



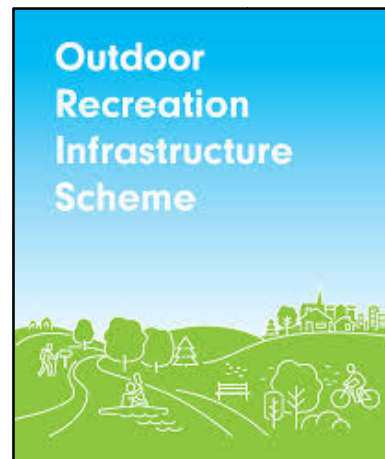
**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**CHOMHARLE CONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)  
ARTICLE 81**



**An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



## **Great Arch Access Project**

### **Part 8 Planning Report**

Prepared by : Donegal County Council  
Community Development  
Station Island  
Lifford  
Co Donegal

Date : August 2019

# Document Control Sheet

Client Details	Municipal District – Letterkenny Milford
	Work on behalf of the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District

Report Title	Part 8 Planning Report
Project Name	Great Arch Access Project
Location	Pollet, Co. Donegal
Project Ref:	Q:\Bridges & EIS\C&E Projects\2019001

Rev.No	Status	Report Date	Author(s)		Reviewed By		Approved By	
A	Final	July 2019	JD	07/19	SM	07/19	JK	07/19

## **1. Introduction**

Donegal County Council proposes to carry out development of a pathway, car park, viewing area and associated works in the townland of Pollet in the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District.

## **2. Extents & Nature of the Works**

The proposed development is contained within two sites 0.45Ha (Extensive Footpath) & 0.2Ha (carpark) in size, located at the end of the local road (L-10721) in the townland of Pollet and will include the following works;

1. Provision of car and bus parking facilities.
2. Creation of a 1m wide path through agricultural land with a suitable sub-base and an appropriate finish.
3. Creation of a small viewing area at the end of the proposed path.
4. Piping and/or repair / cleaning of existing drainage channels and culverts.
5. Fencing of new path and viewing area.
6. Erection of way marking and directional signage.
7. Installation of trail furniture such as picnic tables and benches.
8. Vegetation removal and site clearance.

The overall extent of the works is shown on Drawing No 2018/ORIS/FA/001 Site Locations.

# **Appendix A**

## **Planning Notice**



# SITE NOTICE

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)  
ARTICLE 81**

TAKE NOTICE that Donegal County Council proposes to carry out the following development of a pathway, car park and viewing area in the townland of Pollet, located in the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District as scheduled below.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORK**

No.	Title	Townlands	Local Office(s) For Viewing Plans
1	Great Arch Access Project	Pollet	Milford Public Service Centre, Main Street, Milford, F92 TD0P Letterkenny Public Service Centre, Neil T Blaney Road, Letterkenny, F92 TNY3
<b>Description and Extents</b>			
Donegal County Council proposes to carry out the development of a pathway, car park, viewing area and associated works in the townland of Pollet in the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District.			
The proposed access works will include;			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provision of car and bus parking facilities.</li><li>Creation of a 1m wide path through agricultural land with a suitable sub-base and an appropriate finish.</li><li>Creation of a small viewing area at the end of the proposed path.</li><li>Piping and/or repair / cleaning of existing drainage channels and culverts.</li><li>Fencing of new path and viewing area.</li><li>Erection of way marking and directional signage.</li><li>Installation of trail furniture such as picnic tables and benches.</li><li>Vegetation removal and site clearance.</li></ol>			

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the development, that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not required.

The plans and particulars of this proposed development will be available for inspection (or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy,) at

Location	Address	Opening Hours
Milford Public Service Centre	Main Street, Milford, F92 TD0P	9:00am – 12.30pm and 1.00pm – 5.00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am – 12.30pm and 1.00pm – 4.30p.m on Fridays.
Letterkenny Public Service Centre	Neil T Blaney Road, Letterkenny, F92 TNY3	9:00am – 12.30pm and 1.00pm – 5.00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am – 12.30pm and 1.00pm – 4.30p.m on Fridays.

The proposed plans will be available for inspection from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing to The Co. Secretariat, Donegal County Council, Lifford, County Donegal, before 4.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

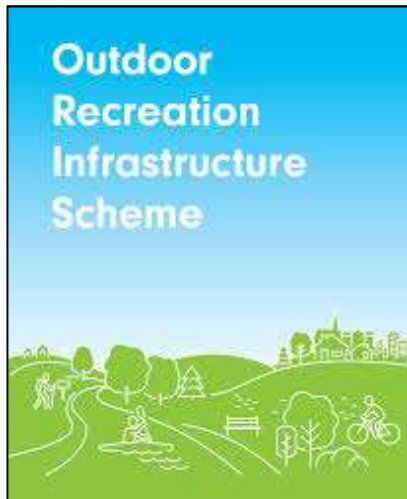
**Please mark the front of the envelope with the project name as per the above schedule.**

**Signed: Liam Ward, Director of Service**

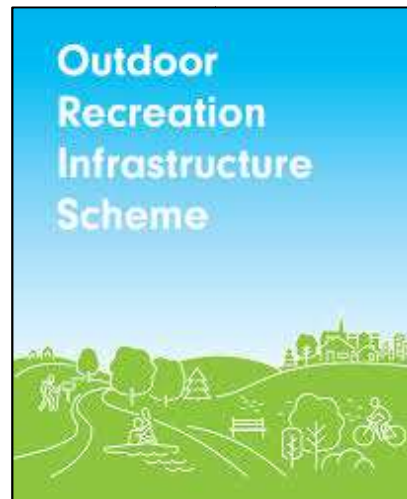
**Community Development & Planning Services, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford.**



**An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



**An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



**AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000 (arna leasú)  
RIALACHÁIN PLEANÁLA AGUS FORBARTHA 2001 (arna leasú)  
ALT 81**

**FÓGRA DE BHUN ALT 81, MÍR 8 DE NA RIALACHÁIN THUASLUAITE, MAIDIR LE FORBAIRT ATÁ BEARTAITHE AG COMHAIRLE CONTAE DHÚN NA nGALL**

**TABHAIR DO D'AIRE go bhfuil sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall cosán, carrchlós agus ionad amhairc a fhorbairt, de réir mar atá leagtha amach thíos, i mbaile fearainn Phollaide, atá suite i gCeantar Bardasach Leitir Ceanainn Bhaile na nGallóglach de réir mar atá sceidealaithe thíos.**

**SCEIDEAL DEN OBAIR BHEARTAITHE**

Uimh.	Teideal	Bailte Fearainn	Oifigí Áitiúla ina dtig Amharc ar Phleananna
1	Tionscadal Rochtana na hÁirse Móire	Pollaid	Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Bhaile na nGallóglach, an Phríomhshráid, Baile na nGallóglach, F92 TD0P Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Leitir Ceanainn, Bóthar N. T. Uí Bhléine, Leitir Ceanainn, F92 TNY3
<b>Cur síos agus Réim</b>			
TABHAIR DO D'AIRE go bhfuil sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall cosán, carrchlós, ionad amhairc agus oibreacha bainteacha a fhorbairt i mbaile fearainn Phollaide, i gCeantar Bardasach Leitir Ceanainn Bhaile na nGallóglach.			
Cuimseoidh na hoibreacha beartaithe;			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Saoráidí páirceála a chruthú faoi choinne carranna agus busanna.</li><li>Cosán 1m ar leithead a chruthú trí thalamh talmhaíochta ag a mbeidh fo-bhonn fóirsteanach agus bailchríoch iomchuí.</li><li>Ionad amhairc beag a chruthú ag deireadh an chosáin bheartaithe.</li><li>Píopaí úra a leagan sna cainéil draenála agus sna lintéir atá ann cheana agus/nó iad a chóiriú / a ghlanadh.</li><li>Fálú don chosán agus don ionad amhairc úr.</li><li>Comharthaíocht léirithe treo a fheistiú.</li><li>Troscán riain a fheistiú amhail táblaí agus binsí picnice.</li><li>Baint ar shiúl fásra agus glanadh suímh.</li><li></li></ol>			

Tabhair do d'aire go bhfuil Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall den bharúil, i gcomhréir le hAlt 120(1)(b)(i) de na Rialacháin Pleanála agus Forbartha 2001 (arna leasú) agus bunaithe ar réamh-imscrúdú ar nádúr, méid agus suíomh na forbartha, nach bhfuil gá le Tuairisc Measúnachta Tionchair Timpeallachta.

