



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

A: Áras an Chontae, Caisleán an Bharraigh,  
Contae Mhaigh Eo, F23 WF90

T: 094 9064000 F: 094 9023937

W: [www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie)

Ár dTag./ Our Ref.

Do Thag./ Your Ref.

01/09/2021

## Cois Abhainn & Ashwood Housing Developments – Flood Relief Scheme

### Appropriate Assessment Determination

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment has been carried out as part of the pre-planning and design of the Cois Abhainn & Ashwood Housing Developments Flood Relief Scheme.

In accordance with Regulation 250(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended, concerning Screening for Appropriate Assessment, which states:

*“In order to ascertain whether an appropriate assessment is required in respect of a development which it proposes to carry out a local authority shall carry out a screening of the proposed development to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site,”*

Mayo County Council has considered the report prepared by MKO Planning & Environmental Consultants entitled ‘Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report – Cois Abhainn Flood Relief Scheme, Westport, Co. Mayo’ and hereby agrees with the conclusion of this report.

On the basis of objective information and in light of the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites, Mayo County Council has determined that the proposals for the Cois Abhainn & Ashwood Housing Developments Flood Relief Scheme either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will **not** have a significant effect on any European Site

Yours Sincerely

John Condon  
Director of Services  
Water, Environment and Emergency Services  
Mayo County Council

# **Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

Cois Abhainn Flood Relief  
Scheme, Westport, Co.  
Mayo





## DOCUMENT DETAILS

Client: **Mayo County Council**

Project Title: **Cois Abhainn Flood Relief Scheme, Westport, Co. Mayo**

Project Number: **190724**

Document Title: **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

Document File Name: **AASR F – 190724 – 2021.09.16**

Prepared By: **MKO  
Tuam Road  
Galway  
Ireland  
H91 VW84**



Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved By
01	Final	16/09/2021	JOS	PR

# Table of Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Background.....	2
1.2 Appropriate Assessment.....	2
1.2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment.....	2
<b>2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Site Location.....	4
2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development.....	4
2.2.1 Description of the project.....	4
2.2.2 Site Access and Establishment.....	6
2.2.3 Demolition Activities.....	6
2.2.4 Construction methodology.....	6
2.2.4.1 Flood Relief Wall.....	6
2.2.5 Embankment.....	6
2.2.6 Pedestrian Access Tracks.....	7
2.2.7 Existing Underground Services.....	7
2.2.8 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment.....	7
<b>3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact.....	10
3.2 Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects.....	19
<b>4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment.....	20
4.2 Concluding Statement.....	20
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>TABLE OF FIGURES</b>	
<i>Figure 2-1. Site Location.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Figure 3-1. European sites within 15km of the proposed development.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<b>TABLE OF TABLES</b>	
Table 3.1 Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact.....	13



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a proposed construction of a flood relief wall and flood relief embankment in Westport, Co. Mayo (Grid Ref: M00858 83900).

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

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and a field survey was undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed development to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

In addition to the guidelines referenced above, the following relevant documents were also considered in the preparation of this report:

1. Council of the European Commission (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Official Journal of the European Communities. Series L 20, pp. 7-49.
2. 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.
3. EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence. Opinion of the commission.
4. EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission.

## 1.2 Appropriate Assessment

### 1.2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Screening is the process of determining whether an Appropriate Assessment is required for a plan or project. Under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, screening must be carried out by the Competent Authority. As per Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended 'A screening for appropriate assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site'. The Competent Authority's determination as to whether an Appropriate Assessment is required must be

made on the basis of objective information and should be recorded. The Competent Authority may request information to be supplied to enable it to carry out screening.

Consultants or project proponents may provide for the competent authority, the information necessary for them to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required and provide advice to assist them in the Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening decision.

Where it cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt at the Screening stage, that a proposed plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

Where An Appropriate Assessment is required, the Competent Authority may require the applicant to prepare a Natura Impact Statement.

The term Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is defined in legislation<sup>1</sup>. An NIS, where required, should present the data, information and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge, objective information and by the precautionary principle.

This Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in compliance with the provision of section 177U of the Planning & Development Act 2010 as amended.

## Statement of Authority

A field assessment was undertaken by Julie O’Sullivan (B.Sc., M.Sc.) and Katie Pender (B.Sc.) on the 19th of December 2019. This report has been prepared by Julie O’Sullivan and Katie Pender. Katie is a suitably qualified ecologist. Julie is an experienced ecologist with over four years professional experience. This report has been reviewed by Pat Roberts, Principal Ecologist, (B.Sc., MCIEEM) who has over 14 years’ experience in ecological consultancy.

---

<sup>1</sup> As defined in Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, an NIS means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a proposed development, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives. It is required to include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for the European site in view of its conservation objectives

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Site Location

The proposed flood relief barrier is located in the townland of Killaghoor, in the Cois Abhainn and Ashwood Glade housing estates, Westport, Co. Mayo (Grid Ref: M 00858 83900). The proposed development is near the Carrowbeg River, and separated from it by a walkway, amenity grassland and riverbank. The site is located approximately 1km south-east of Westport town, and is accessed via the regional road R330 which runs from Partry to Westport. The site location is provided in Figure 2.1.

### 2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

#### 2.2.1 Description of the project

The planning application is for a proposed flood relief scheme on the Carrowbeg River located at the Cois Abhainn and Ashwood Glade housing estates in Westport, Co. Mayo.

The key components of the proposed works include the following:

- Demolition and removal of existing external steps.
- Construction of a flood relief wall.
- Construction of a flood relief embankment.
- New pedestrian access tracks, including drainage.

