



**CONSTRUCTION OF BURIAL GROUND & CAR
PARKING FACILITIES AT BALLINAYA, BALLINROBE,
CO. MAYO**



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Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report comprises of an Appropriate Assessment Screening for the construction of a burial ground and car parking facilities at Ballinaya, Ballinrobe Co. Mayo in order determine whether or not this project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 sites (EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC), in view of the site's conservation objectives. The Natura network is made up of Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPA) and Special Conservation Areas (SAC) for habitats and species. The proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site. The findings of the assessment will determine whether the proposed development requires an Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

1.1 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

The ecological survey for this report was carried out on October 28th 2020 by Leo Brogan (B.Env., Sc. M.Sc and Dip. Field Ecol.) who has the relevant academic qualifications and experience to undertaking habitat surveys and appropriate assessments.

1.2 GUIDANCE

This report has been carried out using the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10¹.
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010)².
- 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 (EC 2000)³.
- 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 (EC 2002)⁴.

¹ NPWS (2010). Legislation Unit, NPWS Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place Dublin 2.

² National Parks and Wildlife Services (2010):

http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf

³ European Commission (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf

⁴ European Commission (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf

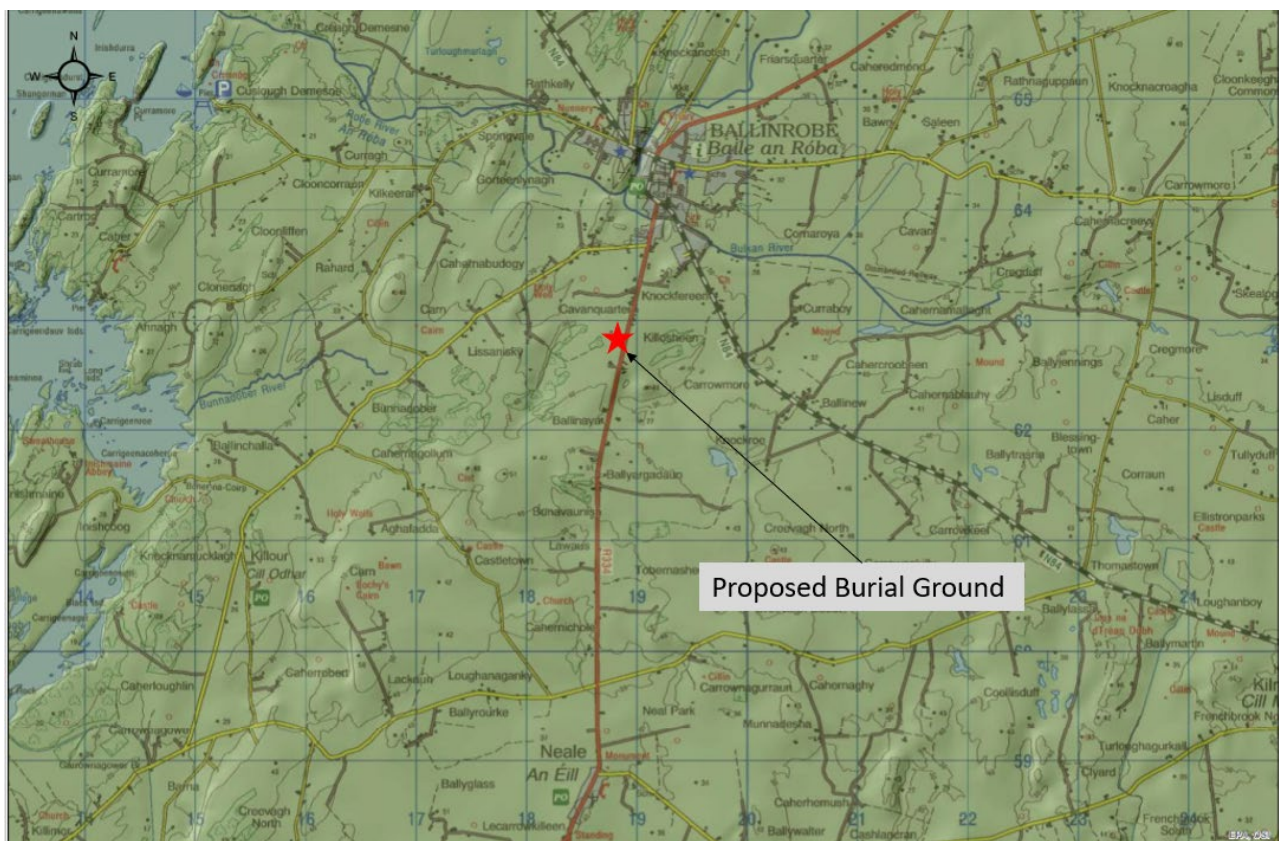
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC 2007)⁵.