Beidh pleananna agus sonraí na forbartha beartaithe seo ar fáil lena mbreithniú (nó lena gceannach ar tháille nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a thiocfadh le cóip a dhéanamh,) ag

Suíomh	Seoladh	Uaireanta Oscailte
Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Bhaile na nGallóglach	An Phríomhshráid, Baile na nGallóglach, F92 TD0P	9:00am – 12.30pm agus 1.00pm – 5.00pm ó Luan go Déardaoin agus ó 9:00am – 12.30pm agus 1.00pm – 4.30p.m Dé hAoine.
Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Leitir Ceanainn	Bóthar N. T. Uí Bhléine, Leitir Ceanainn, F92 TNY3	9:00am – 12.30pm agus 1.00pm – 5.00pm ó Luan go Déardaoin agus ó 9:00am – 12.30pm agus 1.00pm – 4.30p.m Dé hAoine.

Beidh na pleananna beartaithe ar fáil lena mbreithniú ón Aoine, an 2<sup>ú</sup> Lúnasa 2019 – an Luan, an 2<sup>ú</sup> Meán Fómhair, 2019.

Is féidir aighneachtaí agus tuairimí i dtaca leis an fhorbairt bheartaithe, a phléann le pleanáil agus forbairt chóir an cheantair ina mbeidh an fhorbairt lonnaithe, a chur isteach i scríbhinn chuig Rúnaíocht an Chontae, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Leifear, Contae Dhún na nGall, roimh 4.30pm Dé Luain, an 16<sup>ú</sup> Meán Fómhair, 2019.

Iarrtar ort ainm an tionscadail, mar atá leagtha amach sa sceideal thuas, a chur ar thosach an chlúdaigh.

Iarrtar ort ainm an tionscadail, mar atá leagtha amach sa sceideal thuas, a chur ar thosach an chlúdaigh.

Sínithe ag: Liam Ward, Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse

Seirbhísí Forbairt Pobail agus Pleanála, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chontae, Leifear.





PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)  
ARTICLE 81

NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 81, PART 8 OF THE ABOVE REGULATIONS, RELATING TO A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

TAKE NOTICE that Donegal County Council proposes to upgrade approx. 7km of the existing Muckish Railway Walk to Greenway standard through the townlands of Carrowmaddy, Kildarragh, Ray, Moyra Glebe and Dunmore located in the Glenties Municipal District as scheduled below as part of Phase 1 of the proposed Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway.

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORK

No.	Title	Townlands	Local Office(s) For Viewing Plans
1	Muckish Railway Walk Upgrade (Phase 1 of the proposed Burtonport to Letterkenny Greenway)	Carrowmaddy, Kildarragh, Ray, Moyra Glebe and Dunmore	Donegal County Council, County House, The Diamond, Lifford, F93 V622 Dungloe Public Service Centre, Gweedore Road, Dungloe, Co. Donegal, F94 H4CF

Description and Extents

Donegal County Council proposes to upgrade approx. 7km of the existing Muckish Railway Walk to Greenway standard including related ancillary works.

The proposed development incorporates the following principal features: vegetation and site clearance; provision of a sealed surface path with a desirable maximum width of 3m and a general minimum width of 2m; provision of car parking facilities at Carrowmaddy; provision of traffic calming and safety measures at road crossings; provision of agricultural crossings; provision of boundary fencing, walls and railings; culverts and drains; provision of ducting; provision of way marking and directional signage and other relevant trail furniture including seating, cycle stands, landscaping and all ancillary development and associated accommodation works.

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, site and location of the development, that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) is not required.

The plans and particulars of this proposed development will be available for inspection (or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy,) at

Location	Address	Opening Hours
The Planning Department/Reception, Donegal County Council	County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, F93 V622	9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 4:30pm on Fridays.
Dungloe Public Service Centre	Gweedore Road, Dungloe, Co. Donegal, F94 H4CF	9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 4:30pm on Fridays.

The proposed plans will be available for inspection from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing to The Co. Secretary, Donegal County Council, Lifford, County Donegal, before 4.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Please mark the front of the envelope with the project name as per the above schedule.

Signed: Liam Ward, Director of Service  
Community Development & Planning Services, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford.



AN tACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000 (arna leasú)  
RIALACHÁIN PLEANÁLA AGUS FORBARTHA 2001 (arna leasú)  
ALT 81

FÓGRA DE BHUN ALT 81, MÍR 8 DE NA RIALACHÁIN THUSUATTE, MAIDIR LE FORBAIRT ATÁ BEARTAITHE AG COMHAIRLE CONTAE DHÚN NA nGALL

Uimh.	Téideal	Bailte	Fearlaim	Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn
1	Uasghráidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn	Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn	Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn	Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn

Cur síos agus Réim

Tá sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall uasghráidí a dhéanamh ar thart ar 7km de Shuíodí Iarróidí na Mucsaí go dtí cailgheáin Glashealaigh, lena n-áirítear oibreacha comhleasacha bainteacha.

Cuimsíonn an fhorbairt bheartaithe na príomhghnéithe seo a leanas: glanadh súmh agus fáisra, soláthar cosán dromchla seálaíche darb uasleithead innhianaithe 3m agus darb íosléithead glinaeáil 2m; soláthar saoráid páircéala do charrama ag Ceathrú na Madaí; soláthar bearta ceaniseithe trácha agus sábháilteachta ag trasnata bóthair; soláthar trasnata talmhaíochta; soláthar fáil, bailiú agus ráilí críche; línirí agus draenacha soláthar ductha; soláthar marcáil bealaigh agus comharthaí léirithe treo, agus troscán cuí riin lena n-áirítear suíocháin, seastáin rothair, tífiríneachú agus gach obsair choimleasach forbartha agus cóireala bhainteach.

Tabhair do d'áire go bhfuil Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall den bharúil, i gcomhréir le hArt 120(1)(b)(i) de na Rialacháin Pleanála agus Forbairtha 2001 (arna leasú) agus bunaithe ar rannh-inscrúid ar ndóir, méid agus suíomh na forbartha, nach bhfuil gá le Tuairisc Measúnachta Tronchair Timpaeilachta.

Beidh pleananna agus sonraí na forbartha beartaithe seo ar fáil lena mbeithníú (nó lena gceannach ar thailie nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a thíofaigh le cóip a dhéanamh) ag

Suíomh	Soclaigh	Uaireanna Oscailte
Roinn Pleanála/Fáilíu, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall	Teach an Chiontae, Leitíear, Co. Dhún na nGall, F93 V622	9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 5:00pm 6 uan go Déardaoin agus 6 9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 4:30pm De hAoine.
Ionad Seirbhíse Pobail an Chlocháin Léith	Bóthar Ghaoth Dobhair, an Clocháin Iath, Co. Dhún na nGall, F94 H4CF	9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 5:00pm 6 uan go Déardaoin agus 6 9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 4:30pm De hAoine.

Beidh na pleananna beartaithe ar fáil lena mbeithníú ón Aoine, an 2<sup>nd</sup> Lúnasa 2019 – an Luan, an 2<sup>nd</sup> Meán Fómhair, 2019.

Is féidir aighneachtaí agus tuairimí i dtaca leis an fhorbairt bheartaithe, a phléamh le pleanáil agus forbairt chu an cheadair ina mbeidh an fhorbairt ionaithe, a chur isteach i scríbhinn chúig Rúnadóir an Chiontae, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Leitíear, Contae Dhún na nGall, roimh 4.30pm De Luan, an 16<sup>th</sup> Meán Fómhair, 2019.

Iarrtar ort ailm an tionscadail, mar atá leagtha amach sa scéideal thuas, a chur ar thosach an chluiligh. Sínithe ag: Liam Ward, Súitiríoch Seirbhíse Seirbhíse Forbairt Pobail agus Pleanála, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, Leitíear.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)  
ARTICLE 81

NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 81, PART 8 OF THE ABOVE REGULATIONS, RELATING TO A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

TAKE NOTICE that Donegal County Council proposes to carry out the following development of a pathway, car park and viewing area in the townland of Pollet, located in the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District as scheduled below.

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORK

No.	Title	Townlands	Local Office(s) For Viewing Plans
1	Great Arch Access Project	Pollet	Milford Public Service Centre, Main Street, Milford, F92 TDOP Letterkenny Public Service Centre, Neil T Blaney Road, Letterkenny, F92 TNV3

Description and Extents

Donegal County Council proposes to carry out the development of a pathway, car park, viewing area and associated works in the townland of Pollet in the Letterkenny Milford Municipal District.