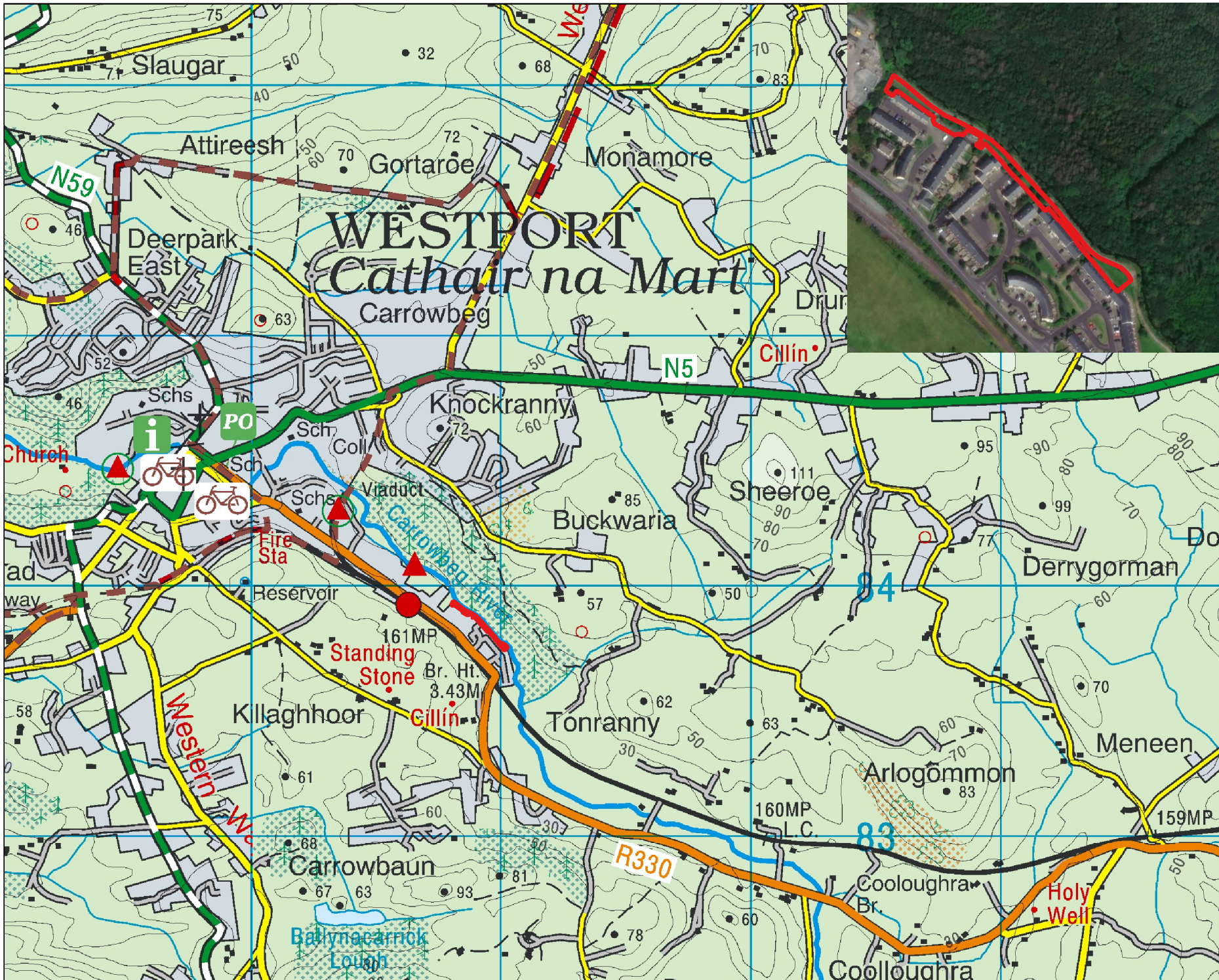
The Cois Abhainn and Ashwood Glade housing estates lie adjacent to the Carrowbeg River. Low lying properties at Cois Abhainn are at risk of flooding frequently where habitable basements to the rear of six town house properties are at the level of the riverbank. Due to the low-lying depression in which the properties are located there is no landscaping to stop the basements flooding frequently. Other properties in the Ashwood Glade housing estate are at risk of flooding events in excess of the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event.

A flood wall has been placed between the riverbank and the housing estate, adjacent to the existing pedestrian access track. No works will take place on the riverbank side of this wall. As part of the proposed development a new piled wall will be constructed between the existing dwellings and the existing flood wall. The proposed wall will be 65m in length, will extend to a height of 1.7 metres above ground level, and will be set back approximately 6m from the Carrowbeg River embankment. Existing stepped access will be removed, and new ramped pedestrian footpaths will be constructed across the existing amenity grassland to the pedestrian access track adjacent to the river. The demolition works will involve the removal of the steps using a mechanical excavator fitted with a rock breaker or jackhammer. Demolished material will be disposed/recovered off-site at an appropriately licensed facility.

In addition, a 180m long earthen embankment, 1.2m in height, will be constructed between the housing estate at Ashwood glade and the Carrowbeg River (approximately 50m south of the proposed wall). This embankment will be set back a minimum of 9m from the river.

The site layout drawings are provided as Drawings 1101, 1102 and 2821 located in appendix 1.





Map Legend

 Site Boundary

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. AR 0021820 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland



Drawing Title

Site Location

Project Title

Westport flood relief

Drawn By	Checked By
CM	PR

Project No.	Drawing No.
190724	Figure 2.1

Scale	Date
1:19832	15.09.2021



**MKO**  
 Planning and  
 Environmental  
 Consultants  
 Tuam Road, Galway  
 Ireland, H91 VW84  
 +353 (0) 91 735611  
 email: info@mkofireland.ie  
 Website: ww.mkofireland.ie



## 2.2.2 Site Access and Establishment

The site will be accessed from the Cois Abhainn housing estate at the south western boundary of the site. Fencing will be provided around the site to provide a barrier against unauthorised access from the public. Controlled access points will be gated and kept locked outside of normal working hours. The fencing will be well maintained. Only authorised persons will be allowed on the site.

## 2.2.3 Demolition Activities

The demolition phase of the proposed development will involve the removal of the existing external steps within the site. The demolition works will involve the removal of the steps using a mechanical excavator fitted with a rock breaker or jackhammer. Demolished material will be disposed/recovered off-site at an appropriately licensed facility.