2 SCREENING ASSESSMENT

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The 2.7 hectare site for the proposed new burial ground and carparking facilities is adjacent to the R334 regional road; approximately 2km south of Ballinrobe town and 4km north of The Neale village.

The proposed site is in a rural setting in which agricultural grassland is the predominant land use. Extensive patches of scrubland associated with limestone outcrops are found to the east and west of the site occurring in the centre (96.41 mOD) and slopes gently to the east (94.7 mOD) and west (94.3mOD).



Source: WFD Application

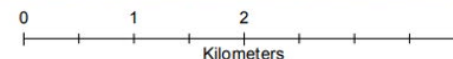


Figure 1 Location for proposed burial grounds and carparking facilities

⁵ European Commission (2007)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED FLOOD RELIEF WORKS

2.2.1 Description of Project

The construction of the proposed development shall consist of three main elements:

- 1) Vehicular and pedestrian access routes with direct access off the R334 between Ballinrobe and The Neale
- 2) Car parking facilities
- 3) Infilling with soil/ subsoil in the west of the site.
- 4) Burial ground

The proposed vehicular access road off the R334 will be located in place of an existing boreen serving a derelict house and outbuildings to the north-west of the subject site. The proposed vehicular entrance and front boundary walls shall be set back from the edge of the R334 to improve vehicular sightlines.

The proposed layout will allow for 100 no. car parking spaces. Pedestrian movement will be segregated from vehicular movement through the car park.

Selected tree, shrub planting and soft landscaping including wild flower meadows are proposed to break up the expanse of car parking area and to contribute to surface water drainage. Lighting shall also be provided. A line of deciduous trees are proposed along the front / east boundary of the site; to allow for screening of the development from the R334 regional route.

The proposed burial ground to accommodate approximately 1,400 burial plots of different sizes shall be predominantly located to the west and south of the site outlined in red as shown in Figure 2.

It is likely the project would be built in two phases:

- Approximate start date for Phase 1 is January 2022 with a 6-month construction period. This phase would include works on the R334, site entrance, car park area, all boundaries, soft landscaping, and the northern half of the burial ground (i.e. footpaths). Soil and subsoil stripped from the carparking area footprint will be infilled along the western boundary to ensure that the required depths of 2.5m are achieved for burial plots.
- Phase 2 is not likely to happen for approximately 15 years when the remaining plots in the southern half of the burial ground will be utilised.