The proposed access works will include:

1. Provision of car and bus parking facilities.
2. Creation of a 1m wide path through agricultural land with a suitable sub-base and an appropriate finish.
3. Creation of a small viewing area at the end of the proposed path.
4. Piping and/or repair / cleaning of existing drainage channels and culverts.
5. Fencing of new path and viewing area.
6. Erection of way marking and directional signage.
7. Installation of trail furniture such as picnic tables and benches.
8. Vegetation removal and site clearance.

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, site and location of the development, that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) is not required.

The plans and particulars of this proposed development will be available for inspection (or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy,) at

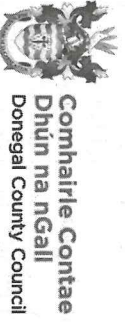
Location	Address	Opening Hours
Milford Public Service Centre	Main Street, Milford, F92 TDOP	9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 4:30pm on Fridays.
Letterkenny Public Service Centre	Neil T Blaney Road, Letterkenny, F92 TNV3	9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 4:30pm on Fridays.

The proposed plans will be available for inspection from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing to The Co. Secretary, Donegal County Council, Lifford, County Donegal, before 4.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Please mark the front of the envelope with the project name as per the above schedule.

Signed: Liam Ward, Director of Service  
Community Development & Planning Services, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford.



AN tACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000 (arna leasú)  
RIALACHÁIN PLEANÁLA AGUS FORBARTHA 2001 (arna leasú)  
ALT 81

FÓGRA DE BHUN ALT 81, MÍR 8 DE NA RIALACHÁIN THUSUATTE, MAIDIR LE FORBAIRT ATÁ BEARTAITHE AG COMHAIRLE CONTAE DHÚN NA nGALL

Uimh.	Téideal	Bailte	Fearlaim	Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn
1	Tionscadal Rochtana na hAise Móire	Polaid	Ionad Seirbhíse Pobail Bhailte na nGallóglach, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn	Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, an tSiúidí ar Shuíodí na Madaí, Coill Daraich, an Ráth, Maign Ráithe agus Mhóla idir Ailt an Chorráin agus Leitir Ceannainn

Cur síos agus Réim

Tabhair DO D'ÁIRE go bhfuil sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall cosán, carrghós, ionad amhairc agus oibreacha bainteacha a fhorbairt i mbaile fearainn Phholáide, i gCeantar Bardasach Leitir Ceannainn Bhailte na nGallóglach.

Cuimsíodh na hoiibreacha beartaithe:

1. Saoráidí páircéala a churthú faoi choime carrama agus busana.
2. Cosán 1m ar leithread a churthú trí thalamh talmhaíochta ag a mbeidh to-shom fóirteanach agus bailchríoch ionduil.
3. Ionad amhairc beag a churthú ag dreachán an chosáin bheartaithe.
4. Popal úra a leagan sna cailéil draenala agus sna línirí atá ann cheana agus/nó iad a chóiríú / a ghlanadh.
5. Fáil don chosán agus don ionad amhairc úr.
6. Comharthaíocht léirithe treo a fheistíú.
7. Troscán riin a fheistíú amháil tabaí agus bunsí picnice.
8. Baint ar shuíl fáisra agus glanadh súmh.

Tabhair do d'áire go bhfuil Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall den bharúil, i gcomhréir le hArt 120(1)(b)(i) de na Rialacháin Pleanála agus Forbairtha 2001 (arna leasú) agus bunaithe ar rannh-inscrúid ar ndóir, méid agus suíomh na forbartha, nach bhfuil gá le Tuairisc Measúnachta Tronchair Timpaeilachta.

Beidh pleananna agus sonraí na forbartha beartaithe seo ar fáil lena mbeithníú (nó lena gceannach ar thailie nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a thíofaigh le cóip a dhéanamh) ag

Suíomh	Soclaigh	Uaireanna Oscailte
Ionad Seirbhíse Pobail Bhailte na nGallóglach	An Phríomhshráid, Baile na nGallóglach, F92 TDOP	9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 5:00pm 6 uan go Déardaoin agus 6 9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 4:30pm De hAoine.
Ionad Seirbhíse Pobail Leitir Ceannainn	Bóthar N. T. Uí Bhléine, Leitir Ceannainn, F92 TNV3	9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 5:00pm 6 uan go Déardaoin agus 6 9:00am – 12:30pm agus 1:00pm – 4:30pm De hAoine.

Beidh na pleananna beartaithe ar fáil lena mbeithníú ón Aoine, an 2<sup>nd</sup> Lúnasa 2019 – an Luan, an 2<sup>nd</sup> Meán Fómhair, 2019.

Is féidir aighneachtaí agus tuairimí i dtaca leis an fhorbairt bheartaithe, a phléamh le pleanáil agus forbairt chu an cheadair ina mbeidh an fhorbairt ionaithe, a chur isteach i scríbhinn chúig Rúnadóir an Chiontae, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Leitíear, Contae Dhún na nGall, roimh 4.30pm De Luan, an 16<sup>th</sup> Meán Fómhair, 2019.

Iarrtar ort ailm an tionscadail, mar atá leagtha amach sa scéideal thuas, a chur ar thosach an chluiligh. Sínithe ag: Liam Ward, Súitiríoch Seirbhíse Seirbhíse Forbairt Pobail agus Pleanála, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, Teach an Chiontae, Leitíear.



## Acknowledgement

**Kelly**  
Mannus (Mandy)  
Glenswilly

Mannus' wife Bernie and children Annie, Mandy, Charlie, Conán and Bella, his parents Donal and Jackie, his brothers Donal, Caelán, Teighearnán, and Leon and sisters Bridget, Kelda, Clara and Shannagh wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported and sympathised with us on the recent sudden passing of our beloved husband, son, father, brother, uncle and friend Mannus Mandy Kelly, in the Donegal International Rally on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We would like to thank all those who attended the wake and funeral and waited patiently in very long queues, and to the many who travelled from near and far to pay your respects to Mannus. The thousands who attended both Mannus' wake and funeral were an outstanding testament to him as a warm, loving, kind, friendly and popular man and as an extremely talented sportsman and businessman. Thanks to those who provided buses and transport during the wake and funeral; those who directed traffic and to those who gave up their land for car parking facilities. Thanks also to the Gardaí for managing traffic during Mannus' removal, funeral Mass and procession to his final resting place. We also thank relatives, neighbours and friends who provided help and support in so many ways; thanks to those who brought food and beverages to the wake and helped out during the wake and thanks to the many businesses and establishments who provided refreshments and utilities. Thanks to the whole community of Glenswilly, Glenswilly G.A.A and Club Chairman Mick Murphy who all provided outstanding support and assistance throughout the wake and funeral; a place so close to Mannus' heart. Thanks to Charlie Collins who gave such a heartfelt and fitting eulogy about Mannus in Glenswilly G.A.A after the funeral which was met by rapturous applause and a standing ovation. 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# **Appendix B**

## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

**Screening Statement for Appropriate  
Assessment for Great Arch Access Project at  
Fanad Head, Co. Donegal**

To support the Appropriate Assessment process in line with the  
requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive

Prepared by:  
Earthy Matters  
Environmental  
Consultants  
Glenvar,  
Letterkenny, Co.  
Donegal

**Screening Statement for  
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July 2019

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## Appendices

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**Appendix 2a:** Aerial view of habitats including rivers and European sites in proximity of path and associated proposed car park.

**Appendix 2b** (1): Proposed project vis-à-vis European sites within 5, 10 and 15 km radius of access path and car park (2): Close up within 5 km radius.

**Appendix 2c:** Location of Corncrakes in Fanad in the past 13 years vis-à-vis proposed path project.

**Appendix 3a:** Site Synopsis of European sites of interest.

**Appendix 3b:** Indicative habitat map within Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC in the vicinity of proposed project (red line and cross). (NPWS 2005).

**Appendix 3c:** Location of qualifying interests associated with Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC vis-à-vis proposed project (NPWS, 2017).