## 2.2.4 Construction methodology

### 2.2.4.1 Flood Relief Wall

The flood relief wall will be 65 metres in length and extend to a height of 1.7 metres above ground level. The flood relief will be constructed between the housing development and an existing flood wall. The flood relief wall will typically be constructed as follows:

- Precast Concrete piles or steel sheet piles will be driven into Made Ground/alluvium to bedrock or a suitable depth to support design loads.
- High tensile steel reinforcement will be fixed in accordance with the designer's drawings & schedules.
- Formwork will be erected around the steel cage.
- Concrete will be placed using a concrete pump and compacted using vibrating pokers to the levels and profile indicated on the drawings.
- Upon completion of the concreting works the wall will be covered and allowed to cure
- Excavated soils will be stockpiled for off-site disposal/recovery at an appropriately licensed facility.

## 2.2.5 Embankment

It is proposed to construct a flood relief earthen embankment between the Ashwood Glade housing estate and the Carrowbeg River. The embankment will be 180 metres in length and 1.2 metres in height.

The flood relief embankment will typically be constructed as follows:

- The embankments will be constructed by stripping the topsoil within the embankment footprint and placing low permeability clay soils to the required flood defence level.
- Imported clay soils will be clean and from a known and reputable source. The imported soil will be chemically suitable and free from propagules of aggressive weeds and foreign objects.
- Topsoil will be placed on top of the embankment and seeded.
- Excavated soils will be disposed/recovered off-site at an appropriately licensed facility.

## 2.2.6 Pedestrian Access Tracks

The new pedestrian access track will be constructed as follows:

- Establish alignment of the new access track from the construction drawings and mark out the centre lines with ranging rods or timber posts.
- The access tracks will be of single-track design with an overall width of 1 metre.
- All material excavated during track construction will be either reused for backfilling and reinstatement adjacent to the track or exported off site to an authorised waste recovery facility.
- The subsoil will be excavated down to a suitable formation layer.
- Well-graded granular fill will be spread and compacted in layers to provide a homogeneous running surface. The thickness of layers and amount of compaction required will be decided by the Construction Manager based on the characteristics of the material and the compaction plant to be used.
- All new access track will be constructed with a camber to aid drainage of surface water.

## 2.2.7 Existing Underground Services

Any underground services encountered during the works will be surveyed for level and where possible will be left in place. If there is a requirement to move the service, then the appropriate body (ESB, Gas Networks Ireland, etc.) will be contacted, and the appropriate procedure put in place. Back fill around any utility services will be with dead sand/pea shingle where appropriate. All works will be in compliance with required specifications.

## 2.2.8 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

The majority of the proposed works area is classified as maintained *Amenity Grassland (GA2)*. A pedestrian walkway, classified as *Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)*, occurs within the works area adjacent to the river (Plate 2.1). Trees including birch (*Betula pubescens*) and oak (*Quercus* spp.) have been planted in the amenity grassland and are classified as *Flower beds and borders (BC4)*. The gardens of the nearby housing estates are also classified as *Amenity Grassland (GA1)* (Plate 2.2 – 2.4). Species recorded in the amenity grassland included Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

Species recorded in the amenity grassland habitat included cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*), willow (*Salix* spp.), herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), wild rose (*Rosa* spp.), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

The existing flood defense wall is classified as *Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)* (Plate 2.1 and Plate 2.4). The Carrowbeg River, flows in a northerly direction adjacent to the proposed works area and is classified as a *Depositing/Lowland River (FW2)*. The river is approximately 5m wide and at the time of survey, the river was in spate with a fast flow and was flooding the adjacent pedestrian walkway (Plate 2.1). At the upstream extent of the river, adjacent to the work area, stands of willows (*Salix* spp.) occur along the river margins, classified as *Riparian Woodland (WN5)*. The banks of the river had a low profile and are fringed with *Scrub (WS1)* and with species including alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*). The river and fringing riparian woodland and scrub habitats are all located outside the boundary of the proposed works area.

No non-native invasive species were recorded during the site visit. The habitats on the site are of low ecological importance. There are no Annex I habitats listed under the EU Habitats Directive present within the site boundary. No botanical species protected under the Flora (protection) Order (1999, as amended 2015), listed in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), or listed in the Irish Red Data Books were recorded on the site and no suitable habitat occurs within the site boundary. No suitable supporting habitat for flora species of conservation concern previously identified in the relevant hectad was identified within the proposed development site. All species recorded are common in the Irish landscape.

The walkover survey carried out during the site visit on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 included a faunal survey including an otter survey. No signs of otter e.g. spraints, scat, prints, slides, trails, couches and holts were recorded.



*Plate 2-1 River Carrowbeg, view downstream, with adjacent Cois Abhainn housing estate.*





*Plate 2-2 River Carrowbeg, looking upstream, with adjacent pedestrian walkway classified as buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) and fringing Amenity Grassland (GA1).*



*Plate 2-3 Location of the proposed embankment on amenity grassland adjacent to Ashwood Glade housing estate.*





Plate 2-4 The proposed flood defence wall will occur on the lawn between the existing flood defence wall and the Cois Abhainn housing estate, classified as amenity grassland

