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01/09/2021

Cois Abhainn & Ashwood Housing Developments – Flood Relief Scheme

EIA Screening Determination


Under the European Union (Planning and Development)(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (SI No. 296 of 2018), there is a requirement that screening be undertaken to determine whether or not specific public or private developments are likely to have significant effects on the environment and as such require an EIA to be carried out prior to the decision on a development consent application being made.

In this regard and in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and as set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, a Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the pre-planning and design of the Cois Abhainn & Ashwood Housing Developments Flood Relief Scheme.

Mayo County Council has considered the report prepared by MKO Planning & Environmental Consultants entitled '*Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report – Cois Abhainn Flood Relief Scheme, Westport, Co. Mayo*' and hereby agrees with the findings of this report.

- *It is considered that the proposed works constitutes **sub-threshold** development.*
- *The development was assessed against the relevant criteria and it is considered **unlikely** to have '**significant effects on the environment**'*
- *The overall conclusion of the screening exercise is that there is **no specific requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed works.***

Yours Sincerely


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

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

Cois Abhainn Flood Relief
Scheme, Westport, Co.
Mayo





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1. INTRODUCTION

MKO has been instructed by Mayo County Council (MCC) to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report to accompany a Planning Application for the development of a flood relief scheme at Cois Abhainn, Westport Co. Mayo. The proposal includes for the construction of a flood relief wall, the construction of a flood relief embankment and new pedestrian access tracks, including drainage.

This EIA Screening exercise was undertaken to determine if EIA is required for the proposed development works in their entirety as set out in the mandatory and discretionary provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (the Act) and set in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended (Regulations). Certain projects, listed in Schedule 5 of the regulations, due to their always having the potential for significant environmental effects, require mandatory EIA. Others, also listed in the Schedule 5 of the regulations, contain threshold levels and for projects that fall below these thresholds it is the decision of the competent authority to decide if an EIA (and the associated EIAR) is required.

Whether a ‘sub threshold’ development should be subject to EIA is determined by the likelihood that the development would result in significant environmental effects. Significant effects may arise due to the nature of the development, its scale or extent and its location in relation to the characteristics of the receiving area, particularly sensitive environments.

This report documents the methodology employed to complete the screening exercise, having regard to relevant legislation and guidance documents. It also sets out a clear rationale for each decision made in the process.

The application is also accompanied by an “Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report”, which was also prepared by MKO.

The findings of all survey reports and assessments which accompany the application, and the relevant site and desk studies are referenced where appropriate in this EIA Screening Report.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Site Location

The site is located in the townland of Killaghour, approximately 1 kilometre to the southeast of Westport, Co. Mayo (Grid Ref: E500836, N783908). The location of the proposed development site is provided as Figure 2-1.

The site covers an area of approximately 0.24 hectares and ranges in topography between 21.53 and 20.40 metres above Ordnance Datum (mAOD).

The Carrowbeg River flows along the eastern/north eastern boundary of the site in a northwest/west direction, with ultimate discharge to Clew Bay approximately 3 kilometres to the northwest of the site.