**Appendix 4:** Plate of photos (taken 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019).

## 1 Summary

Project title:	Great Arch Access Project at Fanad Head, Co. Donegal
Project proponent:	Donegal County Council
Project location:	Pollet, Co. Donegal
Conclusion	<p>It has been scientifically and objectively concluded during the screening process that significant impacts on the following European Sites located within a 10 km radius, as a result of the proposal, are not considered likely:</p> <p>Fanad Head SPA (004148)</p> <p>Ballyhoorisky point to Fanad Head SAC (01975)</p> <p>Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)</p> <p>Kindrum Lough SAC (001151)</p> <p>Mulroy Bay SAC (02159)</p> <p>Greers Isle SPA (004082)</p> <p>Lough Nagreany Dunes SAC [00164]</p> <p>Therefore, these European Sites can be screened out and it is deemed that it is not necessary to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.</p>

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Terms of reference

This document has been prepared by Dr Florence Renou-Wilson (PhD, M.Sc. (Ag.), Dip. EIA&SEA Mngt) of Earthy Matters Environmental Consultants on behalf of Donegal County Council in order to determine the potential impacts, if any, of the Great Arch Access Project involving the construction of a car park and access path to view Fanad Sea Arch at Pollet, Co. Donegal on European sites (European Conservation designation).

This document is a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment and is in line with the requirement of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). As such, this report provides information required in order to establish whether or not the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on any European site known in the vicinity as in the context of their conservation objectives and specifically on the habitats and species for which the European conservation site has been designated.

## **2.2 Context and stages of an Appropriate Assessment process**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

*“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives”.*

The Habitats Directive, via the Appropriate Assessment process promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the planning stage and designing the project in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the Appropriate Assessment process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the project is still likely to result in adverse effects and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

Following the obligations under Article 6(3), the European Commission’s guidance promotes a four-stage process to complete the Appropriate Assessment and outlines the tests required at each stage.

By taking the ecological impact assessment (in relation to the conservation objectives of European sites) in a step by step manner this report seeks to inform the screening process required as the first stage of the Appropriate Assessment procedure.

The Screening Exercise comprises the following steps:

- Determination whether the project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site
- Description of the project
- Identification of European sites potentially affected
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result from the project
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity
- Statement of Appropriate Assessment screening (as per Irish guidance); Exclusion of sites where no significant impacts are foreseen



### 3 Methodology

This report includes an impact assessment and testing required under the provisions of Article 6(3) by means of the first stage of Appropriate Assessment. In this context, a review of the potential, residual (indirect and direct) and cumulative impacts as well as mitigation measures has been undertaken. It is based on an analysis of existing ecological information including documented information about the designated and non-designated areas involved. The author also walked this area on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019. David McNamara (NPWS ranger) was consulted during this site visit. A number of guidance documents on the Appropriate Assessment process have been referred to during the preparation of this report. These include:

- NPWS (April 2012), Marine Natura Impact Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation. A Working Document. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2009), Revised February 2010. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (NPWS, 2009, Revised February 2010);
- The European Communities (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;
- The European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000: the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats Directive’ 92/43/EC.
- Requirements for the protection of fisheries and habitats during construction and development works at river sites (2011) ([www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie))

### 4 Overview of the project and the receiving environment

#### 4.1 Brief description of the project

The site is located in the townland of Pollet, Fanad, Co. Donegal, approximately 6.5km north of Portsalon. The project aims to give access to view the Pollet Sea Arch by providing a car park (0.2 ha), a footpath (0.45 ha) and signage to facilitate safe access to a viewing platform (c. 40 m<sup>2</sup>) near the Pollet Sea Arch (see Appendices 1a and 1b). Works will include:

- Creation of a car park for 20 number of cars at a location approximately 500 m west of the proposed footpath
- Creation of a 1-1.5 m wide footpath through agricultural land with a suitable sub-base and a fine dust finish

- Concreting of sloping entrance of path for agricultural use
- Creation of a small viewing platform (40 m<sup>2</sup>) at the end of the proposed trail
- Piping and/or repair / cleaning of existing drainage channels and culverts
- Fencing of new footpath and viewing area with sheep fencing and children-safe barrier on the inside
- Erection of signage (with consultation with NPWS)
- Installation of street furniture, such as picnic tables and benches.

A Method Statement associated with this project has been prepared (2018/ORIS/FA, July 2019) and reviewed.

## 4.2 Brief description of the receiving environment

The general wider environment in the Pollet area is mostly agricultural (grazing) land with improved grassland (GA1) located in the fields in the immediate surrounding of the proposed project. The proposed project can be divided into three distinct areas and associated habitats have been mapped (see Appendix 2a). Photos of the existing habitats are also shown in Appendix 4. During the site visit in July 2019, no visible invasive species were evident within the extent of the site. Some fuschia shrubs have been planted on the hedges surrounding the house but these have not spread to the hedgerow above or below this location. Some fuchsia is present within the Pollet burn but this remains outside the working zone of the proposed project.

### 1. Car park area (Area: 0.2 ha)

The area proposed for the car park is currently a no-man's land used to dispose of soil and construction spoil. Whins (*Ulex europaeus*), brambles (*Rubus* spp.), nettles (*Urtica dioica*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), common dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), and grasses form the dominant vegetation cover of this otherwise dry-on-foot, compacted soil surface.

### 2. Access path area (Area: 0.45 ha ; length: c. 500 m)

The start of the path comprises a gravel/hardcore entrance to a sloping field but the remainder of the path is on an otherwise gentle sloping gradient due south. The soil is peaty podzol and becomes wet on foot in its most southern section. The fields are improved grassland currently used for silage and animal grazing thereafter. A 1 m wide band of uncut vegetation separates

the field from the hedgerow. The hedgerow runs down along the field boundary in varying thickness but as wide as 3 m in places. It is composed of whins for the most part (northern section), fuchsia around the middle section (corresponding to the boundary with the house), and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and coppiced elder (*Sambucus nigra*) bushes for the remainder. Along the lower section of the field, there is no hedgerow but a simple fence. There is a drainage ditch along the hedgerow (mostly covered by it), which is mostly an open drain but is piped for a short distance near the house. The Pollet burn is piped under part of the field and runs in a recently opened deep ditch on the southern border of the field. The flora of the stream comprises horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.), yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) and marsh ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*), as well as fuchsia and wet grassland species. The path will remain on the field side, separated from the stream by a grassy embankment, or further east by a hawthorn and bramble hedgerow. This hedgerow was recently cut back by the landowner and the drainage ditch was piped on the field side where the path is proposed. The stream exits at the field boundary into an open stream before entering the shore habitat.

### 3. Shore path and viewing area (Area: 40 m<sup>2</sup>; length: c. 10-15 m)

The access path and viewing platform will cover a short distance (10 – 15 m) outside the field boundary but the habitat at this location is still agricultural grassland over peaty podzol (livestock would have grazed this area in the past). The proposed viewing platform will end in a grassy area, 3 m from the beach habitat. The beach is coarse sand at this location grading into shingle (small rounded pebbles) further south and into bedrock shore further north. The habitat ‘vegetated sea cliffs’ has been recorded further north pass the arch (see Appendix 3b, indicative habitat map from NPWS, 2005).

## 4.3 Identification of designated sites

Using aerial photography and databases held online at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie), a list of all Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection areas (SPAs) located within a 15 km radius of the path (centre point) has been compiled (see maps in Appendix 2b). Following the precautionary principle but taking into account the geography of the surrounding environment of the project (at the head of a small peninsula), and its location near the west coast of Fanad, it has been estimated that only those European sites located within a 10km radius are to be assessed. These are described briefly in Table 1.

## 5 Assessment of potential impacts

### 5.1 Identification of the zone of influence of the development

The zone of influence is the ‘effect area’ over which changes could give rise to potentially significant impacts. The zone of influence over which the development may impact upon European Sites and their Qualifying Interests will differ for different ecological receptors depending on the pathway for potential impacts, as well as the specific nature of the habitats/species in question.

The proposed car park is located outside any European sites (Appendix 2a). However, the proposed access path is located within **Fanad Head SPA (004148)** and is bordering **Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)** to the east and **Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975)** also to the east (see Table 1). Disturbance near a SPA site can result in loss of bird numbers using the area and, therefore, the construction works at the proposed site could significantly affect local bird populations. Therefore, both SPAs are deemed to be within the zone of influence of the project. Due to proximity to the shore, habitats within Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC are also considered within the zone of influence. On the other hand, Greers Isle SPA (4082) has been designated for bird populations that are confined to this small island in the middle of Mulroy Bay and is, therefore, deemed to be outside the zone of influence of the project and can be therefore **screened out**. Kindrum Lough SAC [0777], Mulroy Bay SAC [0899] and Lough Nagreany Dunes SAC [00164] are located 5-7 km west of the proposed access path but in a different catchment (west of Murrin Hill). Kindrum Lough flows into Kindrum Bay via the Coolback river. Mulroy Bay and Lough NAgreany Dunes are not hydrologically connected to the project area. Therefore, due to distance and geographical location, there will be no likely significant direct or indirect (via hydrological pathway) negative impact due to the proposed project and consequently **Kindrum Lough SAC, Lough Nagreany Dunes SAC and Mulroy Bay SAC** can all be **screened out**.