### 3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

#### 3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

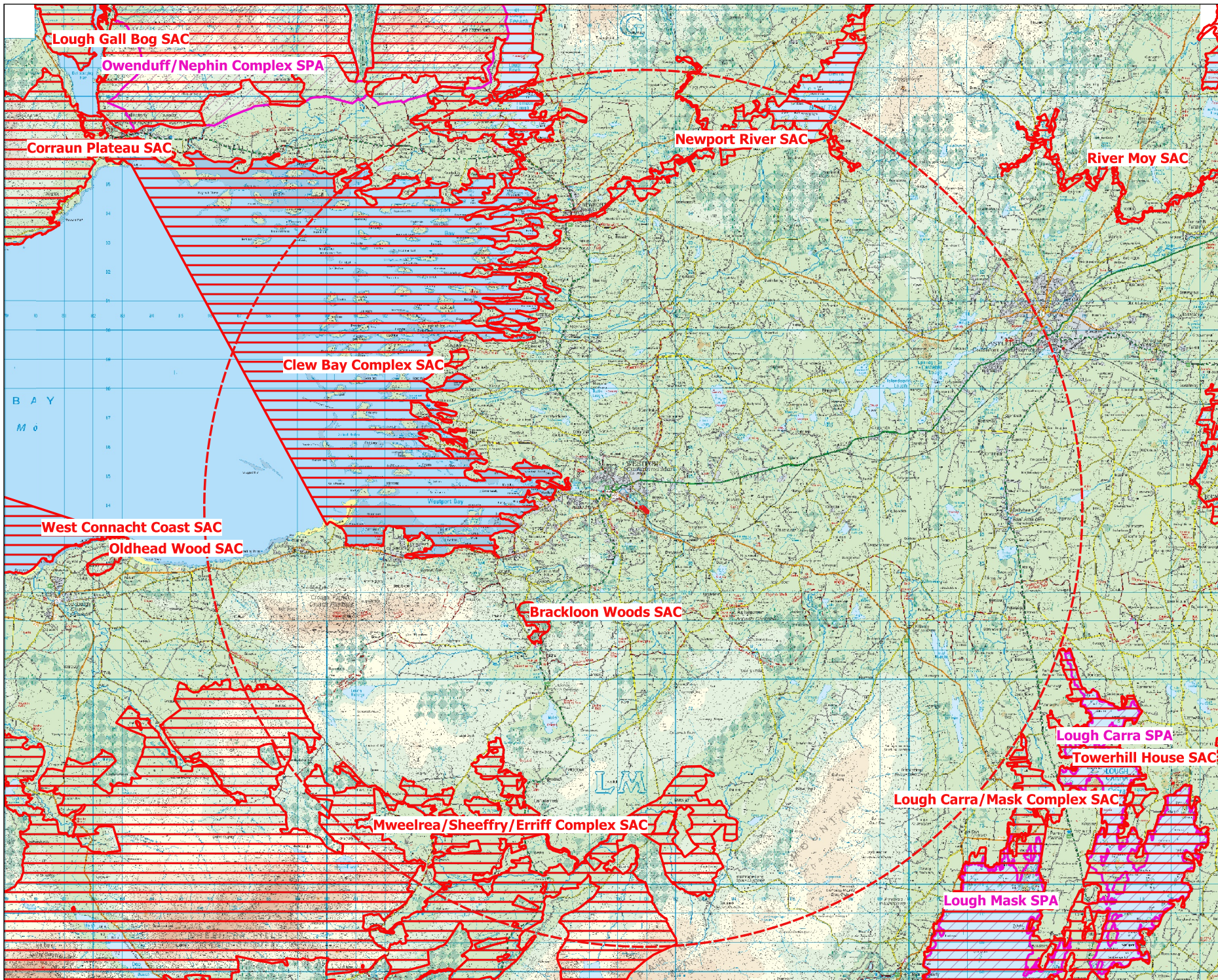
The following methodology was used to establish which European Sites are within the Likely Zone of Impact of the proposed development:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) and the EPA website ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)) on the 25/02/2020. The datasets were utilized to identify European Sites which could feasibly be affected by the proposed development.
- All European Sites within a distance of 15km surrounding the development site were identified and are shown on Figure 3.1. In addition, the potential for connectivity with European Sites at distances of greater than 15km from the proposed development was also considered in this initial assessment. In this case, no potential connectivity with sites located at a distance of over 15km from the proposed development was identified.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed development and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3.1.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, 'Assessing

Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)' (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed development and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.

- Table 3.1, provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses which are within the likely Zone of Impact. The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this screening assessment
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the proposed development in relation to all European sites within 15km of the proposed development.
- Where potential pathways for Significant Effect are identified, the site is included within the Likely Zone of Impact and further assessment is required.





### Map Legend

- Special Area of conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Water Subcatchments
- 15km Buffer
- Site boundary

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. AR 0021820 © Ordnance Survey Ireland / Government of Ireland

Drawing Title	
European Designated sites within 15km	
Project Title	
Westport flood Relief	
Drawn By	Checked By
CM	PR
Project No.	Drawing No.
190724	Figure 3.1
Scale	Date
1:170000	15.09.2021

**MKO**  
 Planning and  
 Environmental  
 Consultants  
 Tuam Road, Galway  
 Ireland, H91 VW84  
 +353 (0) 91 735611  
 email: info@mkofireland.ie  
 Website: ww.mkofireland.ie



Table 3.1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 25/02/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
<p>Clew Bay Complex SAC [001482]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 2.5km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>➤ [1150] Coastal lagoons*</li> <li>➤ [1160] Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>➤ [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines</li> <li>➤ [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>➤ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>➤ [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>➤ [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</li> <li>➤ [21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland)</li> <li>➤ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> <li>➤ [1365] Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, July 2011), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>This European Site is located 2.5km west of the proposed development site and 3km downstream, via hydrological connectivity. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site boundary.</p> <p>Indirect effects on terrestrial QI habitats and species can be ruled out as no pathway for impact exists. The works are small scale in nature. The proposed flood defence wall adjacent to the Cois Abhainn housing estate is set back a minimum of 6m from the riverbank, with an existing flood wall in place between the river and the proposed wall. The proposed embankment works will be set bank a minimum of 9m from the riverbank.</p> <p>Disturbance effects to the QI species otter was also considered. The works will be carried out in an already built up area, adjacent to a housing estate with an existing pedestrian walkway along the river. It is likely that otter are habituated to human activity in the area. In addition, the works will be short-term in duration and will be carried out in daylight hours only. Disturbance effects on otter, a predominantly crepuscular species, can therefore be ruled out.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 25/02/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
			<p>In the absence of any mitigation and given their location, nature and small scale there is no potential for the proposed works to result in any significant effect on this European Site</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Brackloon Woods SAC [000471]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 4.8km</p>	<p>➤ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, February 2018), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>This European Site is located 9km south of the proposed development site, at its closest point. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site boundary.</p> <p>This European site is designated for terrestrial habitats and therefore no pathway for impact exists.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC [001932]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 9km</p>	<p>➤ [1150] Coastal lagoons*</p> <p>➤ [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>➤ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</p> <p>➤ [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, October 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are</p>	<p>This European Site is located 9km south of the proposed development site, at its closest point. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site boundary.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 25/02/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>➤ [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</li> <li>➤ [2150] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)*</li> <li>➤ [2170] Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)</li> <li>➤ [21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland)</li> <li>➤ [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</li> <li>➤ [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i></li> <li>➤ [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</li> <li>➤ [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> <li>➤ [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>➤ [4030] European dry heaths</li> <li>➤ [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths</li> <li>➤ [5130] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li> <li>➤ [6430] <i>Hydrophilous</i> tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels</li> <li>➤ [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)</li> </ul>	<p>available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>The proposed works are located in a separate hydrological subcatchment and there is no hydrological connectivity between this European site and the proposed development site.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of proposed development and the QI habitats/species for which this site has been designated. Based on the distance from this SAC, potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>