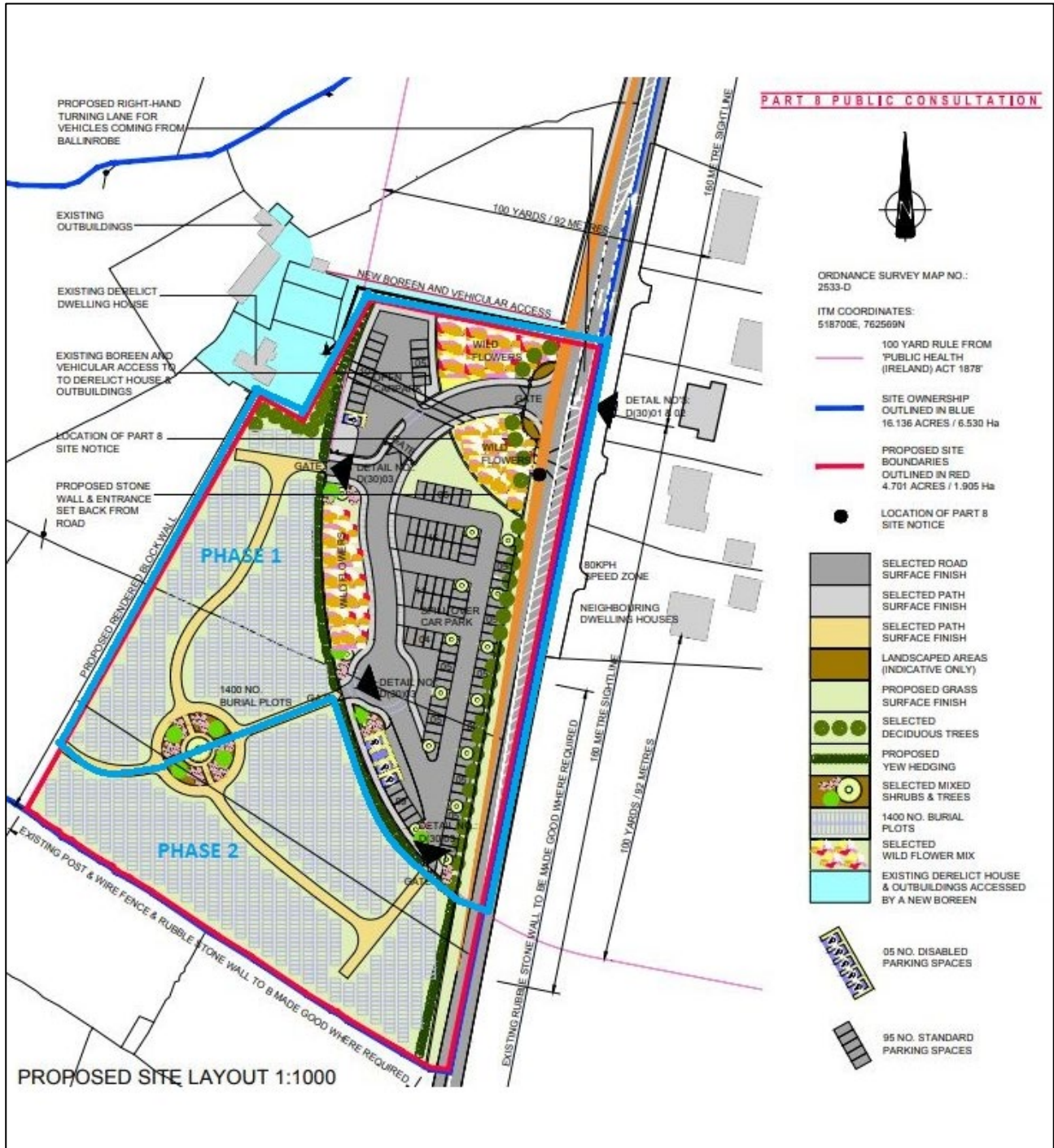


Figure 2 Proposed layout of Burial Ground and carparking facilities

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

2.3.1 Information Sources

The ecological desktop study to inform the Appropriate Assessment Screening completed for the proposed development comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the proposed development area through the identification of potential pathways/ links from the proposed development area and European sites and/ or supporting habitats;
- Review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) site synopses (Natura 2000 data form) and conservation objectives for European Sites⁶ with identification of potential pathways from the proposed development; and
- Review of available literature and online data. This included a detailed review of the NPWS website including mapping and available reports⁷ for relevant sites and in particular Qualifying Interests described and their conservation objectives.

An outline of the key datasets and information sources reviewed as part of the study are provided below:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) database of areas designated (and proposed) for nature conservation
- National Biodiversity Data Centre database (NBDC)⁸;
- EDEN Application⁹; and
- EPA Appropriate Assessment Geo Tool¹⁰
- OSI and Bing Maps aerial photography and mapping were used to identify non-designated semi-natural habitats of local ecological importance.

2.3.2 Existing Environment

The main habitat on the site is classified as GA1 (Agricultural Grassland) using Fossit 2000¹¹. BL1 (dry stone walls) of the traditional style in this region represent the field boundaries. A tarmacadam access road into the existing derelict house and farmyard is described as BL3, to the north of which runs a Hedgerow (WL1). This hedgerow is of low ecological value due to the gappy nature and restricted growth. A habitat map of the site is shown in Figure 3 while Figure 4 shows the site boundary with aerial mapping background.

⁶ National Parks and Wildlife Service: <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/> (accessed March, 2019)

⁷ National Parks and Wildlife Service: <http://www.npws.ie/mapsanddata/> (accessed March, 2019)

⁸ NBDC <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map> (accessed March, 2019)

⁹ EPA <https://www.edenireland.ie/home/secure> (accessed March, 2019)

¹⁰ EPA AA Geotool (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>) (accessed March, 2019)

¹¹ Fossit 2000. A guide to habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council

