants, insects and fish, are found in ponds and lakes throughout Ireland. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Coot can be screened out.**
Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	There is a resident population of Cormorant around the coast, which breeds in colonies on stacks, rocky islets, cliffs or rocky promontories, with some breeding inland. They winter at sea and inland. They feed solely on fish. The project site Is 6.7 km from the closest SPA for this species. The size of this project is 0.0041ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, therefore the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. The project is on an already existing, active pier. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitat and the site, **the Cormorant can be screened out.**
Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122]	• Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA • Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) • Tory Island SPA (004073) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Corncrake are a summer visitor, which feed on insects, slugs, snails, earthworms, grasses and sedges. They nest on the ground in tall vegetation. As the project site is 11.2 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this terrestrial QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Corncrake can therefore be screened out**.
Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Curlew are a winter visitor in Ireland and have been recorded as breeding in floodplains and boglands. Curlew feed mostly on invertebrates and usually feed in estuaries. They roost along salt marshes and sand banks and have been recorded nesting on the ground in rough pastures, meadows and heathers. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Curlew can be screened out.**
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466]	• Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110) • Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039)	Dunlin are a winter visitor, which feed predominantly on small invertebrates of estuarine mudflats (polychaete worms & gastropods). They are commonly winter along all coastal areas - especially on tidal mudflats and estuaries. They feed in flocks, in the muddier sections of the estuaries and close to the tide edge. They nest on the ground in sparse, low vegetation - favouring machair habitat. As the project site is 7.6 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	

		likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Dunlin can be screened out.**
Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Tory Island SPA (004073) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	Fulmar are residents along all Irish coasts. Fulmar have a max foraging range of 2736 Km, mean max of 542.3±657.9 km and mean range of 134.6±90.1 Km. They feed predominantly on fish and crustaceans at sea. They mainly breed on sea cliffs, but will nest on level ground, on buildings and in burrows and crevasses. Fulmar is considered to have a low sensitivity to disturbance from boat traffic. The project site is 6.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species. The footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. The project is the site of an existing, active pier. There is no suitable habitat within the proposed works area. Therefore, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding, breeding or nesting habitat and the site, **the Fulmar can be screened out.**
Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	• Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110) • Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039)	Golden Plover is a visitor throughout the year, but mostly in October and February. They feed on a variety of soil and surface-living invertebrates (beetles and earthworms) but also on plants (berries, seeds and grasses). They breed on heather moors, blanket bogs & acidic grasslands. Breeding populations of Golden Plover can be found in the boglands of Derryveah and Glendowan Mountains SPA and the western shorts of Lough Foyle SPA. These SPAs are characterised by lakes, boglands and mountains. As the project site is 7.6 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Golden Plover can be screened out.**
Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Goldeneye prefer to reside on coastal estuaries and inland lakes. They nest in trees, and occasionally rabbit burrows, near water. They feed on invertebrates, with insects dominating the diet of inland birds. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Goldeneye can be screened out.**
Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The Great Crested Grebe is a resident species along all Irish coasts, feeding mainly on fish. They breed on large shallow eutrophic loughs, along canals and slow-flowing rivers. They winter mainly in the north midlands and northeast. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Great Crested Grebe can be screened out**.
Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	The Great Northern Diver is a winter visitor to coastal areas from September to April, which feeds mostly on fish but also feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, annelids, insects and amphibians. They do not breed in Ireland. They occur along a variety of coastlines, particularly deeper bays and inlets, as well as shallow bays with sandy shores. They forage up to 10 km offshore and numbers close to shore tend to be highest when winds blow onshore. As the project site is 40.8 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from

		construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Great Northern Diver can be screened out**.
Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (004099) • Sheskinmore Lough SPA (004090 • Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Greenland White-fronted Geese are a scarce winter visitor to wetlands. They graze on a range of plant materials. Foraging occurs over peat bogs, dune grasslands and occasionally salt marshes. They do not breed in Ireland. As the project site is 18.6 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Greenland White-fronted Goose can be screened out**.
Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) [A164]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Greenshank are mainly an estuarine winter visitor from September to April. Greenshanks usually forage within (wading) or beside watercourses where they exhibit a variety of feeding methods to take a diversity of prey including insects, polychaete worms and small fish. As the project site is 46.7 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Greenshank can be screened out**.
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [A028]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The Grey Heron are a resident in wetlands, estuaries and along rivers in Ireland. They feed on fish, amphibians, small mammals, insects and reptiles. They breed in trees. The proposed work is to an existing active pier. As the project site is 46.7 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Grey Heron can be screened out.**
Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The Greylag Goose is a winter migrant between November and April. They feed mostly in estuaries, feeding on the roots of rushes and sedges. Greylag Geese feed on cereal stubble and grassland in their wintering areas. They breed by lakes and reservoirs, with their nests hidden in waterside vegetation. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Greylag Goose can be screened out.**
Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)	Guillemot are a resident species in Ireland which feed mainly on small fish and some invertebrates caught by surface diving in the sea. They nest on cliff ledges, often in large colonies – and winter at sea. They have a foraging range of 338 km, with a mean max of 73.2±80.5 km and mean of 33.1±36.5 km. The project site is 33 km from the Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. As the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of

		the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or nesting habitat and the site, **Guillemot can be screened out.**
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]	• Roaninish SPA (004121) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Herring Gull is a resident species that is a predator and scavenger. Breeds in colonies around the coast of Ireland and also inland. They feed on fish in open water, caught close to the surface, by shallow plunge-diving (generally <2m), either from low hovering flight or from surface swimming with a short surface jump to launch the dive. They have a maximum foraging range of 92 km, mean max of 58.8±26.8 km and mean range of 14.9±7.5 Km. The project is 6.7 km from the nearest SPA for this species. The footprint of the project is 0.0041 ha. Considering the size of the project and the distance between the SAC and the project, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there is no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Herring Gull are screened out.**
Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	Kittiwake are a summer visitor to steep coastal cliffs along all Irish coasts. Disperses to the open ocean in winter. Feeds on fish and scavenges. They breed on steep sea cliffs where it builds a nesting platform. They have a maximum foraging range of 770 km, mean max of 156.1±144.5 km and mean range of 54.7±50.4 Km. The project site is 5.2 km from the Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA. As the project site is 6.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As the project is proposed to occur during winter months (October to March) there will be no overlap with breeding season habitat use, **the Kittiwake can be screened out.**
Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Knot are a winter visitor from Greenland and Canada occurring mostly between October and February. They feed mostly on mussels and crustaceans by foraging in the sand. They prefer to winter in mostly estuarine sites with extensive areas of muddy sand. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Knot can be screened out.**
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	• Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083)	The Lesser Black-backed Gull is mainly a summer visitor to lakes and coasts, and small numbers in winter. They take a wide variety of prey including fish and scavenging. It nests on the ground, in a variety of sites, including offshore islands, islands in inland lakes, sand dunes and coastal cliffs. In the winter, the species is found in a wide variety of habitats both inland and along the south and east coasts. They have a foraging range of 533 km, with a mean max of 127±109 km and mean of 43.3±18.4 km. The project site is 26.5 km for the nearest SPA for this species. The footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha. Considering the distance and that the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there is no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Lesser Black-backed Gull are screened out**.
Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	The Light-bellied Brent Goose is a winter visitor to Ireland, which feeds mostly on eel-grass, which grows on muddy estuaries, and also on grasslands. Mostly found on coastal estuaries during the autumn and early winter, and also on grasslands from mid-winter, until departure for the breeding grounds begins in late April. As the project site is 40.8 km from the Donegal Bay SPA, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation

		of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Light-bellied Brent Goose can be screened out.**
Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]	• Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132)	The Little Tern diet is composed of marine fish and invertebrates. They have a mean foraging radius of 2.1 km with a maximum range of 11km and do not forage far from their breeding site. As the Little Tern has a foraging range that overlaps with the project, a conservative approach is taken for screening, **the Little Tern is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The Mallard is a resident species in Ireland occurring in almost all available wetland habitats of Ireland. They feed on a variety of plant material, molluscs, crustaceans and food items presented by humans. They breed with next sites hidden in vegetation. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Mallard can be screened out.**
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]	• Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039) • Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Merlin is found in uplands in summer and widespread at lowland sites from October to April. They nest on the ground on moorland, mountain and blanket bog, woodland and also forestry plantations. They feed on small birds. As the project site is 7.6 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Merlin can be screened out.**
Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Oystercatcher is a resident and winter species in Ireland with the largest numbers between September and March. They build nests primarily on beaches, dunes, salt marshes and rocky shores. Oystercatcher feed on sandy coasts for large invertebrates and occasionally on grasslands for earthworms. The project is on an already existing, active pier. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Oystercatcher can be screened out.**
Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	The foraging ranges of the Peregrine Falcon are extensive and largely encompass terrestrial habitats. They prey mostly on other birds. Peregrine breed on coastal and inland cliffs. During winter, Peregrine can be found on the coast, especially in estuaries where waterfowl prey is plentiful. As the project site is 7.6 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Peregrine can be screened out.**
Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) [A059]	• Lough Fern SPA (004060)	Pochard are a wintering diving duck foraging largely on aquatic plants in large shallow eutrophic waters. As the project site is 44.8 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this freshwater QI

		and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Pochard can be screened out.**
Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]	• Tory Island SPA (004073)	Puffin are a summer visitor from March to September on sea stacks and sea cliffs. They feed on marine fish and crustaceans. Breeding occurs from April to early August nesting in burrows or cracks in steep cliffs. They winter far out at sea. As the project site is 33.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitat and the site, **Puffin can be screened out.**
Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Tory Island SPA (004073) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	Razorbill are a resident species that feeds mainly on small fish, some invertebrate. Razorbill nests on sea cliffs in summer. They winter at sea, only coming to shore to breed. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA,s and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. As the project site is 6.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding (offshore in winter) or breeding (in summer) habitat and the site, **the Razorbill can be screened out.**
Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Red-breasted Merganser are resident and winter visitors to Ireland. Their diets are mostly composed of fish (small cod, hake and plaice). During the breeding season, where they are in freshwater, they feed on roach, trout, salmon, eels and pike. They nest on sheltered lakes and large rivers. They winter in brackish and marine waters (i.e. shallow protected estuaries, bays and lagoons). There will be no habitat loss within the SPA,s and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Red-breasted Merganser can be screened out.**
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Redshank are resident to Ireland, winter visitors from Iceland and passage migrants (from Scandinavia/ Baltic breeding areas to west African wintering areas). They breed on the ground in predominantly marshy areas. They favour estuaries (Lough Foyle) and inlets (Lough Swilly) for their wintering activities. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Redshank can be screened out**.
Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]	• Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039)	Red-throated Diver are a winter visitor to all Irish coasts from September to April. They feed on small fish (sprat, sand eels, codling and flatfish) and fish spawn, frogs, shrimps, molluscs, water insects and annelids. During the winter they are well distributed around the Irish coastline and are typically associated with shallow sandy bays. The maximum foraging range for breeding season Red-throated Diver is approximately 9 km. Very few pairs breed in Ireland and

		these are restricted to Co. Donegal, in a nest constructed close to or on the water's edge of lakes. As the project site is 7.6 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Red-throated Diver can be screened out.**
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	The Sanderling is winter visitor to Ireland with a majority of arrivals from September through April. They are an Arctic wader feeding on invertebrates in the upper intertidal zone of sandy coastlines. As the project site is 40.8 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Sanderling can be screened out.**
Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The foraging range of the Sandwich Tern has been reported as 80 km max and mean max of 34.3±23.2 km, with a mean of 9±9.2 km, their specialised diet is comprised of marine fish and forage from shallow to deeper offshore waters. Nest colonially on the ground, mainly on the coast but with some colonies inland. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Sandwich Tern can be screened out.**
Scaup (*Aythya marila*) [A062]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Scaup are a winter visitor occurring mostly between November and April. The feed largely on crustaceans and molluscs. They do not breed in Ireland. They winter in coastal estuaries and bays, on brackish lagoons and in shallow marine waters. As the project site is 46.7 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Scaup can be screened out**.
Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Inishduff SPA (004115) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Shag is a resident on Irish coasts. Their diet consists of a wide range of small fish which they dive for. They breed on cliffs, nesting on ledges, in crevasses, in caves or under boulders. Most adults will winter in the vicinity of their breeding colonies. They have a foraging maximum foraging range of maximum 46 km (mean max 13.2±10.5 km and mean 9.2±4.9 km). The project site is 6.7 km from the closest SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.0041 ha. The project is on an already existing, active pier. There will be no habitat loss within the SPAs and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. Considering the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **the Shag can be screened out.**
Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Shelduck are a resident and winter migrant duck. They prey on mudsnails (mostly *Hydrobia ulvae*) which are present in estuaries. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Shelduck can be screened out.**