European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 25/02/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> <li>➤ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></li> <li>➤ [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*</li> <li>➤ [7230] Alkaline fens</li> <li>➤ [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)</li> <li>➤ [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</li> <li>➤ [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</li> <li>➤ [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1395] Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1106] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1833] Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)</li> </ul>		
Newport River SAC [002144]  <b>Distance:</b> 10km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)</li> <li>➤ [1106] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</li> </ul>	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, February 2018), were reviewed	This European Site is located 10km north of the proposed development site, at its closest point. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site boundary.

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 25/02/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
		as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a>	<p>The proposed works are located in a separate hydrological subcatchment and there is no hydrological connectivity between this European site and the proposed development site.</p> <p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of proposed development and the QI habitats/species for which this site has been designated. Based on the distance from this SAC, potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<p>Owenduff/Nepin Complex SAC [000534]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 14.8km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</li> <li>➤ [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</li> <li>➤ [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> <li>➤ [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>➤ [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths</li> <li>➤ [5130] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, July 2017), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>This European Site is located 14.8km north-west of the proposed development site, at its closest point. There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site boundary.</p> <p>The proposed works are located in a separate hydrological subcatchment and there is no hydrological connectivity between this European site and the proposed development site.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 25/02/2020	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)</li> <li>&gt; [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> <li>&gt; [1528] Marsh Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>)</li> <li>&gt; [1106] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</li> <li>&gt; [1393] Slender Green Feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>)</li> <li>&gt; [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> </ul>		<p>No source-pathway-receptor chain for impact was identified between the site of proposed development and the QI habitats/species for which this site has been designated. Based on the distance from this SAC, potential for direct or indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p><b>This site is not within the likely zone of impact and no further assessment is required.</b></p>
<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>			
There are no SPAs within 15km of the proposed development.			

3.2

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

The potential for the proposed works to contribute to cumulative impact on European Sites was considered. The online planning system for Mayo County Council was consulted on the 25/02/2020. Additional projects identified in the townland of Killaghoor include;

- Permission to construct a dwelling house with an outbuilding, connection to the public sewer and for all associated site works (Planning reference: 15136)
- Retention permission to retain detached dormer dwelling and domestic shed as constructed on revised site boundaries, p03/76 refers (Planning reference: 17758)
- Permission to demolish existing building, construct holiday hostel with 9 bedrooms/dormitories, reception, lounge, self-catering kitchen and other ancillary rooms with connection to public services, construction of rain water harvesting tank, construction of on-site carpark/set down area, together with all ancillary site works (Planning reference: 18136)
- Permission to construct 16 terraced 2 storey houses in two blocks a & b. these will replace 18 duplex/apartment buildings previously granted under p04/48 and 10 terraced units permitted under p12/24, also revisions to internal access, parking, landscaping, footpaths and all ancillary site works (Planning reference: 19442)

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

## 4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this Screening Assessment are presented following the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

### 4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

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

- > Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- > Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- > Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA,
- > Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the proposed project.
- > Review of other plans and projects within the area.
- > A site visit carried out on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

### 4.2 Concluding Statement

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

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bailey, M. and Rochford J. (2006) Otter Survey of Ireland 2004/2005. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 23. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

Birds Directive (2009/47/EC) – [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm)

CIEEM, 2018, Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine.

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and Directive 2009/147/EC (codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) (Birds Directive) – transposed into Irish law as European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011).

DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. DEHLG, Dublin.

DoEHLG (2010). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Revision, February, 2010. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

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. European Commission.

EC (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

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. European Commission.

EC (2006) Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

EC (2007a) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission.

EC (2007b) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 27. European Commission, DG Environment.

European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds) Regulations, 1985, SI 291/1985 & amendments – <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie>

European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997, SI 233/1998 & SI 378/2005 – <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie>

Fossitt, J. A. (2000). A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. Dublin: The Heritage Council.

Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Murphy, D.F. (2004) Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat During Construction and Development Works at River Sites. Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, Dublin.

Natural England (March 2007). Draft Guidance: The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies Under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations.

NPWS (2008) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Conservation Status in Ireland of Habitats and Species listed in the European Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats, Flora and Fauna 92/43/EEC.

NPWS of the DEHLG (2008) The Report on Status of Habitats and Species in Ireland: Technical Reports and Forms.

NPWS Protected Site Synopses and maps available on <http://www.npws.ie/en/ProtectedSites/>

NRA (2004) Environmental Impact Assessment of National Road Schemes – A Practical Guide, National Roads Authority, Dublin.

NRA (2004) Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1 ed.). Dublin: National Roads Authority.

NRA (2005) Guidelines for the Crossing of Watercourses during the Construction of National Road Schemes. Dublin: National Roads Authority.

NRA (2006) Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes. Dublin: National Roads Authority.

NRA (2009). Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes. Dublin: National Roads Authority.

NRA (2008). The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads. Dublin: National Roads Authority.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (July 2013) Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Stace, C. A. (1997). New Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Therivel R. (2009) Workshop Material on the Habitats Directive Assessment of Plans Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants on behalf of the Heritage Council, Kilkenny.