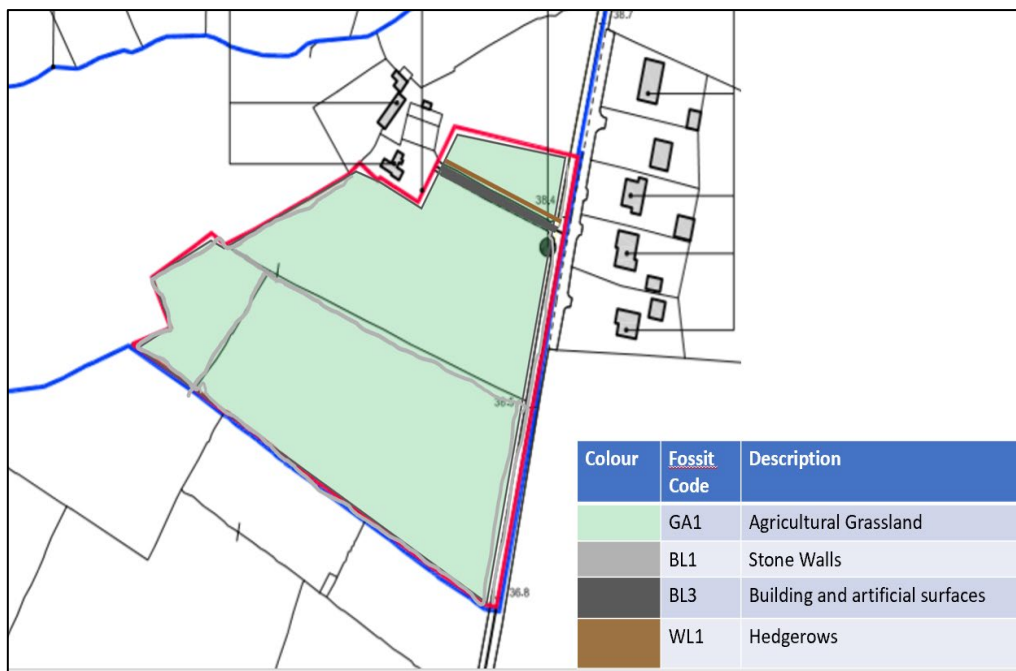


Figure 3 Ballinrobe Burial Ground Habitat Map



Figure 4 Aerial image of Burial Ground site outlined in red indicating GA1 as predominant habitat.

Figures 5-7 shown the main habitat types on the site identified during the site visit on October 28th 2020.



Figure 5 View of Agricultural Grassland looking east towards R344



Figure 6 View west from R344 showing BL3 and low value WL1



Figure 7 View east toward R344 showing BL1 typical of the site

A series of 12 trial holes were excavated across the site to determine the suitability of the site from a geotechnical perspective as shown in Figure 8 . In 7 out of 12 cases bedrock or water table were not encountered in 2.2m trial holes while shallow bedrock was encountered in the remaining 5 trial holes. Depth of subsoil varied with elevation being shallowest in the west of the site and increased in an easterly direction. The site investigations indicated that this location was largely suitable for the purposes of a burial ground with stripped soil and subsoil to be retained and infilled in the western of the burial ground plot providing the necessary depth of cover for interment purposes.