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Shoveler, which feed primarily on zooplankton, are one of the wintering waterbirds to Lough Swilly SPA. As the project site is 46.7 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Shoveler can be screened out.**
Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Teal are a resident and winter visiting species, widespread on wetlands with good cover, such as reed-beds. They feed by day on seeds, algae, molluscs and aquatic insects. They usually nest near small freshwater lakes or pools and small upland streams away from the coast, and also in thick cover. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Teal can be screened out.**
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075) • Lough Fern SPA (004060)	As wetland and waterbirds are associated with freshwater and estuarine habitats, there should be no overlap with breeding, feeding or wintering habitat of these waterbirds. There is also no spatial overlap between these SPAs and the proposed project. **Wetland and Waterbirds are screened out.**
Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The Whooper Swan is a winter visitor to Ireland from October to April. They winter around inland wetlands. Durnesh Lough is host to historically important wintering and staging areas for Whooper Swan. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Whooper Swan can be screened out.**
Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Wigeon duck are a common winter visitor to wetlands throughout Ireland from September and April. They breed on shallow freshwater marshes, under tussocks adjacent to lakes and lagoons or on lake islands. As the project site is 46.7 km from the nearest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0041 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal. As there no likely significant overlap with potential feeding habitat and the site, **Wigeon can be screened out**.

2.3.2 Consideration of in-combination effects on Natura 2000 site Qualifying Interests

It is important to consider, for those QIs that may screen out during the initial AA screening exercise, if the pressures deriving from the proposed activities acts in-combination with other activities such that additive or synergistic effects are realised on the QIs. It is possible that such combined effect may cause the QI, therefore, to screen in and be considered further in the AA process. It should be noted that, interactions are additive when their combined effect is the sum of each independently, synergistic when the combined effect is greater than the sum of each independently, and antagonistic when the combined effect is less than the sum of each independently.

To this end, existing and proposed licensing activities in the vicinity of the proposed extensive shellfish culture activities have been reviewed. Those activities reviewed are:

- DHLGH Foreshore Licencing (https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notices - accessed 27/07/2023)
- Donegal County Council planning (Link Map Viewer - accessed 27/07/2023)
- EPA pressures maps (www. https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water - accessed 27/07/2023)

The review of these sources has identified no existing activities on the foreshore or adjacent to the foreshore that may interact with the proposed shellfish culture activities resulting in an additive or, more importantly, a synergistic cumulative effects, such that those QIs already screened out may now be included. The result of this scan has meant that screening conclusions identified above (and summarised below) are considered valid and the process can progress to the full AA stage.

3 Stage 1 Conclusions

3.1 Stage 1 Screening Conclusions

This Stage 1 AA Screening has been undertaken to ensure that the competent authority is enabled to make an informed screening decision, whether it can be excluded on the basis of objective information that the proposed development will have an effect on any Natura 2000 site (or QI), individually or together with other plans and projects.

Based on the location, nature and zone of impact of potential effects, and the best scientific information available, this screening assessment has identified QIs or associated conservation features in the Natura sites that the proposed activities will spatially overlap with or has the possibility to significantly affect.

On the basis that likely significant effects of the proposed activity on the European sites cannot be ruled out, the following QIs are brought forward for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

SAC QIs

- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
- Reefs [1170]
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour seal) [1365]