# APPENDIX 1

## SITE LAYOUT AND ASSOCIATED DRAWINGS



**NOTES:**

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
2. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METERS AND RELATE TO ITM (IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
3. ALL LEVELS IN METERS ARE RELATIVE TO ORDNANCE DATUM MALIN HEAD (OSGM02).
4. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS, USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY. ALL DIMENSIONS SHALL BE CONFIRMED ON SITE.
5. DRAWINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THE TITLE BOX ONLY.
6. DRAWINGS ARE BASED ON SITE SURVEY INFORMATION AND OSI VECTOR MAPPING (2019).
7. SITE LOCATION REFERENCE X=500822; Y=783916 (ITM)

**PLANNING**

DATE	REV	BY	CHK	DESCRIPTION
10/09/21	DR01	PC	JL	FIRST DRAFT

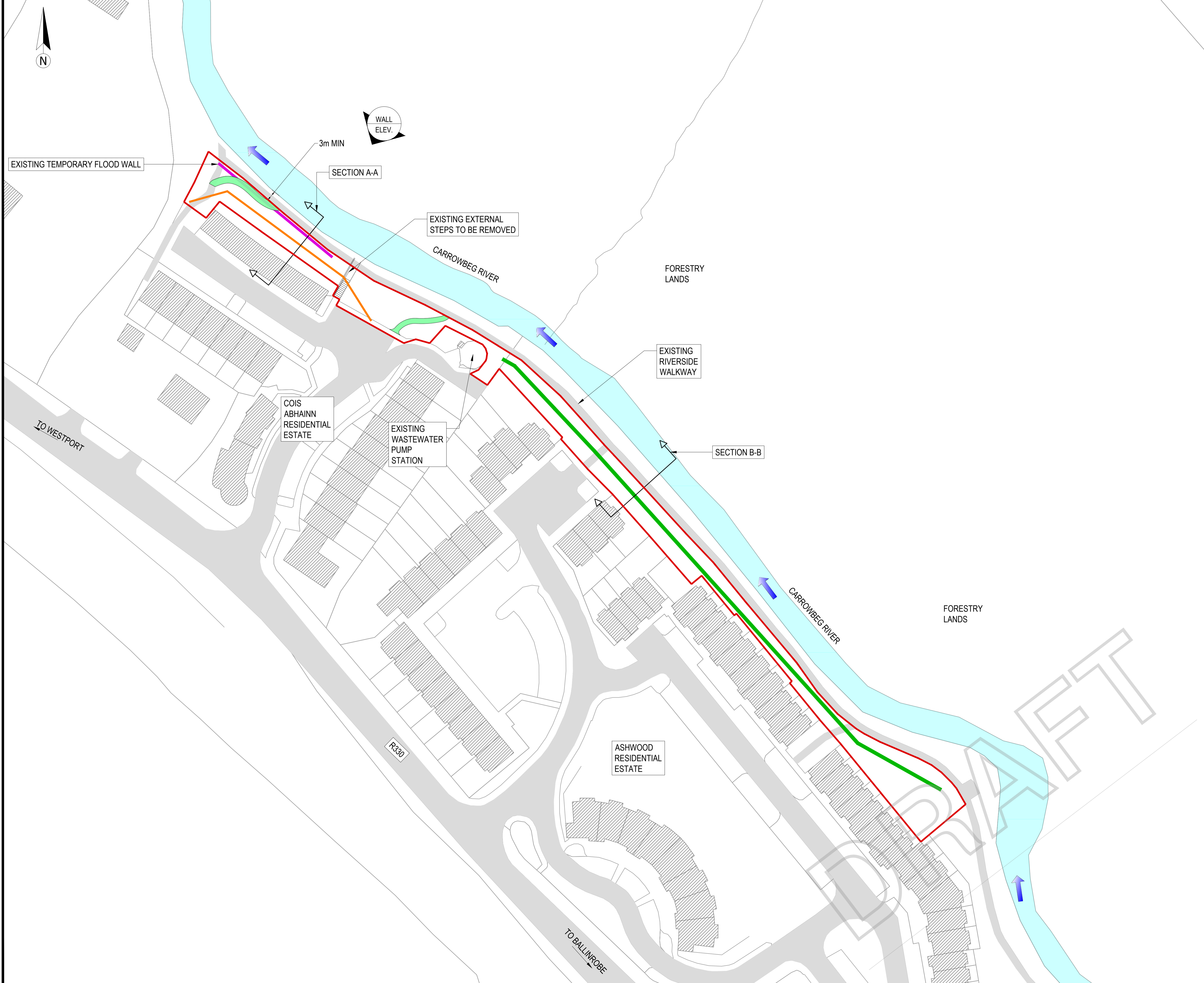
Ph: +353 (0)91 89861  
 Email: info@langan.ie  
 Web: www.langan.ie  
 Langan Enterprise Centre, Abbotstown Street,  
 Westport, Co. Mayo F28 ET85  
 Galway Technology Centre, Merrion Business  
 Park, Merrion, Galway H91 D5D2



DRAWING BASED ON OSI DIGITAL VECTOR MAPPING FOR THE AREA. ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND LICENCE NO AR 0080219. © ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.

PROJECT TITLE: COIS ABHAINN & ASHWOOD FLOOD CELL SCHEME, KILLAGHOOR, WESTPORT, CO. MAYO	DATE: SEP 2021
CLIENT: MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL	DRAWING NUMBER: 1101
JOB NUMBER: 19092	SCALE: 1:2500 @ A1
DRAWING TITLE: SITE LOCATION MAP	DRAWING BY: PC
	CHECKED BY: JL
	REVISION: DR01





**NOTES:**

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
2. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METERS AND RELATE TO ITM (IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
3. ALL LEVELS IN METERS ARE RELATIVE TO ORDNANCE DATUM MALIN HEAD (OSGM02).
4. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS, USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY. ALL DIMENSIONS SHALL BE CONFIRMED ON SITE.
5. DRAWINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THE TITLE BOX ONLY.
6. DRAWINGS ARE BASED ON SITE SURVEY INFORMATION AND OSI VECTOR MAPPING (2019).
7. SITE LOCATION REFERENCE X=500822; Y=783916 (ITM)
8. LANDS SUBJECT TO PLANNING PERMISSION ARE LOCATED IN PUBLIC AREAS ONLY.
9. SECTIONS, ELEVATION AND SAMPLE WALL IMAGE SHOWN ON DWG. 2621.