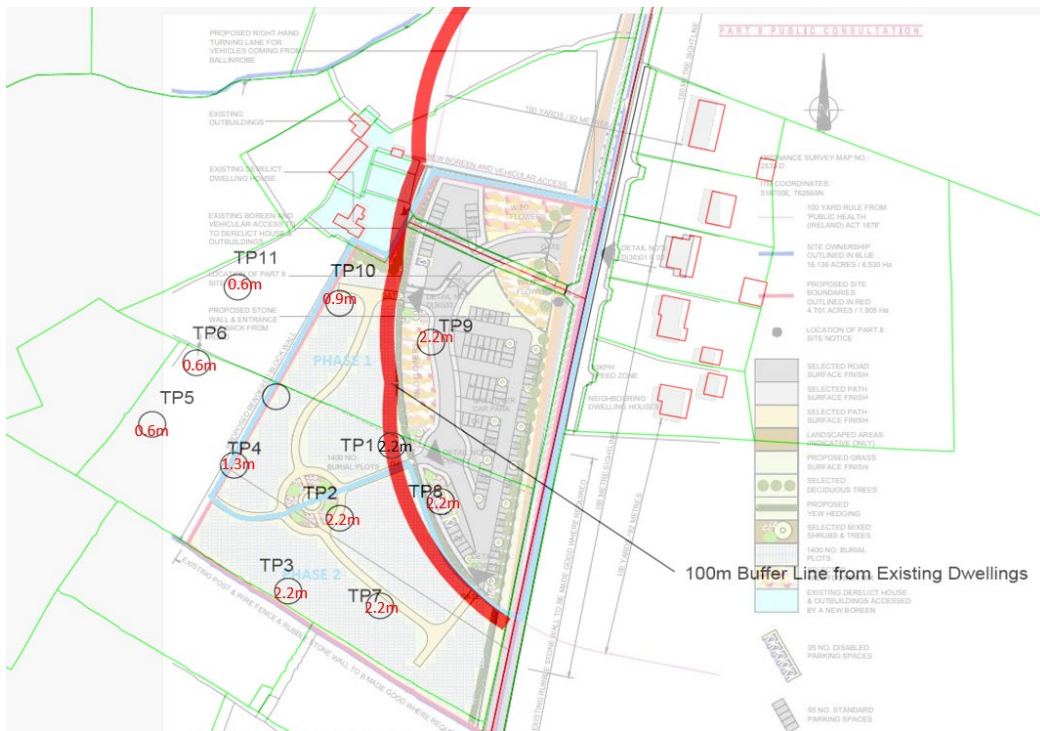


Figure 8 Map of site investigation trial holes with depth to bedrock in red

2.3.2.1 Water Quality

A review of the EPA Eden website¹² indicates the Robe_060 waterbody, located 1 km to the north of the site, is currently at Good Ecological Status based on the 2013 to 2018 dataset.

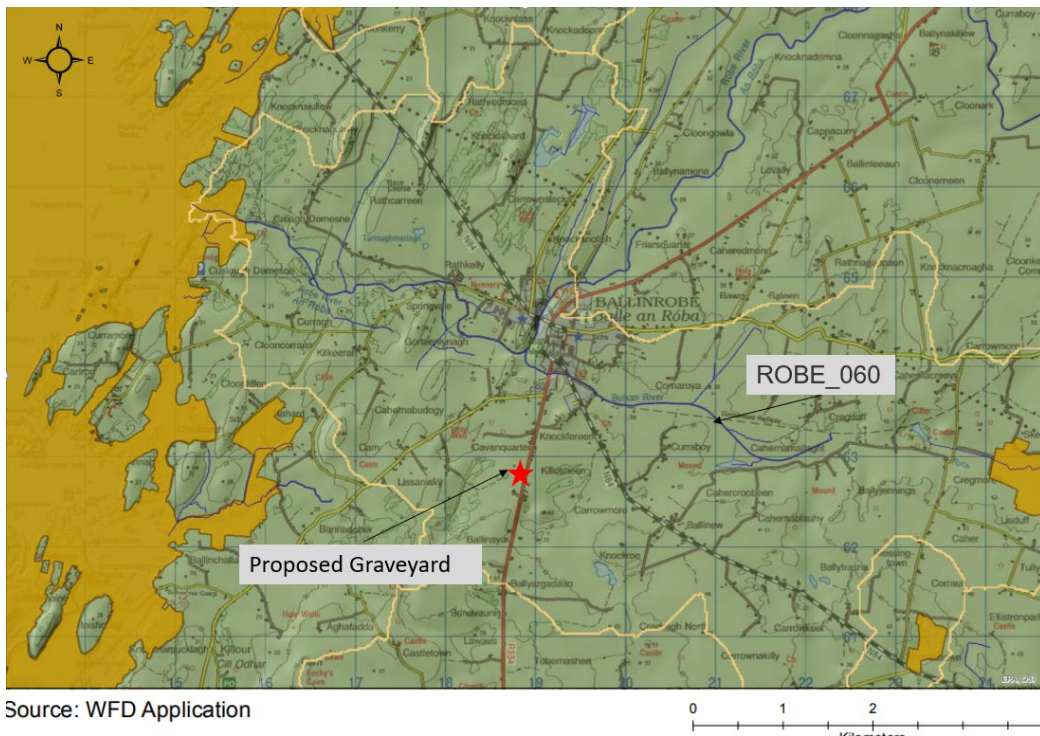


Figure 9 Waterbodies in the vicinity of the proposed Burial Ground (EPA Eden)

¹² EPA Eden Website <https://wfd.edenireland.ie/> Accessed 02/07/2109

The site is located in the Cong-Robe (IE_WE_G_0019) ground water body which is currently at good status.