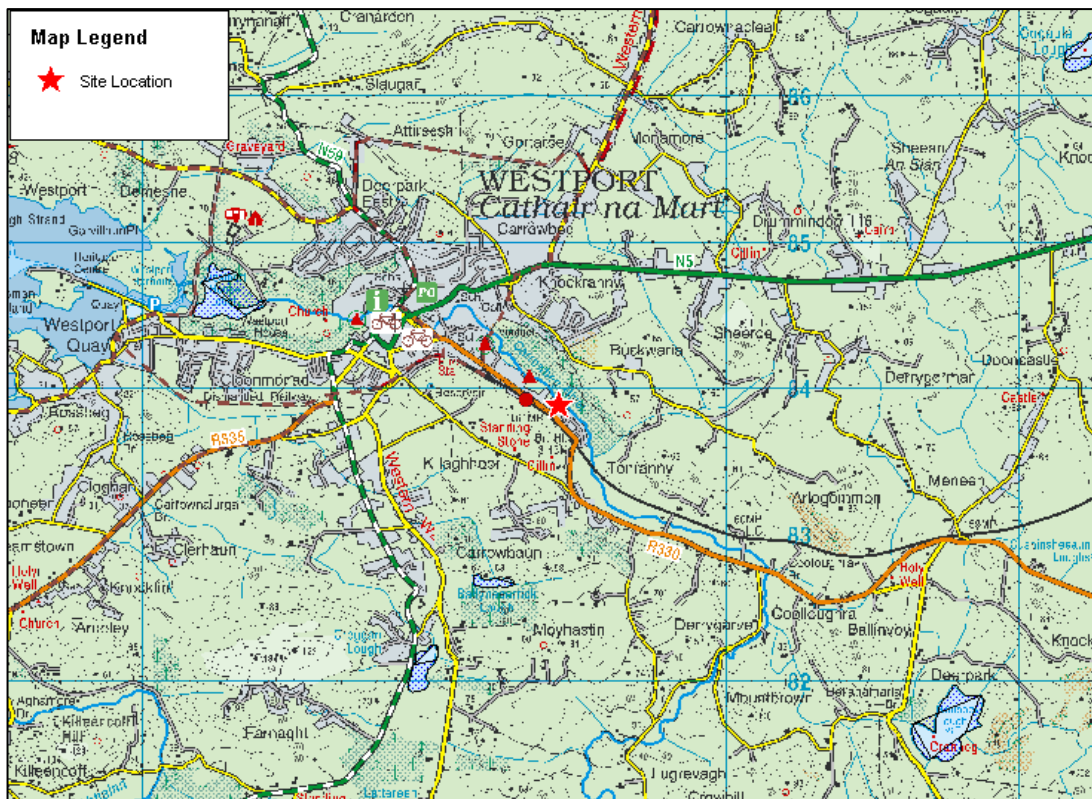


Figure 2-1 Site Location

2.2 Development Description

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 layout of the proposed development is included as Appendix 1 of this EIA Screening report.

2.3 Construction Methodology

This section describes the construction methodologies for the proposed for each element of works.

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 Flood Relief Wall

The flood relief wall will be 65 metres in length and extend to a height of 1.7 metres.

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 disposed/recovered off-site at an appropriately licensed facility.

2.3.3 Flood Relief 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 metre 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.

2.3.4 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.

2.3.5 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.

3. EIA SCREENING EXERCISE

3.1 Relevant EIA Legislation

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements derive from Council Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directives 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC) and as codified and replaced by Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (and as amended in turn by Directive 2014/52/EU).

The consolidated European Union Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the 'EIA Directive'), was transposed into Irish planning legislation by the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2018 (the 'Regulations'). The EIA Directive was amended by Directive 2014/52/EU which has been transposed into Irish law with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018).

The legislation requires screening to be undertaken to determine whether or not specified public or private developments are likely to have significant effects on the environment and, as such, require EIA to be carried out prior to a decision on a development consent application being made.

3.2 Methodology

Screening is a process used to establish whether an EIA is required for a proposed development. There are a number of steps in the screening process.

The mandatory requirement for an EIA is generally based on the nature or scale of a proposed development, as set out in EU Directive.

These identify certain types and scales of development, generally based on thresholds of scale, for which EIA is mandatory. In the case of a sub-threshold development proposed by a local authority, the authority is required to carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development. Where there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 for the purposes of a screening determination.

The European Commission (2017) have published a *Guidance on Screening* document (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended 2014/52/EU) which summarises the need for an EIA based on specific measures and/or limits, according to predefined criteria such as the projects characteristics, location and/or certain project features such as a project potential impacts.

In addition, there is sometimes a requirement for EIA 'sub-threshold' developments, and, in this respect, it may be necessary to undertake a screening exercise to assess whether the proposed development requires the preparation of an EIAR.

A methodology was developed to formally screen the proposed development, which was based on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), *Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development* (EPA, 2003) and the 2017 guidance issued by the EU. The screening exercise is divided into a section on Mandatory EIA and another on Sub-threshold or Discretionary EIA. In each section below a screening matrix is presented which examines the requirement for EIA according to the criteria set out in the relevant legislation. The rationale behind the responses within the matrix is provided at the end of each section.

Mandatory Environment Impact Assessment

Section 172 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, provides the legislative basis for mandatory EIA. It states the following:

“An environmental impact assessment shall be carried out by a planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, in respect of an application for consent for proposed development where either:

a) the proposed development would be of a class specified in –

(i) Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and either

I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or

II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned,

or

(ii) Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and either –

I. such development would exceed any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or

II. no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned,

or

b)

(i) The proposed development would be of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 but does not exceed the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, and

(ii) The planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, determines that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.”

Under the provisions Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 “Sub-threshold EIAR”, where a local authority proposes to carry out sub-threshold development, the authority proposing shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at least the size or location of the development. The obligations with regard sub-threshold are outlined in Section 3.4 below.

Further to the above, Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended sets out a number of classes and scales of development that require EIA.

With regards to the proposed development, the provisions of Schedule 5 require an EIA to be undertaken where it is proposed to carry out the following - *“Canalisation and flood relief works, where the immediate contributing sub-catchment of the proposed works (i.e. the difference between the contributing catchment at the upper and lower extent of the works) would exceed 100 hectares or where more than 2 hectares of wetland would be affected or where the length of river channel on which works are proposed would be greater than 2 kilometres.”*, as per Item 10 (f)(ii) of the Schedule.

