Report supporting the Appropriate Assessment Screening of Foreshore License (FC/15/31) in Bunbeg, Co. Donegal

May 2023

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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 (FC/15/31) to install a pontoon at the existing quay wall at Bunbeg Harbour, Co. Donegal. This report documents the Stage 1 Screening process of the Appropriate Assessment process of this proposed activity as specified under the Habitat Directive (European Community (EC) Directive 92/43/EEC).

The proposed site is within the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC and West Donegal Coast SPA, and adjacent to 7 other SACs (within 15km) and 16 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

- Reefs [1170]
- Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) [1029]

SPA QIs

- Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]
- Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of this document

This is an Appropriate Assessment screening report supporting the Appropriate Assessment of foreshore activities (FC/15/31) at Bunbeg Harbour, Co. Donegal, in the Natura 2000 site in the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (site code 001141) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150).

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

[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

in view of its Conservation Objectives (COs). Every Natura 2000 site has COs which are set out by the NPWS.

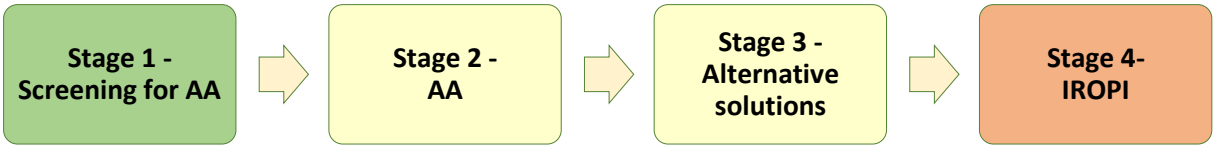
The licensing authority determines applications for foreshore licences and are also the competent authority responsible for undertaking AA of applications. As part of the process, they must determine if the proposed activities are likely to significantly impact the Conservation Status of QIs and the 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 (DEHLG) 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

[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

greatest level of evidence and justification will be needed in circumstances when the process ends at screening stage on grounds of no effect.

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 adverse 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 1 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 for the refurbishment and reconstruction of the quay wall at Portaleen Pier in Glengad, 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 Section 2.3. 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 then considered in-combination 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. Bunbeg Pier, in Co. Donegal, is well sheltered and is widely used by leisure users, a seasonal ferry and fishermen (year round lobster and crab) (Figure 1). The proposed project will consist of the manufacturing and installation of a 230 m x 2.4m pontoon along the existing pier at Bunbeg to provide safer access (Figure 2). The project will take place over a two-week period (October/November) in Q4 of 2023 when there is not significant activity (except for berthed vehicles) and 5-6 people will be working on-site at any time.

Figure 1. Ariel view of the current pier.

The contractor will prepare a Traffic Management Plan and Construction Management Plan. A competent person will prepare a lift plan for all lifting operations. It is also up to the contractor to implement methodologies that will eliminate, within reason, any impact on the environment (particularly with regard to pollution). Donegal Co. Council also employ an independent Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) to oversee the installation of the pontoons at the Bunbeg site.

The pontoon and supporting steelwork (for attaching the pontoon to the existing wall) will be manufactured off-site. The pier will be fenced off to restrict access and all vessels will be moved from the site to other berths along the pier. A safety boat will remain on the water for the duration of the works. The 60 T mobile crane will set up along the pier edge. The pontoons will be delivered to the

project site, offloaded and sorted along the pier using the crane. They will be lowered into the water and fixed together in parallel to the pier for personnel access to the quay wall for attaching steelwork (vertical guide rails).

The supporting steelwork will be mechanically fixed to the existing pier using blind bolts. The vertical steel rails will be lowered by crane and fixed to the steel brackets. When the two vertical rails have been attached, the corresponding pontoon will be lowered into the water and attached to the guide rails. This process will continue moving along the pier until all steel rails and pontoons have been installed. The new pontoons will be temporarily used as a floating work platform to access the side of the pier. The pontoon access gangway is supported by a cantilevered bracket from the existing quay (at the top) and by the pontoon (at the lower end). The crane and work site will be adjacent to the walkway.

After the installation of the support bracket, the access gangway will be lifted and lowered into place and fixed to the support bracket. Hand and guard rails will be fixed around the access point (to access the gangway). The pontoons will be fitted with safety ladders, mooring cleats, fire extinguishers and life rings. A navigation light will be fitted at the seaward end of the gangway.

It is planned for residues and waste from the project to all be recovered and this should not impact the seabed. Access to the pier and boats will be restricted throughout the period of installation. Pedestrian barriers and signage will be in place to safeguard the public.

As all items will be prefabricated off-site, on-site assembly should not cause significant noise. Precast units will be used to reduce the likelihood of cementitious material. Fuelling stations will be located away from the shoreline—at least 50m from the existing quay wall. All oils and chemicals will be stored in appropriate secured containers.