**LEGEND:**

<span style="color: red;">—</span>	PLANNING BOUNDARY
<span style="color: orange;">—</span>	PROPOSED FLOOD WALL
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	PROPOSED FLOOD EMBANKMENT
<span style="color: lightgreen;">—</span>	PROPOSED NEW WALKWAYS

**PLANNING**

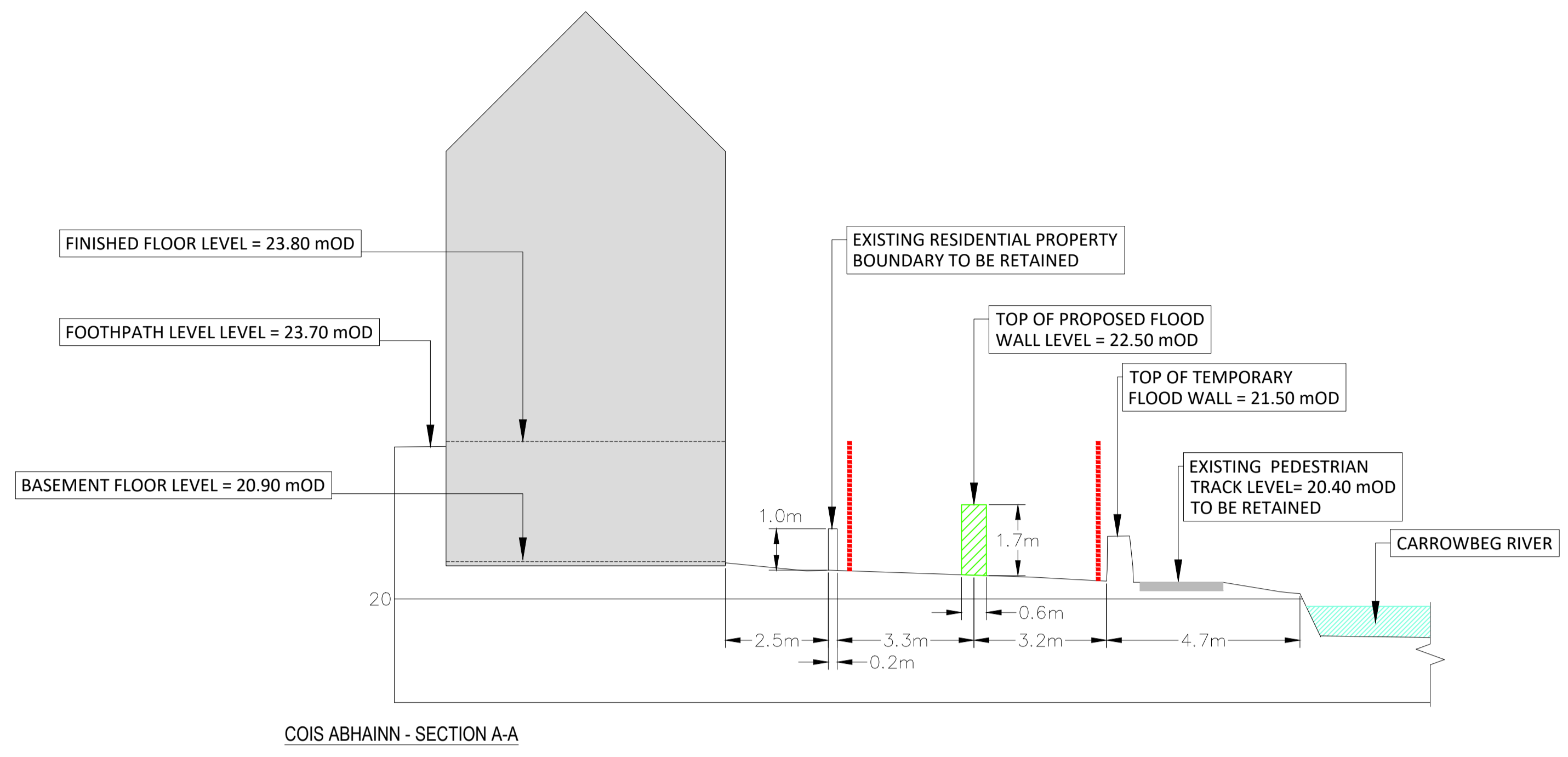
DATE	REV	BY	CHK	DESCRIPTION
10/09/21	DR01	PC	JL	FIRST DRAFT

Ph: +353 (0)91 89961  
 Email: info@langan.ie  
 Web: www.langan.ie  
 Langan Ederlinde Centre, Abbotstown Street,  
 Westport, Co. Mayo F28 ET85  
 Galway Technology Centre, Merrion Business  
 Park, Merrion, Galway H91 D932