The proposed development will not have a contributing catchment of greater than 100 hectares. It will not affect greater than 2 hectares of wetland and as the project extends for approximately 400 metres, will not exceed 2 kilometres in river length and therefore is not subject to EIA.

3.4 Sub-threshold Development

Section 172 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, also sets out the basis for EIA for developments which may not be of a scale included in Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended. This allows a consenting authority to require EIA where it is of the opinion that a development (although sub-threshold) is likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore should be subject to EIA. In this context, the consideration of ‘significant effect’ should not be determined by reference to size only and the nature and location of a project must also be taken into account.

Class 15 of Schedule 5 provides for EIA/EIAR for developments under the relevant threshold, where the works would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. This states the following:

“Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.”

The proposed development is a project which falls under Schedule 5 however is considered sub-threshold as will not have a contributing catchment of greater than 100 hectares. It will not affect greater than 2 hectares of wetland and as the project extends for approximately 400 metres, will not exceed 2 kilometres in river length.

Notwithstanding the above an evaluation of the Schedule 7 criteria is provided below in the interests of completeness.

3.5 Projects for the Cumulative Assessment

The proposed development was considered in combination with other projects in the area that could result in cumulative effects on the environment.

A search of the online planning register for Mayo County Council on the 16th September 2021 has revealed that planning applications in the vicinity of the proposed development site related to the construction of new residential dwellings or extensions to existing residential dwellings.

Given the nature of the developments i.e., residential units, the potential for ongoing environmental effects and associated potential cumulative effects with the proposed development are imperceptible.

3.6 Sub-threshold Assessment

The 1997 amending Directive (97/11/EC) introduced guidance for Member States in terms of deciding whether or not a development is likely to have ‘significant effects on the environment’. The criteria have been transposed in full into Irish legislation, in the Third Schedule to the EC EIA (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. No. 93 of 1999) and in Schedule 7 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001) as amended.

As required under Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 “Sub-threshold EIAR” Where there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, the local authority shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination.

Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended sets out the information to be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for environmental impact assessment.

- 1) *A description of the proposed development, including in particular—*
 - a) *a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works, and*
 - b) *a description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.*
- 2) *A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.*
- 3) *A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—*
 - a) *the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and*
 - b) *the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.*

The information required by the Schedule 7A has been set out in Section 2 above as well as the assessment of the criteria for Schedule 7 below. The assessment of the criteria set out on Schedule 7 provides the description and assessment of any likely significant effects from the proposed development.

The Schedule 7 criteria are grouped under three headings as follows:

- 1) *Characteristics of the Proposed Development*
- 2) *Location of Proposed Development*
- 3) *Characteristics of Potential Impacts*

Each of the above groupings includes a number of criteria for consideration. The assessment of the likelihood of significant environmental effects is based on the overall consideration of all criteria and requires clear and rational judgment. The DoEHLG Guidance Document ‘Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development’ states that

‘those responsible for making the decision must exercise their best professional judgment, taking account of considerations such as the nature and size of the proposed development, the environmental sensitivity of the area and the nature of the potential effects of the development. In general, it is not intended that special studies or technical evaluations will be necessary for the purpose of making a decision.’

The Schedule 7 criteria to be reviewed are discussed in more detail, with reference to the proposed development, in the following subsections. The screening questions are based on the criteria listed under each grouped heading in Schedule 7.

In addition, the exercise takes account of updated or additional screening criteria as set out in EIA Directive 2014/52/EU.

Table 3-1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

Characteristics of the Proposed Development – Screening Questions	Comment
Could the scale of the proposed works be considered significant?	No. The geographic extent of the proposed development is confined to the immediate area of the proposed site. The active works area comprises the demolition of the external steps, flood relief wall, flood relief embankment and new pedestrian access tracks, this scale of works is not considered significant.
Considered cumulatively with other adjacent proposed	No. The proposed development has been assessed cumulatively with other adjacent proposed developments by MKO within this Environmental Impact