Mitigation measures as outlined by the Donegal Co. Council include managing for sediment contamination, hydrocarbon contamination and noise impacts. For sediment contamination, the contractor should implement a method to capture waste and residues, and to dispose of them properly. Visual observations will take place to monitor for turbid plumes generated by drilling. Where contamination or pollution occurs/ is occurring, work will cease until corrective action can be implemented. For hydrocarbon contamination, all refuelling for the project should be carried out at designated locations away from the water. Spill trays are to be used and spill kits made available during refuelling operations. Biodegradable lubricants will be used, in minimal amounts when necessary. Visual observations will take place for monitoring of breaches. Spill kits will be used when necessary and work will cease in case of an incident. For noise impact, equipment that complies with current standards will be used for these works. ECOW will determine compliance and report on noise level production. Where noise levels are exceeded, actions will be taken to reduce noise to acceptable level.

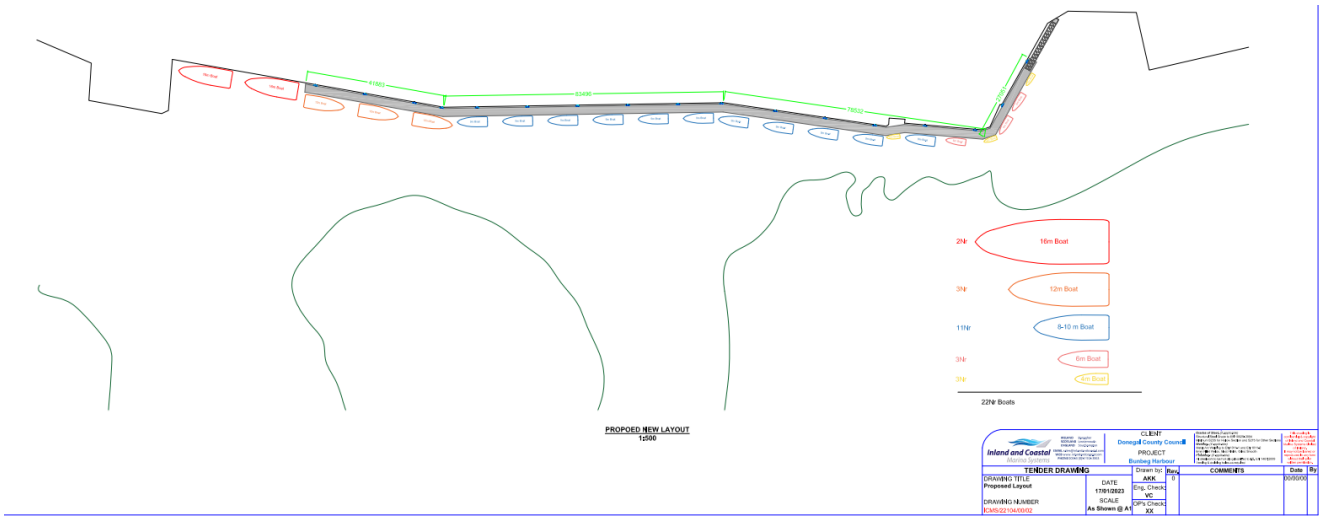


Figure 2 Proposed project layout (from applicant documents).

2.2 Identification of Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

The proposed site overlaps with the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (**Figure 3**) and the West Donegal Coast SPA (**Figure 4**).