A search of the Geological Survey of Ireland Mapping Service revealed that the site has been classified as Extremely Vulnerable (in this case a Regionally Important Karstified Aquifer (Rkc) within 1-3m of surface) . Groundwater vulnerability maps are based on the type and thicknesses of subsoils (glacial tills in the case of this site) and the presence of karst features. All land area is assigned one of the following groundwater vulnerability categories: Rock near surface or karst (X) Extreme (E) High (H) Moderate (M) Low (L). There are no Karst features (e.g. springs, swallow holes) mapped within or adjacent to the site in question.

Soils at the site are classified as BminPD - Mineral poorly drained (Mainly basic) with the parent material described as limestone till (TLs).

The general groundwater flow path in the site would be in a westerly direction. There is a large spring at Bunnaduber 2.2 km to the west of the site whose source has been identified, using dye tracing test, as being from swallow holes and turloughs 12 km to the east.¹³

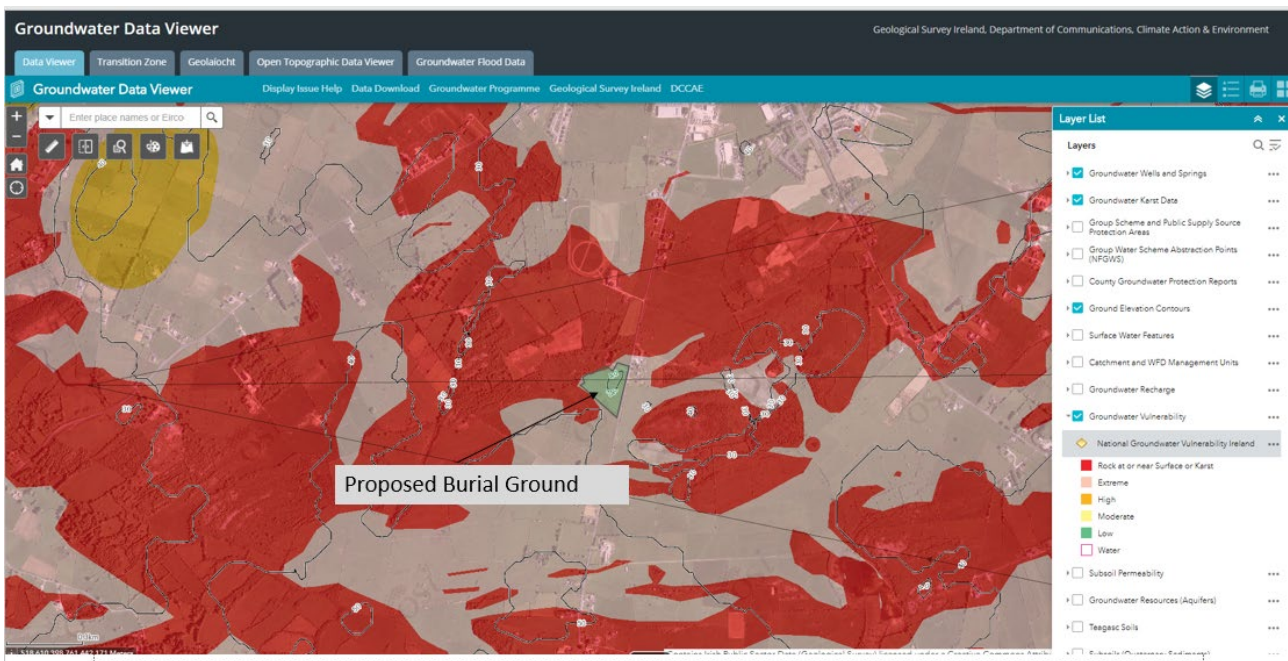


Figure 10 Groundwater Vulnerability and Karst Features on GSI Groundwater Mapping service

¹³ Geological Survey of Ireland Website

<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=bc0dba38f3f5477c8fd400f66b5eedcd> (accessed 10/11/20)

2.3 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITES

A standard source-receptor-pathway conceptual model was used to identify a preliminary list of ‘relevant’ European sites (i.e. those which could be potentially affected). This conceptual model is a standard tool in environmental assessment. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. In the context of the proposed development, the model comprises:

- Source (s) – e.g. sediment run-off from the proposed development
- Pathway (s) – e.g. drains and streams connecting to a European site
- Receptor (s) – Qualifying habitats and species of European sites

There are 19 European sites (16 SACs and 3 SPAs) located within 15km of the proposed development site (Figures 10 and 11). In addition, this screening assessment includes an evaluation of whether there are any pathways for effects on European Sites located outside of the 15km buffer potentially arising from the proposed development.