Characteristics of the Proposed Development – Screening Questions	Comment
developments, would the size of the proposed works be considered significant?	Assessment (EIA) Screening document and the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) by MKO and it is concluded that potential cumulative effects are imperceptible.
Is the nature of the proposed works significant?	No. The proposed development will be carried out in accordance with environmentally sensitive construction methodologies which are well established and will ensure that the potential for significant impacts is either eliminated or reduced to low risk.
Will the proposed works utilise a significant quantity of natural resources?	No. The proposed development will reuse excavated materials in the reinstatement of landscaping areas where possible. Imported stone material and other raw materials for the construction of the development the quantities of which will be required are not considered significant.
Will the proposed works produce a significant quantity of waste?	No. The proposed development will reuse excavated materials in the reinstatement of and landscaping areas where appropriate. Waste where it arises, will be source segregated to accommodate re-use and recycling opportunities with provisions implemented on site in waste management areas. All waste and recyclable material will be dealt with through a suitably licensed contractor and sent to appropriately licensed waste/recovery facilities.
Will the proposed works create a significant amount or type of pollution?	No. No significant water or air borne pollution are envisaged as a result of the proposed works.
Will the proposed works create a significant amount of nuisance?	No. Limited <u>short-term</u> disruption may arise during the proposed construction and demolition process, but this will not be significantly different to routine construction works in the area.
Will there be a risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used?	No. The proposed works and construction methods to be used are well established and will be subject to contractor's safety statements and risk assessments.
Would any combination of the above factors be considered likely to have significant effects on the environment?	No. The actual environmental effects of construction projects locally are well established. There are no potential impacts to sensitive receptors including European Sites. There are no factors above which when combined would result in the proposed development, due to its characteristics, having a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the nature of the proposed development is not considered to have likely significant effects on the environment.

Reasoning

The scale of the proposed works, when viewed individually and cumulatively, is small in the context of both the EIA threshold criteria and types of projects listed in the regulations which require EIA.

The proposed works will involve the demolition of the existing external steps, flood relief wall, flood relief embankment and new pedestrian access tracks. The proposed works will be restricted to the existing 0.24 hectare site.

Any waste arising on site will be taken from the site for recovery or disposal, subject to normal statutory controls. Any noise and nuisance associated with the proposed development work will be short term and subject to appropriate best practice procedures.

3.6.2 Location of the Proposed Development

Table 3-2 Location of the Proposed Development Matrix

Location of the Proposed Development – Screening Questions	Comment
<p>Have the proposed works the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any site designated for conservation interest (e.g., SAC, SPA, pNHA)?</p>	<p>A detailed Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been carried out on the proposed development works. The conclusions of this report find that</p> <p><i>“that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site”.</i></p> <p>The nearest European Site to the proposed development works is the Clew Bay Complex SAC (2.5km west).</p> <p>There will be no direct impacts on this SAC as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site boundary, and considering that the works will be confined to the area of the proposed site. Indirect impacts can be ruled out due to the nature and scale of the works and their set back distance from the riverbank. Furthermore, the works will be completed in accordance with the best practice measures set out in this EIA Screening Report and within all survey reports and assessments which accompany the application without impacting on any European or nationally designated site in the vicinity of the proposed development.</p>
<p>Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any habitats listed as Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive?</p>	<p>No. The AASR includes detailed site-specific habitat assessment and confirms that sensitive habitats will not be affected.</p>
<p>Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any habitats listed as Priority Annex I in the EU Habitats Directive?</p>	<p>No. The AASR includes detailed site-specific habitat assessment and confirms that sensitive habitats will not be affected.</p>
<p>Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any species listed as Annex II in the EU Habitats Directive?</p>	<p>No. The AASR includes detailed site-specific information and confirms that Annex II species will not be impacted by the proposed development.</p>
<p>Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any species listed as Annex IV in the EU Habitats Directive?</p>	<p>No. The AASR includes detailed site-specific information and confirms that Annex IV species will not be impacted by the proposed development.</p>

Location of the Proposed Development – Screening Questions	Comment
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any species listed as Annex I of the EU Birds Directive?	No. The AASR includes detailed site-specific information and confirms that Annex I bird species will not be impacted by the proposed development.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on the breeding places of any species protected under the Wildlife Act?	No. The AASR includes detailed site-specific information and confirms that Annex I bird species will not be impacted by the proposed development.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on existing land use?	No. The proposed development will be restricted works area and there will be no change in its use.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on any protected structures or Recorded Monuments and Places of Archaeological Interest?	No. No monuments are located directly adjacent to the proposed development site and no large monuments clusters are located immediately adjacent to the subject site. In this regard, there are no predicted impacts.
Has the proposed development the potential to impact directly or indirectly on listed or scenic views or protected landscapes as outlined in the County Development Plan?	No. The proposed development will comprise the demolition of the existing external steps, flood relief wall, flood relief embankment and new pedestrian access tracks.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that there will be no significant direct or indirect impacts by virtue of the location of the proposed development on the receiving environment.

Reasoning

The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 requires that an Article 6(3) assessment be carried out where it is considered that a development is likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites (SAC/SPA). In this regard an AASR has been completed for the proposed development. This report concludes there will be no possibility of significant effects on the reasons for designation of this European site in view of the relevant conservation objectives. There will be no impacts on any other designated sites as a result of the proposed development.

Indirect impacts, which may potentially affect any other designated sites have been discounted provided the proposed construction methodologies are employed during the proposed development works. The risk of any significant negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site can be excluded.