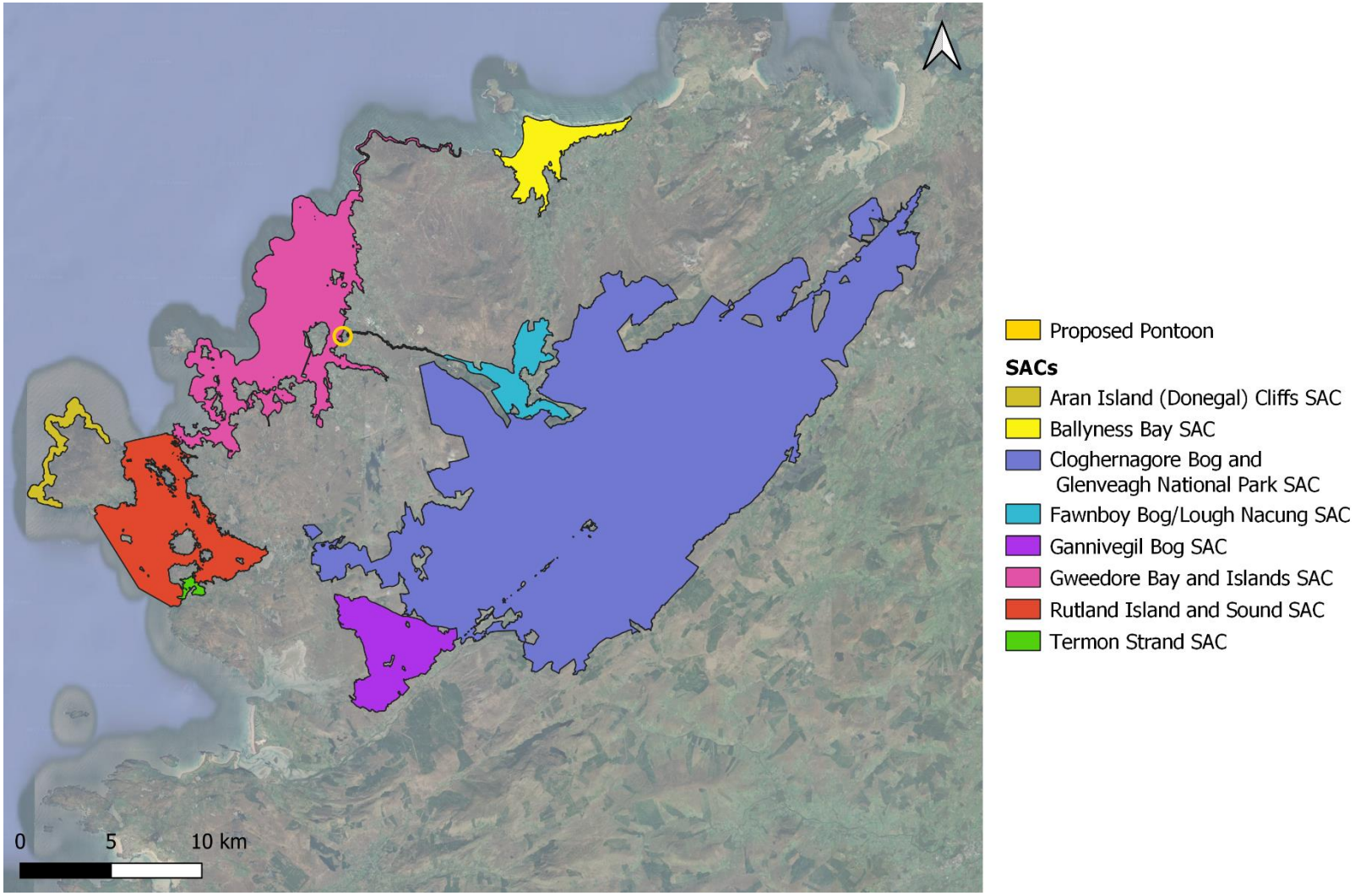


Figure 3 Natura 2000 SAC sites overlapping and adjacent to the application site (within 15km). Application site in yellow circle. Google satellite basemap (2023)