The pathways for effects, potential impacts and an evaluation of significance with reference to the European sites listed below are presented in Table 2.2 and 2.3 below, where the potential for a source-receptor-pathway relationship has been identified.



Figure 11 Special Areas of Conservation Sites with 15 km radius of the Ballinrobe Burial Site



Figure 12 SPAs with 15km of the proposed Burial Site

Table 2-1 SACs within a 15km radius of the proposed development

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species	Approx. Distance From Works (km)	Connectivity/pathway
001774	Lough Carra/Mask Complex	3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. 4030 European dry heaths 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)(* important orchid sites) 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion dadavallianae</i> * 7230 Alkaline fens 8240 Limestone pavement* 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)*	1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	2.5	Potential Indirect groundwater connection. Given the <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Separation distance 2. competent nature of the bedrock at the site 3. absence of karstic features and 4. the absence of surface water features it is considered that this pathway does not have the potential to act as conduit for significant effects

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species	Approx. Distance From Works (km)	Connectivity/pathway
00480	Clyard Kettle-holes SAC	3180 Turloughs* 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> *	None	3.9 southeast	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
000541	Skealoghan Turlough SAC	3180 Turloughs*		5.2	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
002320	Kildun Souterrain SAC		1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	7.2	No connection
000504	Kilglassan/ Caheravoostia Turlough Complex SAC	3180 Turloughs*		7.7	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
001536	Mocorha Lough SAC	7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> *		7.8	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species	Approx. Distance From Works (km)	Connectivity/pathway
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	<p>Habitats</p> <p>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p> <p>3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of <i>the Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</p> <p>3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.</p> <p>3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation</p> <p>6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)(* important orchid sites)</p> <p>6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>7110 Active raised bogs*</p> <p>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i>*</p> <p>7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*</p> <p>7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>8240 Limestone pavements*</p> <p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</p> <p>91D0 Bog woodland*</p>	<p>Species</p> <p>1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)</p> <p>1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austroptamobiuspalipes</i>)</p> <p>1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</p> <p>1393 Slender Green Feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladusvernicosus</i>)</p> <p>1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</p> <p>1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophushipposideros</i>)</p> <p>1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p> <p>1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)</p> <p>1833 Slender Naiad (<i>Najasflexis</i>)</p>	8.1	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species	Approx. Distance From Works (km)	Connectivity/pathway
000461	Ardkill Turlough SAC	3180 Turloughs*	None	8.3	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
000503	Greaghans Turlough SAC	3180 Turloughs*	None	9.6	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
000525	Shrule Turlough SAC	3180 Turloughs*	None	10	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
000474	Ballymaglancy Cave, Cong SAC	8310 Caves not open to the public	1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	10.8	No pathway for effects
000526	Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC	None	1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	11.6	No pathway for effects
000475	Carrowkeel Turlough SAC	3180 Turloughs*	None	12	No pathway for effects as general groundwater flow direction is westerly direction
0002179	Towerhill House SAC	None	1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	12.1	No pathway for effects

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species	Approx. Distance From Works (km)	Connectivity/pathway
000479	Cloughmoyne SAC	8240 Limestone pavements*	None	13.1	No pathway for effects
0002298	River Moy SAC	7110 Active raised bogs* 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 7230 Alkaline fens 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)*	1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobiuspalipes</i>) 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	13.6	No pathway for effects

Table 2-2 SPAS within a 15km radius of the proposed development

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Approx. Distance From Works (km)	Connectivity/pathway
004062	Lough Mask SPA	Birds A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) Habitats Wetlands*	5 west	Potential Indirect groundwater connection. Given the <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Separation distance 2. competent nature of the bedrock at the site 3. absence of karstics features and 4. the absence of surface water features
004052	Lough Carra SPA	A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	5.5 west	it is considered that this pathway does not have the potential to act as conduit for significant effects
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) A082 Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) A051 Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) Habitats Wetlands	8.7 west	Considering separation distance and westerly groundwater flow direction no pathway for effects.

3 ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON THE SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE

Due to the absence of pathways for effects as evaluated in Table 2.2 and 2.3 above, it is considered that there are no Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the proposed project. Table 2-6 below provides an assessment of the significance of any potential effects on the conservation objectives of this Natura 2000 site.