The AASR shows that no sensitive habitats considered to qualify as Annex I habitats under the EU Habitats Directive will be affected by the proposed development. No EU Habitats Directive Annex II species will be affected by the proposed development. In terms of land use, the proposed development will be confined to the 0.24 hectare site on which it is proposed. There will be no significant impact on land use.

The natural environment within the proposed development site can accommodate the development without significant impact.

3.6.3 Characteristics of Potential Impacts

A further screening exercise was completed to assess the most significant potential impacts, as outlined in Table 3-3 below. These are the sections that would be covered in any EIA as specified in the EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC).

Table 3-3 Significance of Impact According to Theme (as in EIA)

EIA Section	Brief Assessment of Impacts
Population & Human Health	The potential impacts are not considered to be significant. During construction and demolition there is the potential for temporary minor impacts related to traffic inconvenience, dust and noise. The active works area will be limited so potential impacts will be restricted in their geographic extent as well as their duration.
Flora & Fauna	No flora and fauna of ecological significance or sensitivity were recorded on the site. Designated sites in the vicinity will not be impacted upon as set out in the AASR prepared.
Soils & Geology	Imperceptible impact, the proposed development will be carried out in accordance with the environmentally sensitive construction methods and environmental management systems. Excavated soils and subsoils will be reused as part of site reinstatement and landscaping or disposed/recovered off-site at an appropriately licensed facility.
Water	The construction phase will be carried out in accordance with detailed methodologies and mitigation proposals to ensure that potential impacts on water are either eliminated or reduced to low levels. Due to the nature and scale of the works and their set back distance from the riverbank, potential impacts on water quality are considered to be imperceptible.
Air & Climate	Potential short-term low probability impact on air quality in particular dust emissions during construction and demolition activities however this will be managed through best practice measures. The proposed development is not a recognised emitter of greenhouse gases with the potential to effect climate change. Plant and equipment utilised during the construction and demolition phase will use fossil fuels, but the potential impact associated with this is immaterial due to the short-term scale of the works. No significant impact anticipated.
Noise & Vibration	Potential short-term noise impact during construction activities however this will be managed through best practice measures. No significant impact anticipated.
Landscape	Long Term, Slight Neutral landscape and visual Impact. The subject works relate to the provision of a flood relief wall, flood relief embankment and new pedestrian access tracks.

EIA Section	Brief Assessment of Impacts
Material Assets	Potential short-term low probability impact. During construction there is the potential for temporary minor impacts related to traffic inconvenience.
Cultural Heritage	No impact on protected structures or archaeological features.
Interaction of Foregoing	No impact.

Table 3-4 Characteristics of the Potential Impacts Matrix

Characteristics of Potential Impacts – Screening Questions	Responses
Would a large geographical area be impacted as a result of the proposed development?	No. The geographic extent of the proposed development is largely confined to the immediate area of the proposed 0.24 hectare site.
Would a large population of people be affected as a result of the proposed development?	No. The proposed development is not located in a very heavily or densely populated area.
Are any transboundary impacts likely to arise as a result of the proposed development?	No. The proposed development will be confined to the area of the proposed site.
Would the magnitude of impacts associated with the proposed development be considered significant?	No. All impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity will be minimised to insignificance. Full details of the ecology of the site is presented in the AASR that has been prepared. The proposed works will be carried out in line with environmentally sensitive construction methodologies therefore no significant impacts will arise.
In considering the various aspects of the environment, would the impacts of the proposed development be considered complex?	No. All impacts on areas of general environmental sensitivity and any interactions between sensitive receptors such as water quality, aquatic ecology, noise or air pollution through the implementation of best practice measures will be minimised to insignificance.
Is there a high probability that the effects will occur?	Whilst temporary impacts relating to construction activities are likely to occur, best practice measures will result in any impacts being insignificant
Will the effects continue for a long time?	No. Any effects are only associated with the temporary construction period which will be temporary and short term.
Will the effects be permanent rather than temporary?	The potential effects during construction are considered temporary, with no long-term effects anticipated.
Will the impacts be irreversible?	No. The proposed development will remain a permanent part of the local community infrastructure
Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effects?	The construction process will avoid any significant effects

Conclusion

It is concluded that, the characteristics of the potential impacts are not considered significant. There are no long-term negative impacts which can be associated with the project. Whilst temporary noise levels and disturbance are typical of any construction phase, any potential impact will be short term and effectively managed through best practice measures. No impact interactions have been identified. No likely significant long-term or permanent negative environmental impacts have been identified in the course of the screening process.

Reasoning

All works will be confined to the proposed 0.24 hectare site. The potential for any direct or indirect impact on habitats is low and the likelihood of any significant effects occurring as a result of the works can be excluded.

4.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A summary of conclusions is presented below:

The proposed development is not a development for which EIA is mandatory. It is considered that the proposed development is a sub-threshold development and therefore it was assessed against the relevant criteria and is considered unlikely to have *'significant effects on the environment'*.