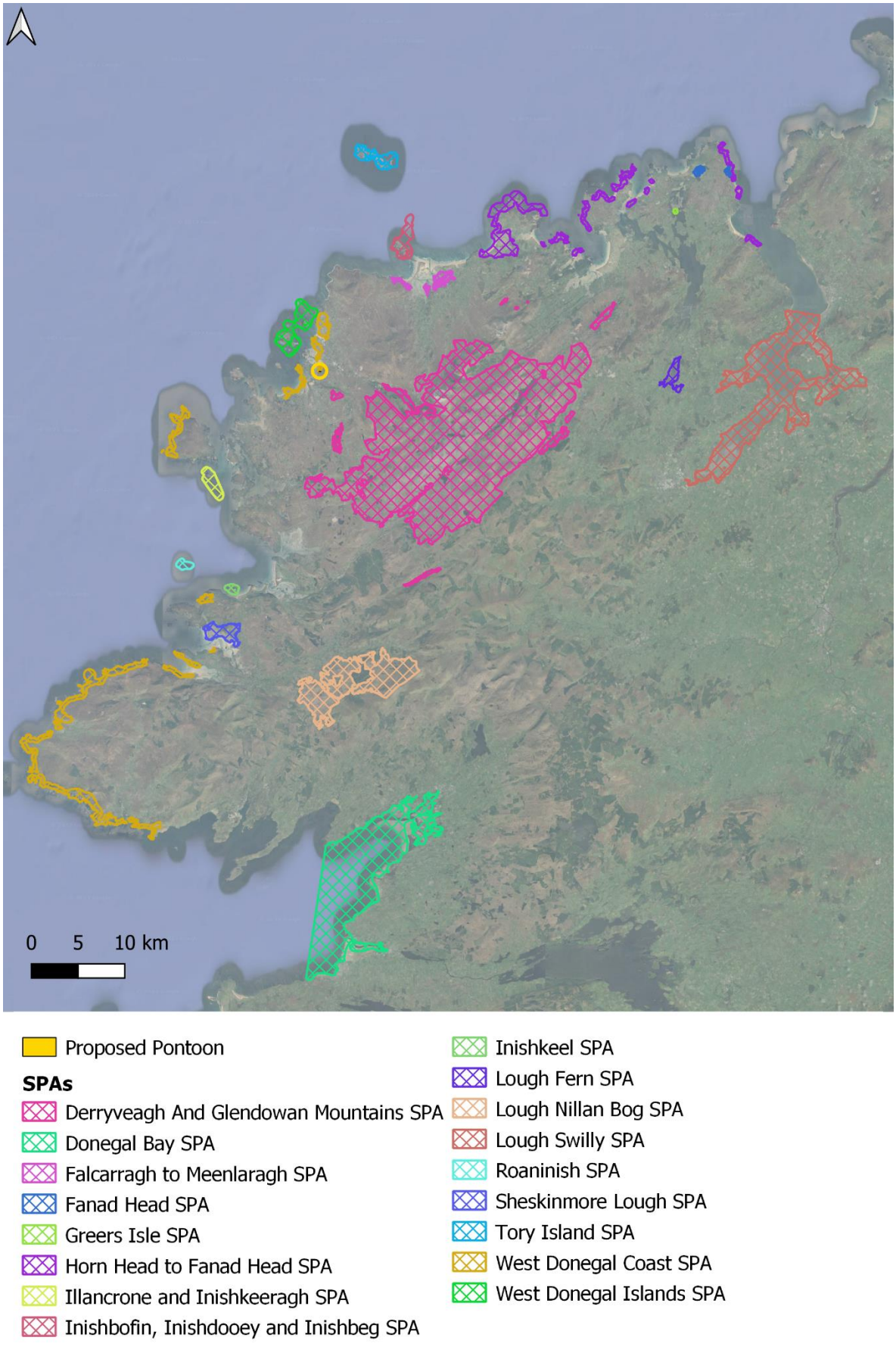


Figure 4 Natura 2000 SPA sites adjacent to the application site (50km). Application site in yellow circle. Google satellite basemap (2023)

2.2.1 Details of Natura 2000 Sites in the zone of influence

Special Areas of Conservation within 15 km of the proposed site are, conservatively, considered as within the zone of influence of the project. Similarly, SPAs 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 3 and Figure 4. 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
Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC	001141	SAC	0	Link
Fawnboy Bog/ Lough Nacung SAC	000140	SAC	0.4	Link
Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC	002047	SAC	4.6	Link
Rutland Island and Sound SAC	002283	SAC	10.3	Link
Ballyness Bay SAC	001090	SAC	12.1	Link
Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC	000111	SAC	13.9	Link
Gannivegil Bog SAC	000142	SAC	14.2	Link
Termon Strand SAC	001195	SAC	15.5	Link
West Donegal Coast SPA	004150	SPA	0	Link
Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA	004039	SPA	2.4	Link
West Donegal Islands SPA	004230	SPA	3.3	Link
Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA	004149	SPA	12.3	Link
Inishbofin, Indisdooery and Inishbeg SPA	004083	SPA	14.8	Link
Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA	004132	SPA	15.7	Link
Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA	004194	SPA	21.1	Link
Tory Island SPA	004073	SPA	22.6	Link
Inishkeel SPA	004116	SPA	24.6	Link
Roaninish SPA	004121	SPA	24.7	Link
Sheskinmore Lough SPA	004090	SPA	28.3	Link
Lough Nillan Bog SPA	004110	SPA	30.8	Link
Lough Fern	004060	SPA	36.4	Link
Lough Swilly SPA	004075	SPA	40.8	Link
Greers Island SPA	004082	SPA	41.7	Link
Fanad Head	004148	SPA	45.3	Link
Donegal Bay SPA	004151	SPA	46.7	Link

2.2.1.1 *Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC*

The site is located within the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC [001141] (Figure 5). This SAC lies between Burtonport in the south, Bloody Foreland in the north, near the towns of Derrybeg, Bunbeg and Annagary, and stretching eastwards to Bunaninver. It includes a large stretch of coastline, many islands (including Inishsirrer, Inishmeane, Gola, Umfin, Inishfree Lower and parts of Cruit Island) and areas of marine water between the islands and the coast. The terrain is generally undulating with knolls of exposed rock. The site is underlain by Granodiorite, a basic igneous rock. Areas of machair and sand dunes occur in several places along the coast, and large areas of sandflats are exposed off the coast at low tide. The site is of great ecological interest and importance[9].