Table 1: Designated European sites within/at 10 km of the proposed development.

Site Name & Code	Distance from development	Qualifying features (i.e. reasons for designation) (*=Priority Annex I Habitats)	Do any potential source-pathway-receptor links exist between the development and the European site?
Fanad Head SPA (004148)	within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>Yes.</b> The development may impact on the quality of habitats required by populations of corncrake for which this SPA is designated.
Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975)	adjoining east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-nanojuncetea</i></li> <li>• Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.</li> <li>• Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail</li> <li>• Slender Naiad</li> </ul>	<b>Yes.</b> Direct and indirect impacts may occur due to proximity of the development, as well as via hydrological pathways (surface flows) from potential impact sources (runoff and accidental pollution events) to qualifying interest habitats.
Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)	adjoining east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)</li> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)</li> <li>• Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)</li> <li>• Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)</li> <li>• Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)</li> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>)</li> <li>• Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>Yes.</b> Given the proximity of the SPA, the development may indirectly impact on the quality of habitats required by populations of birds for which this SPA is designated.

Kindrum Lough SAC (001151)	km west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i></li> <li>• Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>No.</b> The development is not located within the boundary of this SAC, or within the catchment of this Lough. Potential water pollution impacts are deemed non-significant due to the separation between source and receptor. Kindrum Lough flows into Kindrum Bay via the Coolback river.
Mulroy Bay SAC (02159)	5.6 km west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>• Reefs</li> <li>• Otter</li> </ul>	<b>No.</b> The development is not located within the boundary of this SAC, or within the catchment of Mulroy Bay sea inlet. Potential water pollution impacts are deemed non-significant due to the separation between source and receptor.
Greers Isle SPA (004082)	6.5 km south-west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black-headed Gull; Common Gull and Sandwich Tern</li> </ul>	<b>No.</b> This SPA is confined to a small island within Mulroy Bay. Due to its distance to proposed development site and scale of the project, any potential impacts are deemed non-significant.
Lough Nagreany Dunes SAC (000164)	7.5 km west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Shifting dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes (grey dunes)</li> <li>• Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i></li> <li>• Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)</li> <li>• Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i></li> <li>• Humid dune slacks</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters</li> <li>• <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]</li> </ul>	<b>No.</b> The development is not located within the boundary of this SAC, or within the same catchment. Potential water pollution impacts are deemed non-significant due to the separation between source and receptor.

## 5.2 Description of the European sites within the zone of influence

The site synopsis and conservation objectives of the three identified European sites are in Appendix 3.

### **Fanad Head SPA (004148)**

Fanad Head SPA is c. 136 ha and comprises two areas of extensively managed grassland on the Fanad Head peninsula on the north coast of Co. Donegal. Included within the site is an area of grassland between Kinny Lough and Shannagh Lough, and another area around the village of Doagh Beg on the western shore of Lough Swilly, south of Fanad Head. The principal habitat present is grassland, but small areas of scrub and wetlands also occur. Fanad Head SPA supports a breeding population of **corncrake** (*Crex crex*). The records of calling males for the last 13 years is mapped in relation to the proposed project in Appendix 2b and includes the latest record (2019, according to ranger David McNamara). The corncrake population is in severe decline, and the general threats are from damage to its supporting habitat (early/late cover).

Corncrake winter in southern and eastern Africa, migrating northwards to arrive on their breeding grounds from early April onwards, departing again in August and September. They require the cover of tall vegetation throughout their breeding cycle and are strongly associated with meadows that are harvested annually, where they nest and feed. Annual cutting of these meadows creates a sward that is easy for the birds to move through. Other habitats that can provide cover for corncrake in the early and late stages of the breeding season, are also important for this species. The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

### **Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975)**

Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC comprises the coastline around Fanad Head in north Co. Donegal. Lough Swilly lies to the east and Fanad Head is located approximately 25 km north of the small town of Milford. The coastline consists of a series of bays, with rocky

headlands and steep cliffs at the eastern end. The underlying geology is predominantly granodiorite, a basic igneous rock. The east-facing coast is of quartzite and is exposed as a rocky shore and low cliffs. The site incorporates 1293 ha of coastline including a zone of open marine water 200 m from the coast and some adjacent terrestrial habitats.

This site has been designated due to the presence of four Annex I habitats listed under the EU Habitats Directive: vegetated sea cliffs, perennial vegetation of stony banks, hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* species and oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains.

**Vegetated sea-cliffs** are best developed to the south of Fanad Head where they reach height of 120 m. They are located at the closest 300 m north of the proposed project and best locations are further north or south (see Appendix 3b). **Shingle beaches** are also best developed in the various small sheltered bays, especially between Ballyhoorisky Point and Rinboy Point, and also along the stretch of coastline between Rinmore and Currin Point. While no shingle beaches are recorded in the vicinity of the project (see Appendix 3b), there is a small shingle beach due south of the proposed project.

Shannagh Lough is an important, though small, example of a lowland **oligotrophic lake** of sandy plains in an extreme northern location. It is situated approximately 2 km west from the proposed project in a different catchment. Of particular note is that Shannagh is the type site for the little known *Nitella spanioclema*, which is probably endemic and is where Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*), a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, is also present.

Two other lakes within this site, Kinny Lough and Magheradrumman Lough, are good examples of **hard water lakes with Chara formations**. Kinny Lough is a medium sized lake separated from the sea by a machair plain and dune system. Both are located more than 2 km west of the proposed project in a different catchment.

This European site is of ecological and conservation importance for the presence of a population of Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*), a species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, which is found on the dunes in Kinlackagh Bay. There have been records from three 1 km grid squares (C1744, C1844, C1944), which are approximately 5 km west of the proposed project within a different catchment (see Appendix 3b).



### **Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)**

The Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA comprises a number of separate sections of the north Co. Donegal coastline stretching some 70 km eastwards from Dooros Point, south-west of Horn Head, to just south of Saldanha Head, south of Fanad Head. The site includes high coast areas and sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m) and the sand dunes and lake at Dunfanaghy/Rinclevan. As well as the species of qualifying interests (see Table 1), the site is also of special conservation interest for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 breeding seabirds; the main colony is located on the cliffs of Horn Head. The EU Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of this SPA, the wetland habitats and their associated waterfowls are of special conservation interest.

### **5.3 Identification of potential impacts**

Only those features of the development that have the potential to impact on the features and conservation objectives of the identified European sites are considered. The following issues were examined in relation to the potential impacts of the development of the site (either alone or cumulative) on the identified 3 European sites:

- Disturbance to birds

Disturbance within and near a SPA can result in loss of bird numbers using the area and therefore the construction works, and long-term use of the path could affect local bird populations.

- Habitat loss/degradation or indirectly via water quality degradation

Disturbance of habitats near a European site may affect the designated habitats or associated species (birds) via indirect linkages via habitat disturbance or deterioration (e.g. water quality deterioration).

### **5.4 Assessment of significance of likely effects**

#### ***Impacts on birds associated within Fanad Head SPA***

This SPA is designated solely for corncrakes. Disturbance near a European site can result in loss of bird numbers using the area due to noise during construction or long-term use thereby preventing effective use of feeding habitats.

The corncrake records (see Appendix 2b) shows the location of the male calls for the last 13 years. The closest calls are south of Pollet townland (with the closest being 500 m south of the path and 800 m to car park). The last records in this townland were in 2014 and 2015. The habitat around area 1 where the car park is proposed does not support suitable habitats for the corncrake as it is mostly waste ground. The access path is located for its whole length along an existing hedgerow and/or fence or stonewall. The path does not fragment an open field but instead follows an existing thick hedgerow that has permanent tall (un-mown) vegetation in front of it, which is not suitable for corncrakes. The access path will consist of 1 m hardcore, gravel finish, which effectively replaces the drainage ditch covered by the hedgerow. The remaining width of the path will be re-sown with grass. The entrance of the field is currently hardcore gravel and will be replaced with a concrete surface to ease tractor movement. Therefore, there is no reduction of supporting habitat for the corncrake. The new fencing (sheep fencing) will be similar to existing fencing along the southern part of the field and, consequently, any negative effects are deemed insignificant. The path work will occur outside the corncrake breeding season (April-August), which means that construction impacts (from noise or machinery activity) will not have any significant impact on the population of corncrakes. Finally, the path will be used by walkers and dogs on a leash, and given the surrounding existing farming background it is not expected that the additional noise will be make a significant impact. However, this should be re-evaluated in the future if the number of walkers increases significantly. No artificial lighting is associated with this development.