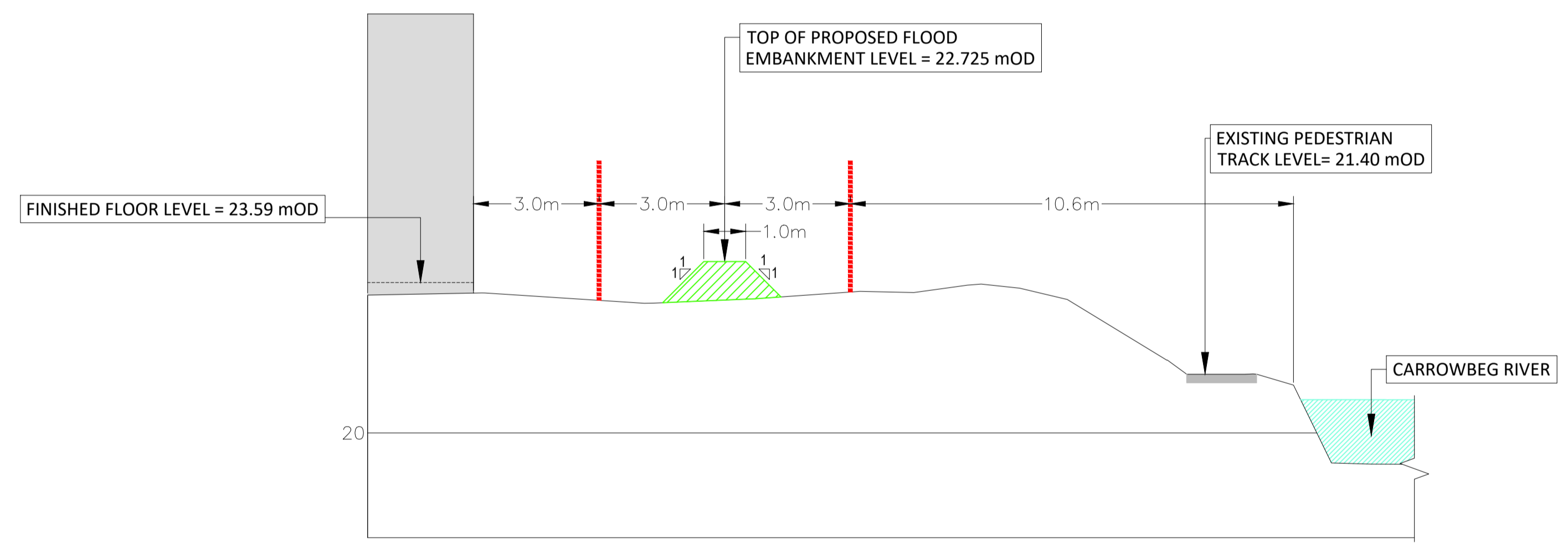
DRAWING BASED ON OSI DIGITAL VECTOR MAPPING FOR THE AREA. ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND LICENCE NO AR 0080219. © ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.

PROJECT TITLE: COIS ABHAINN & ASHWOOD FLOOD CELL SCHEME, KILLAGHOOR, WESTPORT, CO. MAYO	DATE: SEP 2021
CLIENT: MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL	DRAWING NUMBER: 1102
JOB NUMBER: 19092	SCALE: 1:500 @ A1
DRAWING TITLE: SITE LAYOUT PLAN	DRAWING BY: PC
	CHECKED BY: JL
	REVISION: DR01





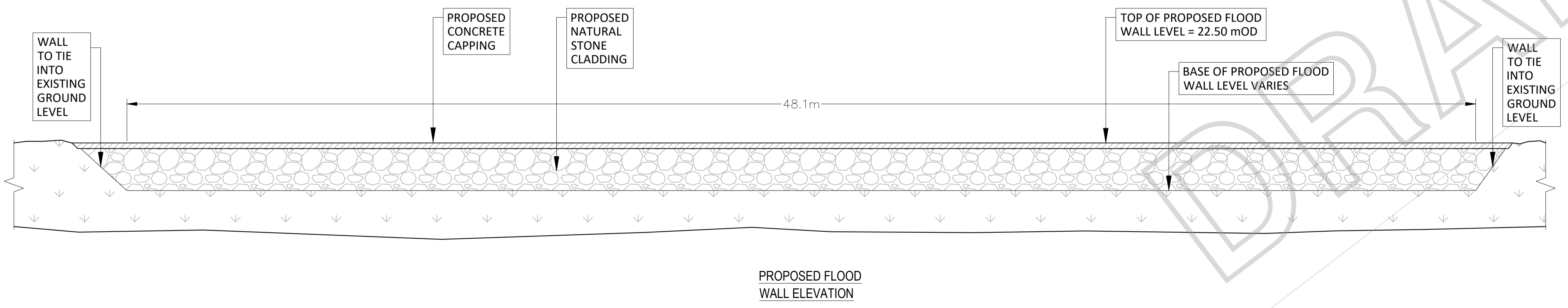
COIS ABHAINN - SECTION A-A



ASHWOOD GLADE - SECTION B-B



PROPOSED FLOODWALL FINISH  
[NATURAL STONE CLADDING]



PROPOSED FLOOD WALL ELEVATION

NOTES:

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
2. ALL COORDINATES ARE IN METERS AND RELATE TO ITM (IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
3. ALL LEVELS IN METERS ARE RELATIVE TO ORDNANCE DATUM MALIN HEAD (OSGM02).
4. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS, USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY. ALL DIMENSIONS SHALL BE CONFIRMED ON SITE.
5. DRAWINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THE TITLE BOX ONLY.
6. DRAWINGS ARE BASED ON SITE SURVEY INFORMATION AND OSI VECTOR MAPPING (2019).
7. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ WITH PROJECT DRAWINGS.

LEGEND:

- PLANNING BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED FLOOD RELIEF STRUCTURE

**PLANNING**

DATE	REV	BY	CHK	DESCRIPTION
10/09/21	DR01	PC	JL	FIRST DRAFT

Pn: +353 (0)91 99961  
 Email: info@langan.ie  
 Web: www.langan.ie  
 Langan Ederlinde Centre, Abbotstown Street, Westport, Co. Mayo F28 ET85  
 Galway Technology Centre, Merion Business Park, Merion, Galway H91 D932

DRAWING BASED ON OSI DIGITAL VECTOR MAPPING FOR THE AREA. ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND LICENCE NO AR 0080219. © ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.

PROJECT TITLE: COIS ABHAINN & ASHWOOD FLOOD CELL SCHEME, KILLAGHOOR, WESTPORT, CO. MAYO	DATE: SEP 2021
CLIENT: MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL	DRAWING NUMBER: 2621
JOB NUMBER: 19092	SCALE: 1:100 @ A1
DRAWING TITLE: SITE SECTIONS A-A & B-B	DRAWING BY: PC CHECKED BY: JL

REVISION: DR01