2.2.1.2 *Wets Donegal Coast SPA*

The West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) comprises separate sections of the Co. Donegal coastline and extends from Muckros Head in the south, northwards to Slieve League, Malin Beg, Rocky Point, Glen Head, Slieve Tooey, Maghera, Loughros Point, Dunmore Head, Aran Island, Magheradrumman, Carrickfin, Carnboy, Bunbeg, Magheragallan, Lunniagh, as far as Carrick, to the south of Bloody Foreland. The site includes the high coast areas and sea cliffs of the mainland and Aran Island, the land adjacent to the cliff, areas of sand dunes/machair at Maghera, Mullaghderg, Braade/Carrickfin/Carnboy, Magheragallan and Lunniagh/Carrick, and also several areas further inland of the coast at Croaghmuckros and Slieve League, north of Glencolumbkille and south of Dunmore Head. A low-lying area of land on the coast at Bunbeg used by roosting Chough is also included. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary, except at Tormore Island where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included. Most of the site is underlain by granite and quartzite, though various other, particularly metamorphic, rock types also occur; rocks of Carboniferous age are found at Muckros Head[10].

[9] https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/001141
[10] https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004150.pdf

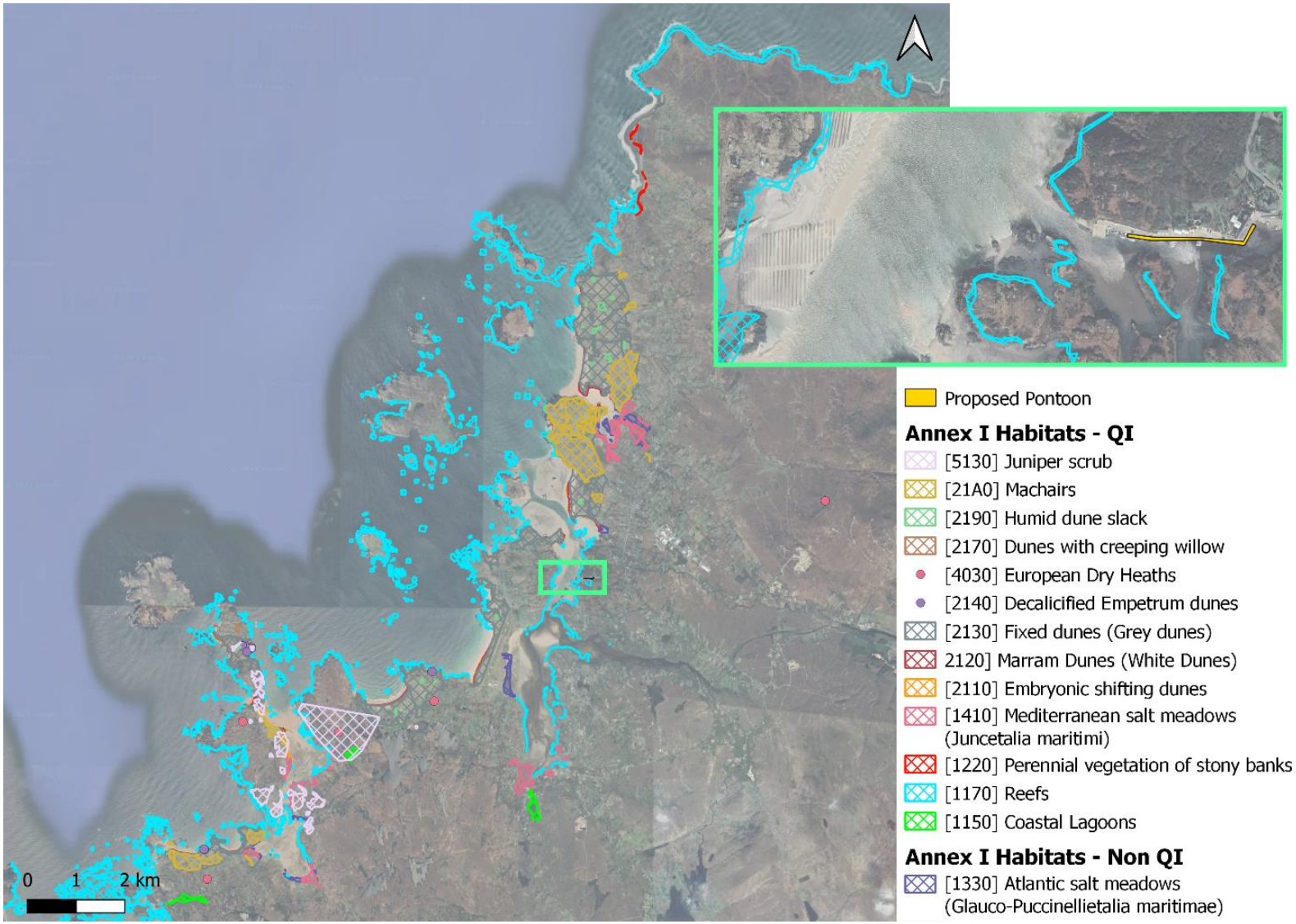


Figure 5 Annex I Habitats of Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC.

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 6 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 [11].

The screening for the presence of a S-P-R link and any potential significant effects of the proposed 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 likely significant effects of the proposed activities on the QIs of adjacent SACs and SPAs is presented here. This screening is undertaken without the inclusion of any mitigation measures.