An EIA Screening exercise was carried out to determine the potential for the proposed development to have significant environmental effects or not. This exercise has been informed by an Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report completed for the proposed development.

The **nature** or **characteristics of the proposed development** are not considered likely to have significant effects on the environment. The geographic extent of the final relief wall and relief embankment is small and there will be no long-term impacts.

All works will be confined to the 0.24 hectare site on which it is proposed. Measures to protect the Carrowbeg river which is the closest watercourse to the site will be implemented during the construction works to prevent any potential impact on this stream. Potential impacts on water quality are considered to be imperceptible.

The proposed development has been reviewed in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report which has concluded that there will be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the proposed development.

The **characteristics** of the potential impacts are not considered significant, as standard best practice will be adopted.

The overall conclusion of this screening exercise is that there is no specific requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed works.



APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT



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

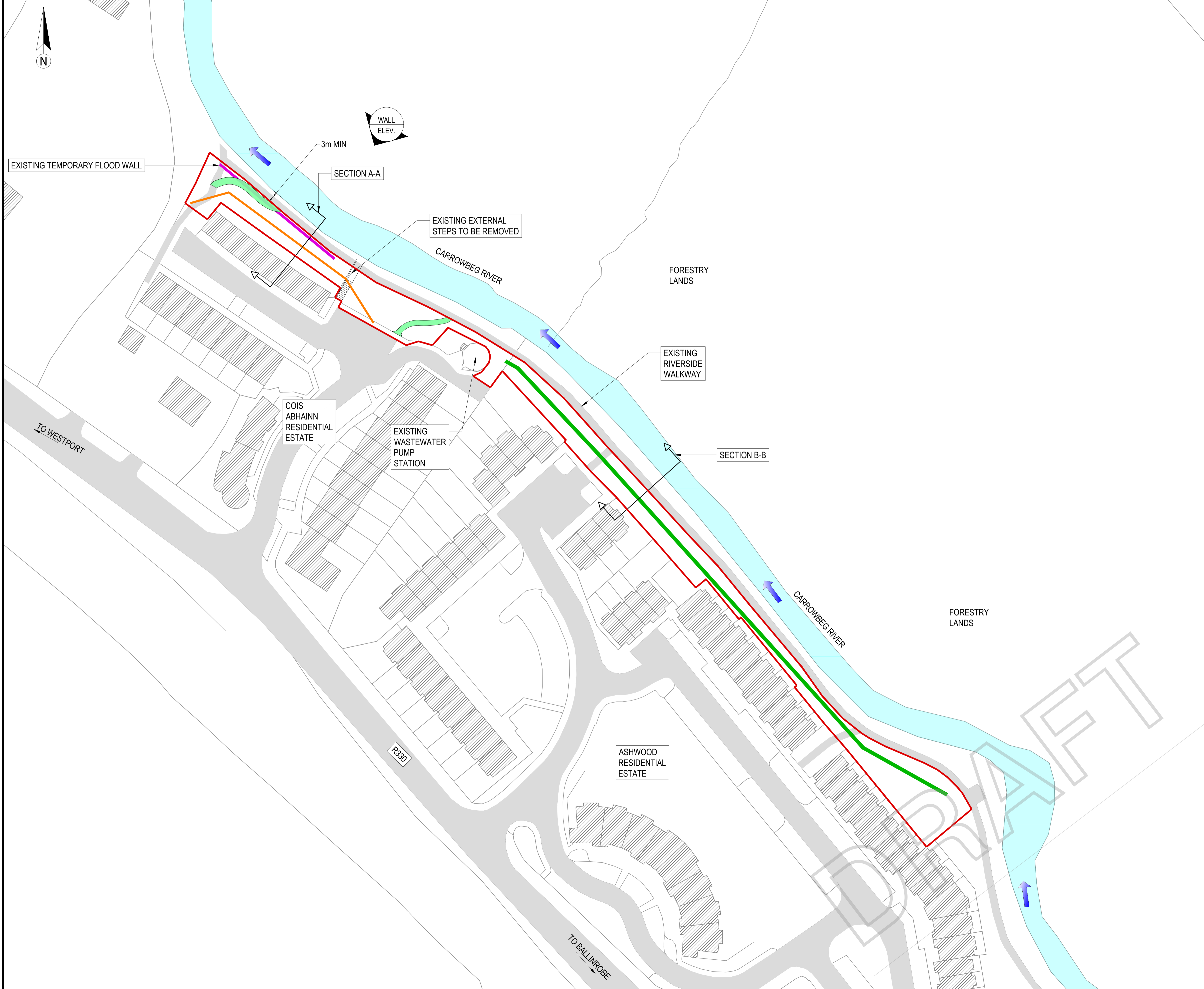
DATE	REV	BY	CHK	DESCRIPTION
10/09/21	DR01	PC	JL	FIRST DRAFT