### ***Impacts on habitats or species within Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC***

None of the qualifying interest habitats for this SAC are directly impacted by the project due to distance. No material will be removed from the shoreline and the vegetated sea cliffs are higher up the coast and in elevation. All other habitats or species are remote from the proposed project and in a different catchment.

### ***Impacts on downstream water quality***

The project is within a very confined landscape where all surface runoff water runs down towards the Pollet burn, which itself exits at the shore where the project ends. Habitats located downstream from the project are connected via a hydrological pathway as surface runoff flows towards the beach and the Pollet burn (located at the southern boundary of the fields) runs into this SAC. Construction work will be kept to a minimum and given the small size of the path

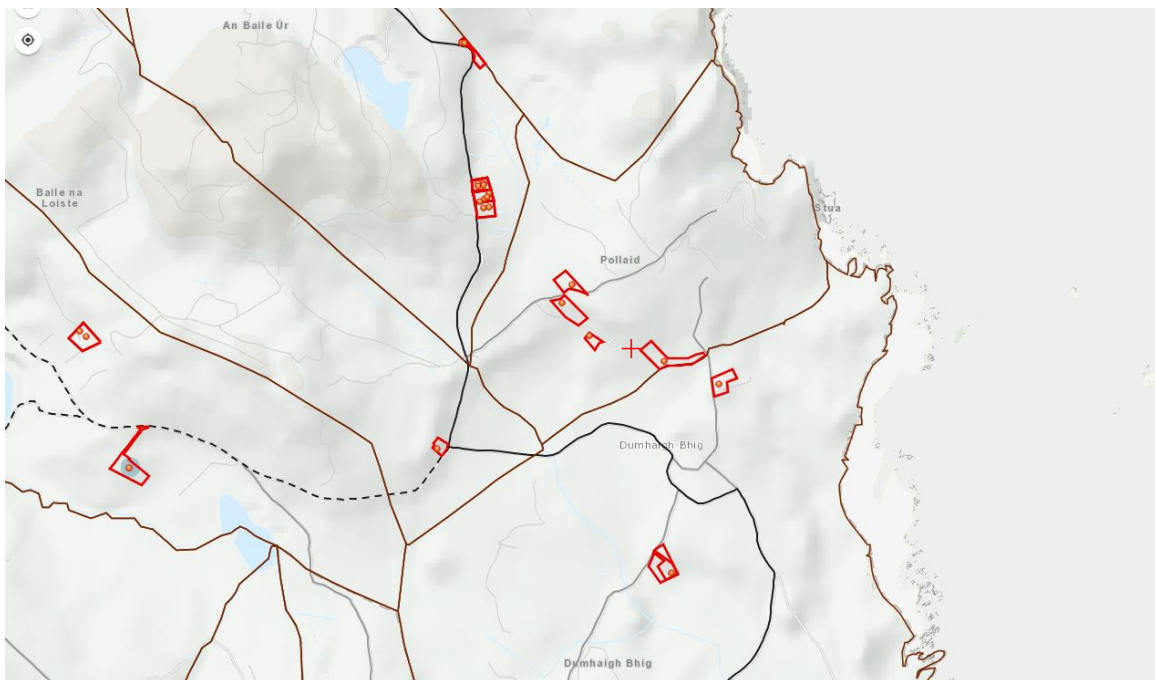
will involve small machinery. Best practice guidelines for construction work near a stream (e.g. off-site re-fuelling, no washing or cleaning of concrete tools to be carried out on-site or within the water catchment of Pollet burn), will be followed and so it is deemed that no negative significant impact will occur in the downstream habitats.

### ***Impacts on birds associated within Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA***

Birds associated with this SPA are mostly associated with coastal habitats including coastal cliffs and mud flats, or blanket bogs and heath. None of these habitats will be impacted by the proposed project. It is deemed that due to the small scale of the project (located mostly within agricultural fields), there will be no significant adverse impact on any bird population for which this SPA was designated.

## **5.5 Cumulative or in-combination impacts**

The other principal activities/land use within or nearby to the proposed project are farming and private dwellings. There are very few past planning permission applications in the vicinity of the proposed access path and the closest and most recent dwelling with a tertiary wastewater treatment system was in 2018 whereby a NIS was produced. No other major developments are foreseen in the vicinity. It is concluded that no cumulative or in-combination impacts associated with this development on **Fanad Head SPA, Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC and Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA** are foreseen.



Planning Permissions screenshot in vicinity of project (red cross) (DCC, June 2019).

Table 2: Finding of No Significant Effects report matrix.

<b>Information about the project</b>	
<b>Brief description of the project</b>	Great Arch Access Project involving the construction of a car park and access path to view Fanad Sea Arch at Pollet, Co. Donegal
<b>Brief description of European sites within the likely scope of influence of the project</b>	<p>The site is partially located within Fanad Head SPA (004148) and adjoining Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975) and Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (47196).</p> <p>The scope of influence of the project is regarded to be relatively small due to the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-small footprint and limited scale of works including fencing</li> <li>-no disturbance to habitats of conservation value or habitat supporting Corncrakes or other birds of conservation value</li> </ul>
<b>Is the project or plan directly connected with the management of any European site?</b>	No.
<b>Are there other projects or plans that together with the project being assessed could affect the site</b>	No. There are no other known projects to be developed in the same location that would contribute with the proposed development to the deterioration of any European sites.
<b>Assessment of significance of effects</b>	Due to the limited scale of the works and specifications of the development: namely path construction where existing hedgerow and ditch are located and the type of surrounding habitats and distance to existing records, it is anticipated that the proposed project would not result in any direct or indirect disturbance to corncrake, peregrine falcon, choughs, greenland white fronted goose, barnacle goose and whooper swan.

	No qualifying interest habitats for which Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC has been designated will be impacted by the project.
<b>Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the European site.</b>	No negative impacts are foreseen.
<b>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</b> <b>-reduction of habitat area within European sites:</b> <b>-disturbance to key species:</b> <b>-habitat fragmentation:</b> <b>-reduction in species density:</b> <b>-changes in key indicators of conservation value:</b>	
	-None
	-None
	-None
	-No species effect
	-No change
<b>Describe any likely impacts on the European site as a whole in terms of interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site.</b>	No likely significant impacts have been predicted due to the small scale of the development and the distance to any of the nearest European sites.

## 6 Recommendations

1. All site preparation and construction work should occur outside the corncrake breeding period: no work to take place during April to August inclusive.
2. Site preparation and construction should adhere to best practices and should conform to the Inland Fisheries Ireland Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites ([www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie), see section relating to Construction Stage).
3. No unauthorised motorised vehicles should use the path and adequate gates must be erected.
4. No refuelling and maintenance of vehicles must occur on site to eliminate the potential risk of contamination of nearby habitats and watercourses.
5. Natural surface finish should be used that blends with the local environment.

6. Signage describing the natural value of the surrounding habitats should be erected at appropriate locations to alert walkers and the general public of the importance of the area from a nature conservation perspective (i.e. only the path should be used; leave no trace as already on the signs at start/finish). Signs to be approved by NPWS.

## 7 Conclusion

In order to determine the potential impacts, if any, of the development on any European Sites, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Exercise was undertaken and resulted in a statement of Appropriate Assessment (i.e. this Screening Report). The conclusion of the Screening process is that

1. The project is **not** directly connected to the management of any European sites.
2. The project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects is **not** likely to have significant effects on any habitats or species for which a European site was designated.
3. Negative impacts from the project are not foreseen on population of corncrakes or birds for which Fanad Head SPA and Horn Head to Fanad SPA have been respectfully designated.
4. Overall, there are no likely significant effects predicted as a result of this proposed path due to the small scale and nature of the development and no reduction in habitat supporting bird populations. Therefore, **a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for this project.**

## References

- NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Fanad Head SPA [004148]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC 001975. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA [004194]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2005) Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC. Conservation Plan for 2005-2010.