[11] OPR - Office of Planning Regulator (2021). Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. March 2021. 43pp Link

2.3.1 Screening of QIs of 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[12] 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.

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

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
Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons	The attributes and targets for Coastal lagoons in the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC are as follows: Habitat area- area stable, subject to slight natural variation • Habitat distribution- no decline, subject to natural processes. • Salinity regime- median annual salinity and temporal variation within natural ranges • Hydrological regime- hydrological connections between lagoons and sea, including where necessary management • Water quality: chlorophyll *a*- annual median chlorohyll *a* within natural ranges and less than 5 microg/L • Water quality: Molybdate Reactive Phosophorous (MRP)- Annual median MRP within natural ranges and less than 0.1mg/L • Water quality: Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) – annual median DIN within natural ranges and less than 0.15mg/L • Depth of macrophyte conlonisation- Macrophyte colonization to at least 2m depth • Typical place species- Maintain number and extent of listed lagoonal specialists, subject to natural variation • Typical animal species- Maintain listed lagoon specialist, subject to natural variation • Negative indicator species- Negative indicator species absent or under control The nearest coastal lagoon habitat is approximately 4.5km (in a straight line) from the project site, and any effects of the project are very local. The project will nor remove habitat from the QI, nor interfere with the hydrological regime, water quality or species community at a distance of >4 km. The likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal,. Therefore, there is **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the Coastal lagoons of this SAC.

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs	The proposed project is within 1km of this QI in the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC. As there is a potential of a hydrological link, there may be potential "source-path-receptor" interactions with the closer QIs. As such the marine QI **Reefs [1170] are carried forward for a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.**
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks	As the size of this project is 0.0756 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between there terrestrial QIs and the project are minimal. It is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats, and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this SAC.
	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]		
	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 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*)	

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	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 to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]	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	
	Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]		
	Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort	

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Slender Naiad	
	Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Otter	Otters tend to forage within 80 m of the shoreline. As the proposed project overlaps with the otter commuting habitat, **Otter is carried forward to Stage 2 Assessment.**
Fawnboy Bog/ Lough Nacung SAC (000140)	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Fawnboy Bog/ Lough Nacung SAC is located approximately 0.4 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. As the size of this project is 0.0756 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between these terrestrial and freshwater QIs and the project are minimal, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this Natura 2000 SAC site.
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs	
	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	
	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 Fawnboy Bog/ Lough Nacung SAC, attributes and targets are concerned with impacts made to the mussels' freshwater habitat. As the proposed project is approximately 290 m from the closest boundary of the estimated Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchment and distribution, **Freshwater Pearl Mussel is carried forward to Stage 2 Assessment.**
Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC	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)*	Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC is located approximately 4.6 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. As the size of this project is 0.0756 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	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	project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this terrestrial and the project are minimal, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this Natura 2000 SAC site.
	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 *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	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	Freshwater Pearl Mussel are considered as a QI for the Fawnboy Bog/ Lough Nacung SAC **so are screened in.**
	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. These include: • no restriction of access to spawning areas or upstream migration • exceed conservation limit • maintenance/exceedance of fry abundance • no decline in out-migrating smolt abundance • no decline in number and distribution of spawning redds (due to anthropogenic causes) • have Q4 water quality (WFD status good, unpolluted waters). The footprint of this project is 0.0756 ha and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local. The COs for this QI are primarily freshwater related, and salmon can swim to avoid structures in the marine environment. The likelihood of interaction between the salmon and the project are minimal. It is considered that there is no clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I species and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation 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. Although the boundary of this SAC is >10 km from the proposed project, there is no spatial overlap nor is there likely to be interactions nor significant effects posed by the proposed project on the Annex II Species, **Otter are screened in as a QI for the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC**

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	Rutland Island and Sound SAC is located approximately 10.3 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. As the size of this project is 0.0756 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this terrestrial and the project are minimal, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this Natura 2000 SAC site.
	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	
	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')	
	Humid dune slacks [2190]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks	

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal	The attributes of the conservation objective to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Harbour Seal are: • Access to suitable habitat- species range within site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use • Breeding behaviour- conserve breeding sites in a natural condition • Moulting behaviour- conserver the moult haul-out site in a natural condition • Resting behaviour- conserver the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition • Disturbance- human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site. There is more than 10 km (straight line) from the project site the nearest moulting site and 43 km from the nearest breeding site. The placement of the pontoon will not create new barriers for Harbour Seal access to their preferred habitats. Considering the footprint and that the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this Annex II Species and the project are minimal. It is considered that there are no clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with this Annex I species and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on this QI.
Ballyness Bay SAC (001090)	Estuaries [1130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries	Ballyness Bay SAC is located approximately 12.1 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. As the size of this project is 0.0756 ha, and the effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this terrestrial and the project are minimal, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant**
	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	
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Embryonic shifting dunes	