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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).
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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:

—	PLANNING BOUNDARY
—	PROPOSED FLOOD WALL
—	PROPOSED FLOOD EMBANKMENT
—	PROPOSED NEW WALKWAYS

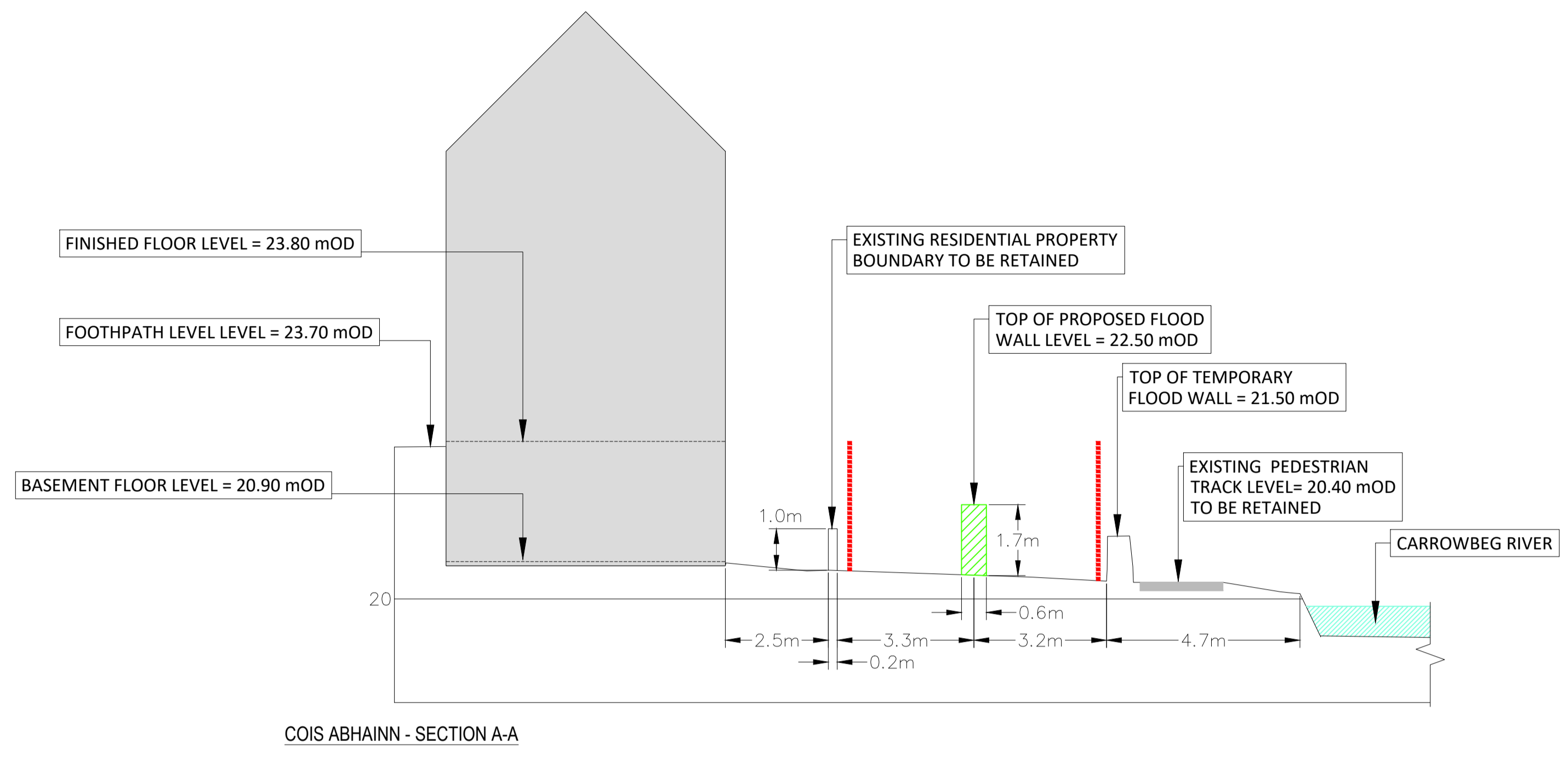
PLANNING

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

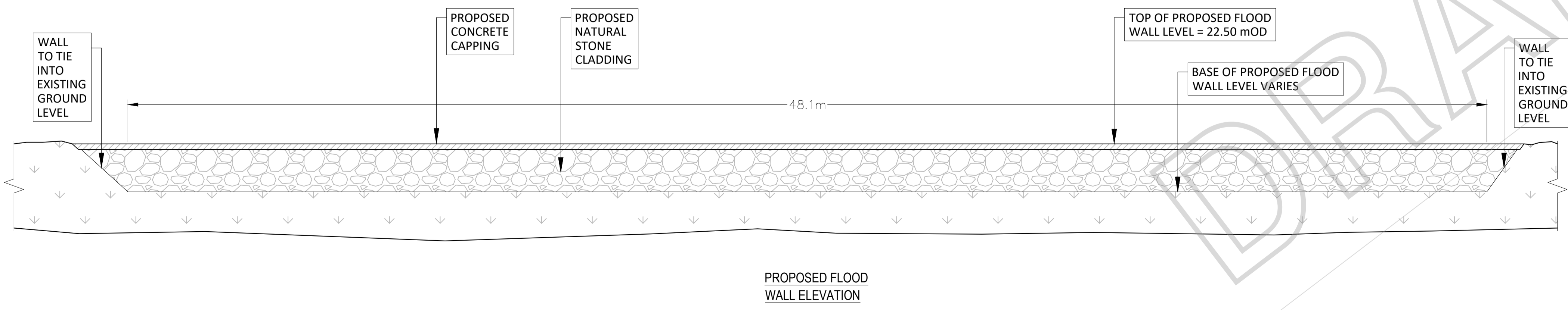
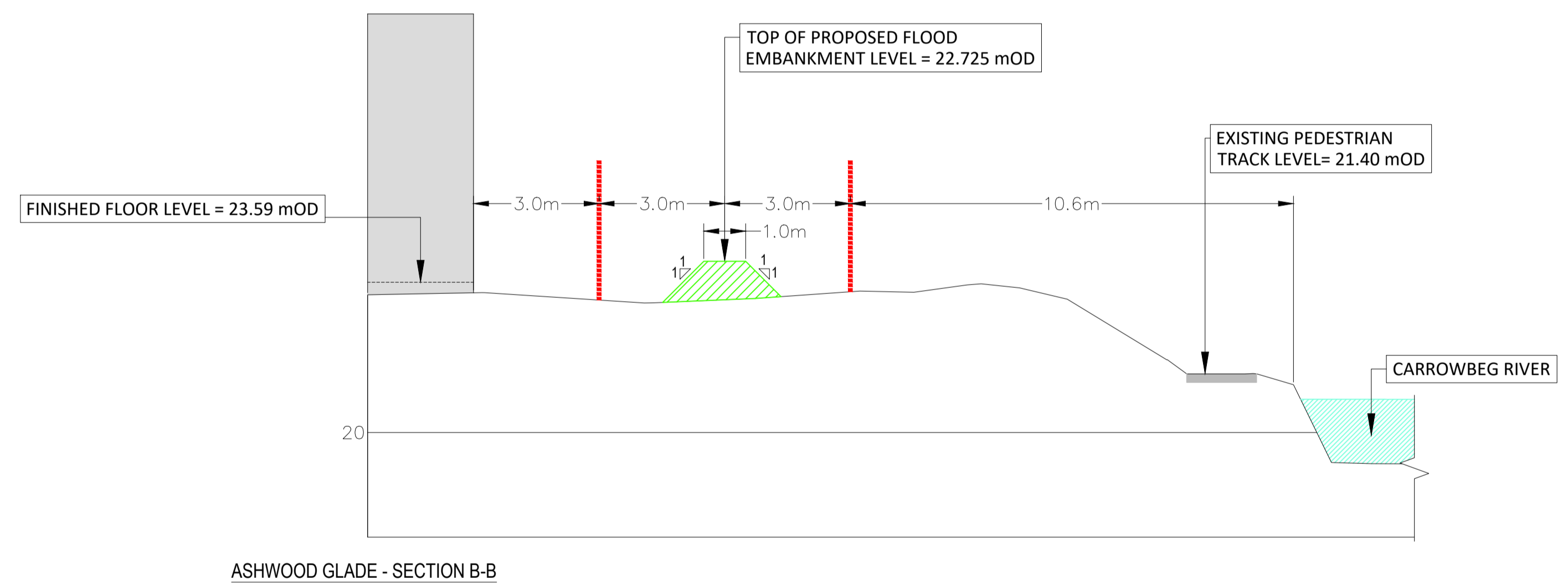
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PROJECT TITLE: COIS ABHAINN & ASHWOOD FLOOD CELL SCHEME, KILLAGHOOR, WESTPORT, CO. MAYO	DATE: SEP 2021
CLIENT: MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL	DRAWING NUMBER: 1102
JOB NUMBER: 19092	SCALE: 1:500 @ A1
DRAWING TITLE: SITE LAYOUT PLAN	DRAWING BY: PC
	CHECKED BY: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



PROPOSED FLOODWALL FINISH
[NATURAL STONE CLADDING]



- 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

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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