Table 2-1 Screening Matrix for Assessment of Significance of Potential Impacts

Screening Matrix for Assessment of Significance of Potential Impacts on Conservation Objectives	
Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites	<p>The 6 month construction programme will involve the stripping of topsoil/subsoil and the installation of hard surfaces, the majority of which will be tarmac for the access route and car parking facilities. Granular material is proposed for the pathways within the burial ground itself. Soil and subsoil excavated for hard surfaces will be retained for backfilled the burial plot area in the west of the site.</p> <p>The operational phase is proposed to provide a total of 1400 burial plots over its lifetime. Phase 1 will see interments commencing in the west of the site. Phase 2 is estimated to commence 15 years after Phase 1.</p>
Assessment of the likelihood of direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites	<p>Size and Scale The scale of these works is relatively minor in nature (soil/subsoil stripping) with no rock breaking required. A construction schedule of 6 months is indicated. Use of concrete during construction will be limited to bedding for kerbing and mortar for hard landscaping areas.</p> <p>Land-take There will be no land take from the Natura 2000 sites or from adjacent connecting habitats.</p> <p>Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key feature of the site Lough Carra/Mask Complex is the closest Natura 2000 site to the proposed burial ground at 2.5km west.</p> <p>Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.,) No resources associated with the Natura 2000 site considered will be required for the works.</p> <p>Emissions (disposal to land, water, air etc.,) There will be emissions to air and noise associated with the plant used during construction but given the separation distances involved to the Natura 2000 sites, no effects are predicted. Any accidental releases of hydrocarbons in the form of hydraulic fluids during bulk excavation works in Phase 1 works for example will be intercepted and attenuated by the deep poorly draining soils which overlie the bedrock in this area. No toilet facilities are proposed which removes the requirement for emission of wastewater to land/groundwater.</p> <p>The risk of groundwater contamination from formaldehyde used in the embalming fluids was considered during the design phase of the project.</p>

	<p>Where depth to bedrock did not meet with requirements infilling with insitu excavated soils/subsoil was proposed. The 1m of undisturbed unsaturated zone beneath the burial zone and the infilled poorly drained soil/subsoil will allow some chemical degradation to occur and will attenuate contaminants thus providing protection to the underlying bedrock aquifer.</p> <p>Due to the competent nature of the bedrock and the absence of karst features intergranular flow rates will be low and thus the pathway does not have the potential to act as conduit for significant effects on the Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC and Lough Carra SPA .</p> <p>Excavation requirements During the construction phase soil/subsoil stripping with take place prior to installation of access roads and parking facilities. During the operational phase burial plots will be excavated to required depth and where the site investigation programme indicated shallow bedrock in the burial plot areas, infilling with excavated soil/subsoil will take place.</p> <p>Transportation requirements Work vehicles will be delivered to site during the construction phase along with vehicles required to transport construction personnel. During the operational phase funeral corteges will use the parking facilities.</p> <p>Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning It is anticipated that access road and parking facilities will be completed in 6 months. Phase one will see burial plots in the northern section of the site for the first 15 years after which time plots will be excavated in southern section of the site.</p> <p>Noise and light Pollution Any noise pollution due to handheld or mechanical equipment will not have any effects on the qualifying species.</p> <p>Potential in-combination impacts It is considered that the proposed works are of such a limited size, scale and duration that the potential for in combination effects with this project is negligible.</p>
<p>Likely changes to the Natura 2000 sites arising from the development as a result of ;</p>	<p>Reduction of habitat area The project will not result in the loss of any qualifying habitats associated with the qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Disturbance to key species Otter is the only aquatic species listed among the QI of nearest Natura 2000 site (Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC). This development will have no direct or indirect effects due to the absence of surface water features within the site and surrounding lands.</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation The project will not result in any habitat or species fragmentation. Salmon will not be impeded or disturbed.</p>

	<p>Reduction in species density Due to the small scale and short duration of the works species densities will not be affected.</p> <p>Changes in key indicators or conversation value (water quality etc.) Q values or results of physicochemical parameters at EPA operational monitoring stations are highly unlikely to be negatively impacted by these works due to the separation distances involved (> 1km to the nearest waterbody).</p>
Describe the likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site	Due to the nature, scale and short duration of the works, no significant interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of any of the Natura 2000 sites is predicted.
Describe from the above the elements of the project or plan or combination of elements where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of the magnitude of the impact is not known	None. There are no such elements of the works where the above elements are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known

4 SCREENING CONCLUSION

Using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model the Appropriate Assessment screening process considered the likely impact of the proposed burial ground in Ballinrobe on all Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius.

Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the works, it has been concluded that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests or the conservation objectives of any designated European Site.

Consequently, the proposed works do not need to proceed to Stage 2 -Appropriate Assessment.