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	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')	**effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this Natura 2000 SAC site.
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') [2130]	To restore 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	
	Vertigo geyeri (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Geyer's Whorl Snail	The Geyer's Whorl Snail has been recorded >10 km from the proposed project site. The Geyer's Whorl Snail is a terrestrial Annex II Species and would have not spatial overlap in its range with the proposed project. The effects from the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between this QI and the project are minimal - it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with the **Geyer's Whorl Snail and can, therefore, be screened out.**
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	Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC is located approximately 13.9 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between these terrestrial QIs and the project are minimal, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this SAC.
	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	

Natura 2000 site	QIs and Conservation Features	Objective	Screening Outcome
	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	
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*)	Gannivegil Bog SAC is located approximately 14.2 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. The effects from construction and operation of the project are very local, the likelihood of interaction between these terrestrial and freshwater QIs and the project are minimal, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this Natura 2000 SAC site.
	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)	
Termon Strand SAC (001195)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons	Termon Strand SAC is located approximately 15.5 km from the closest boundary of the proposed foreshore activities. As the size of this project is 0.0756 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, it is considered that there are not clear "source-path-receptor" interactions with these Annex I Habitats and therefore **no significant effects posed** by the construction activities or operation on the QIs of this Natura 2000 SAC site.

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
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]
Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039)	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103] Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]
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]
Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA (004149)	Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122]
Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083)	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]
Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]
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]
Tory Island SPA (004073)	Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009] Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122] Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200] Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]
Inishkeel SPA (004116)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]

Roaninish SPA (004121)	Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045] Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
Sheskinmore Lough SPA (00490)	Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]
Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466]
Lough Fern SPA (004060)	Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) [A059] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	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]
Greers Isle SPA (004082)	Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]
Fanad Head SPA (004148)	Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122]
Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065] Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

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

Qualifying Interest	Conservation Objectives	Screening Outcome[13],[14]
Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	• Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) • Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132)	Arctic Tern is a summer visitor to Ireland, which feed on marine fish, crustaceans and insects. They are mainly a coastal breeding bird, but in Ireland the species also breeds inland on the freshwater lakes. 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 14.8 km from the closest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Arctic Tern are screened out.**
Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]	• West Donegal Islands SPA (004230) • Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) • Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) • Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Inishkeel SPA (004116) • Roaninish SPA (004121)	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 5.6 km from the closest SPA for this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0756 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, **Barnacle Goose can therefore be screened out**.
Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	• Greers Isle SPA (004082) • 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 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.06 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. There will be no habitat loss within the SPA, and the natural range of the species will not be significantly impacted. The project is unlikely to affect the

[13] 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

[14] '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.

		population dynamics of the species. 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 prefer undisturbed cliffs for nesting. Most pairs stay near breeding sites all year round. They prefer coastal grassland for feeding. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Chough is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.
Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	• Greers Isle SPA (004082) • Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Common Gull are a local breeding species, which feeds on terrestrial and aquatic insects and invertebrates, fish, and scavenging, with a foraging range of 50 km. They breed in nests on the ground. Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA is the closest to the project site. The project site is 3.3 km from the closest SPA for this species, at an already active pier. The small project footprint and localised effects, mean 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, **Common Gull are screened out.**
Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	The diet of the Common Scoter is varied and includes water plants, insect larvae and freshwater crustaceans. During the winter, they forage mostly in waters less than 20 m deep and with coarse sandy substrates, feeding predominantly on benthic bivalve molluscs. They nest on lake islands with dense covering of scrub and tree cover. In winter, they tend to congregate in large flocks on shallow seas with sandy bottoms supporting their preferred prey. The project site is 46.7 km from the Donegal Bay SPA, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Common Scoter are screened out.**
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]	• Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Common Tern are 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 site is 15.7 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the project footprint 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, **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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. The freshwater nature of this QI means the likelihood of interaction with the project site is small. Considering the localised effect form this project, there is no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitats 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 found around the coast, which breeds in colonies on stacks, rocky islets, cliffs or rocky promontories, with some breeding inland. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Cormorant is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.
Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122]	• Fanad Head SPA (004148) • Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA (004149) • 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. The project site is 12.3 km from the closest SPA for this terrestrial species. The size of this project is 0.0756 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 is no likely significant overlap with potential feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **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. The project site is 40.8 km from Lough Swilly SPA. The size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Curlew can be screened out.**
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) [A466]	• Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Dunlin are a visitor, which feed predominantly on small invertebrates of estuarine mudflats (polychaete worms & gastropods). They 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. The project site is 30.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. The small project footprint and localised effects mean 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, **Dunlin can be screened out.**
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	
Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Tory Island SPA (004073) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)	Fulmar are a resident along all Irish coasts, and feed on a variety of food, including fish and crustaceans. Mainly breeds on sea cliffs, but will nest on level ground, on buildings and in burrows and crevasses. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Fulmar is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment.**
Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	• Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039) • Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Golden Plover are a visitor throughout the year, but mostly in October through February. They feed on a variety of soil and surface-living invertebrates (beetles and earthworms) but also on plants (berries, seeds and grasses). Breeding populations can be found on heather moors, blanket bogs & acidic grasslands. The project site is 2.4 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering their terrestrial nature and