**Appendix 1a:** Location of Great Arch Access project at Pollet, Fanad Head, Co. Donegal

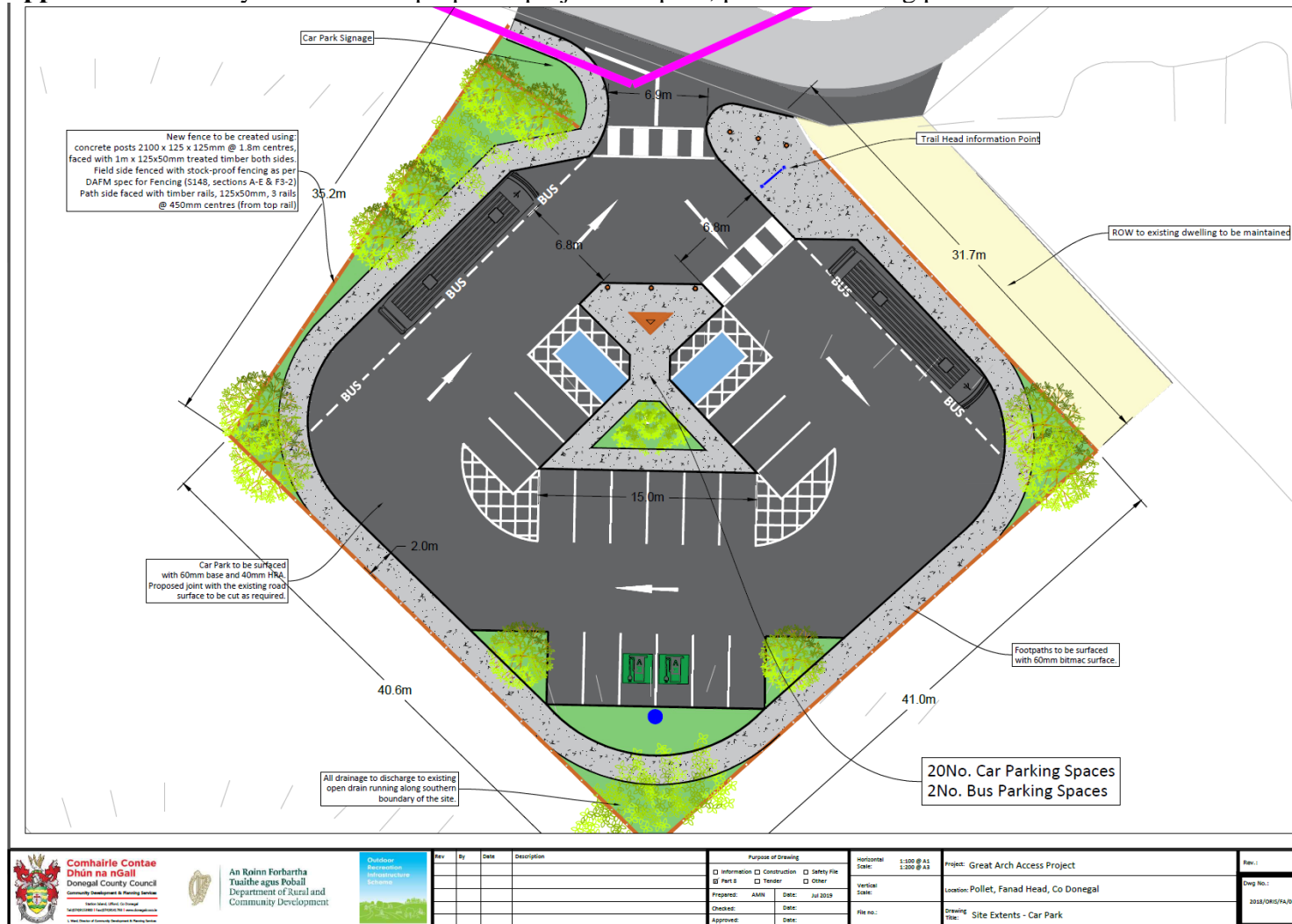


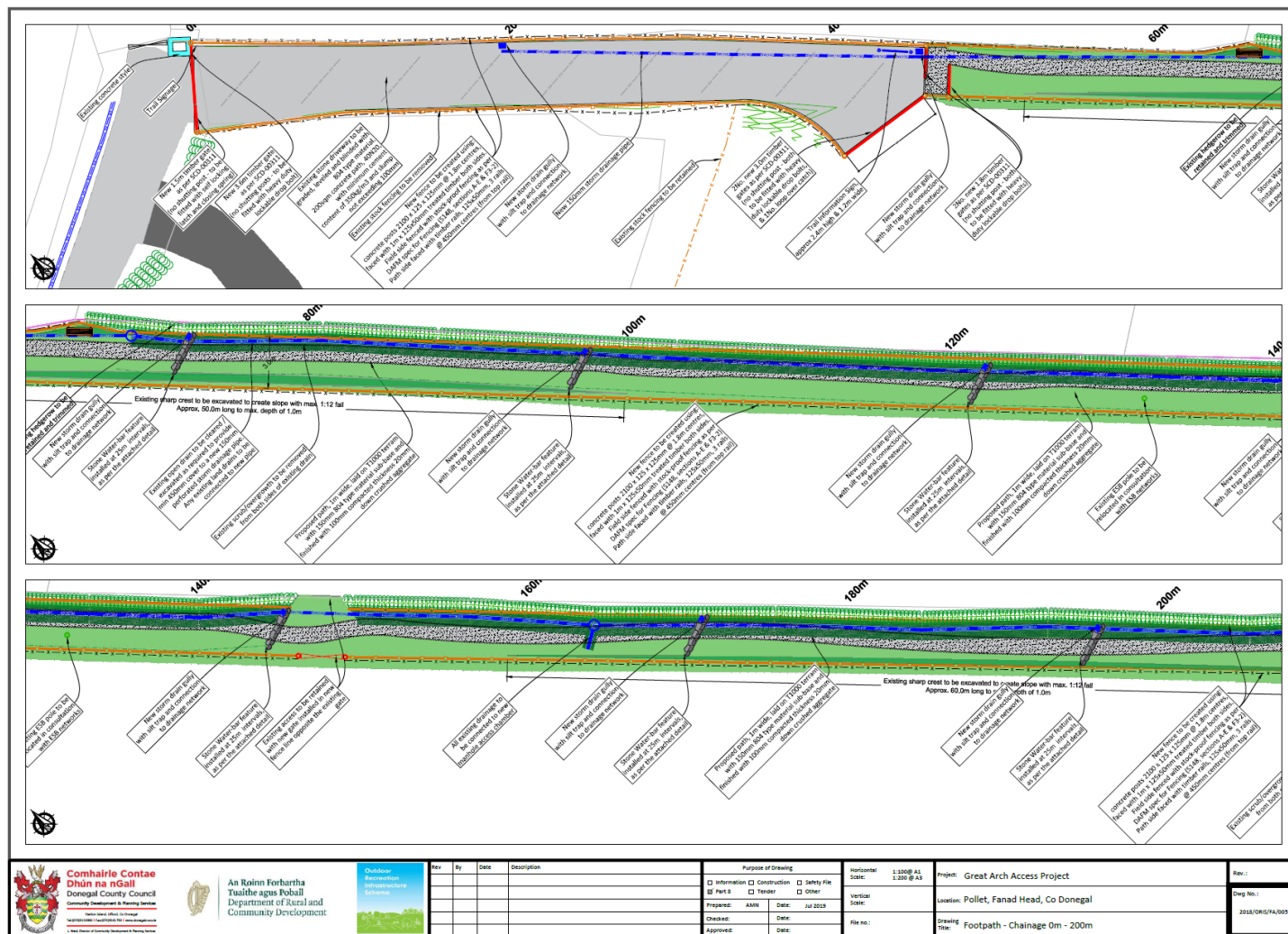


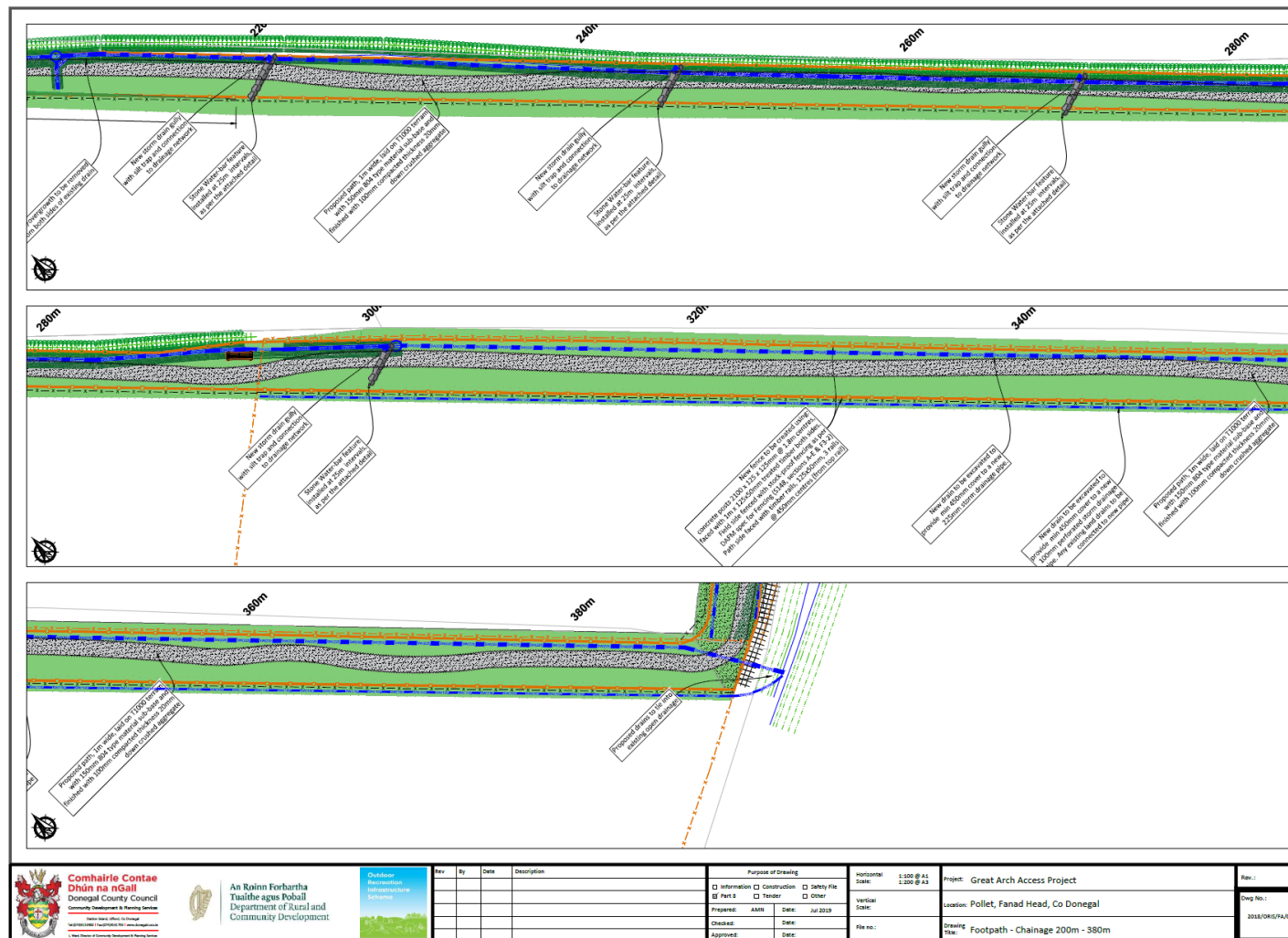