		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, **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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. 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, **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 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species, the footprint of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats 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 can forage up to 10 km offshore and numbers close to shore tend to be highest when winds blow onshore. The project site is 46.7km from the closest SPA supporting this species, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Great Northern Diver is are screened out.**
Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075) • Sheskinmore Lough SPA (00490)	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 21.1 km from the closest SPA for this terrestrial species, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats 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. They feed mostly in deep water sites and lakes on invertebrates and small fish. As the project site is 40.8 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats 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 project site is 40.8 km from the Lough Swilly SPA. Considering the footprint 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, **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 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats 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. 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 21.1 km from the Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA. The footprint of this project is 0.0756 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, **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 are 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. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Herring Gull is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.
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. 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. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Kittiwake is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]	• Lough Foyle SPA (004087) • 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 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Knot can be screened out.**
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	• Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (004083)	Lesser Black-backed Gull are mainly summer visitor to lakes and coasts, and small numbers in winter. Takes 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. The project site is 14.8 km from the Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 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. The project site is 5.6 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the footprint 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, **Light-bellied Brent Goose can be screened out.**
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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the footprint 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, **Mallard can be screened out.**
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]	• Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039) • Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)	Merlin are 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 46.4 km from the Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA, 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **the Merlin can be screened out.**

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Oystercatcher are 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. The project site is 18.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the footprint 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, **Oystercatcher can be screened out.**
Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]	• Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039) • Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • 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. The project site is in West Donegal Coast SPA. Considering the terrestrial nature of Peregrine, the footprint of the project and the short period of time for project complete, 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, **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 36.4 km from the closest SPA for this species, 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 feeding or breeding habitats 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 22.6 km from the Tory Island SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.0756 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, **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 and invertebrate. They nest on sea cliffs in summer. They winter at sea, only coming to shore to breed. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Razorbill is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	• Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	Redshank are resident to Ireland, supplemented by 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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the footprint 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, **Redshank 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 diet is 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). As the project site is 30 km from the closest SPA for this species, the size of this project is 0.0756 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.**
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. 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. 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, mean 4.5km. The project site is an already active pier, which is 2.4 km from the Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA. Considering the footprint 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, **the Red-throated Diver can be screened out.**
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151)	Sanderling are a winter visitor that feeds predominantly on small invertebrates, and are mostly found along sandy coastlines, especially non-estuarine. They do not breed in Ireland. The project site is 46.7 km from the closest SPA supporting this species, the footprint of this project is 0.042 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Sanderling are screened out.**
Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]	• Greers Isle SPA (004082) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	The Sandwich Tern are a summer visitor to all Irish coasts from March to September. They winter in southern Europe and Africa, but about 10 to 15 birds winter in Galway Bay and Strangford Lough. They nest colonially on the ground on islands, shingle spits and sand dunes., mainly on the coast but with some colonies inland. They have a specialised diet comprised of marine fish, and they forage from shallow to deeper offshore waters, taking fish by shallow dives. The foraging range of this 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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the footprint 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, **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 30 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats and the site, **Scaup can be screened out**.
Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]	• Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) • West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) • West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)	Shag are 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. As the project is located within an SPA for this species and a potential "source-path-receptor" interaction exists, a precautionary approach is taken for screening, **the Shag is carried forward for Stage 2 Assessment**.
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. They breed in open areas along seashores, larger lakes and rivers, nesting in holes in banks, trees, occasionally strawstacks or buildings. They winter in sheltered estuaries or tidal mudflats. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the footprint 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, **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 40.8 km from the Lough Swilly SPA, the size of this project is 0.0756 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 feeding or breeding habitats 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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the freshwater nature, the footprint of the project, and the distance from the SAC, 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, **Teal can be screened out.**

Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	• Donegal Bay SPA (004151) • Lough Fern SPA (004060) • Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	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 feed on aquatic vegetation, but they are commonly found grazing on agricultural grasslands and fields where there is spilled grain, as well as potatoes from cultivated land. The Whooper Swans that are present in Ireland each winter nest in Iceland during the summer. Each year a small number of Whoopers stay in Ireland for the summer and there have been occasional breeding records on lakes in the midlands and north-west. They winter on lowland open farmland around inland wetlands. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the freshwater nature, the footprint of the project, and the distance from the SAC, 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, **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. The project site is 40.8 km from the closest SPA for this species. Considering the freshwater nature, the footprint of the project, and the distance from the SAC, 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, **Wigeon can be screened out**.

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

- Reefs [1170]
- Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) [1029]

SPA QIs

- Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]
- Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]