## Appendix 1c: Site lay out details of proposed project: car park, path and viewing platform

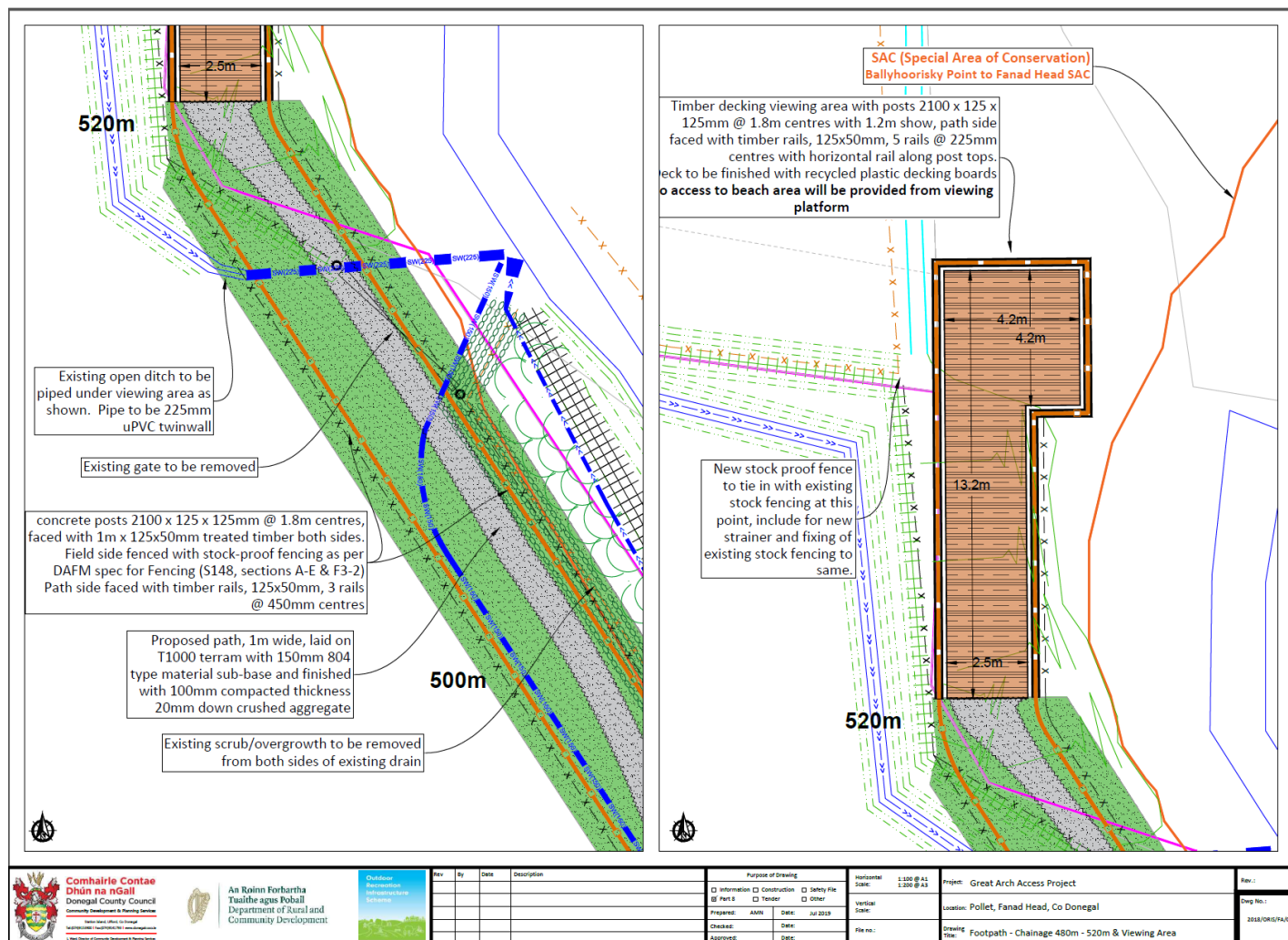




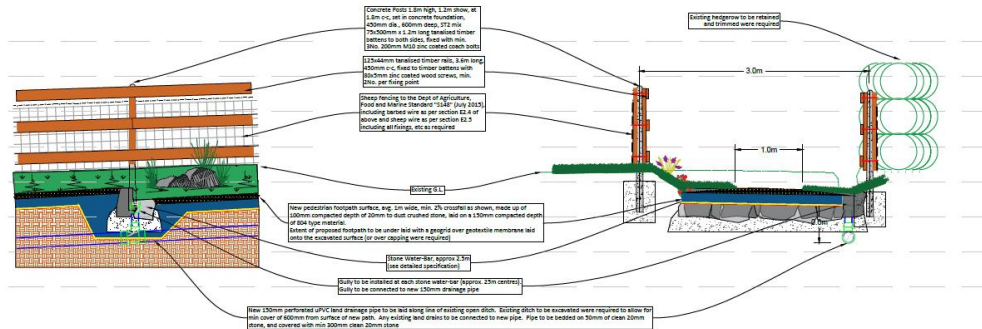




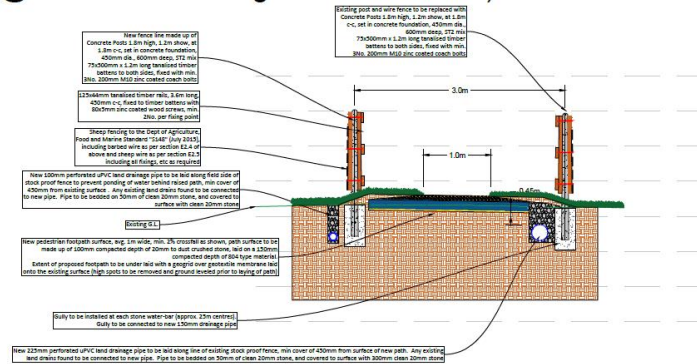




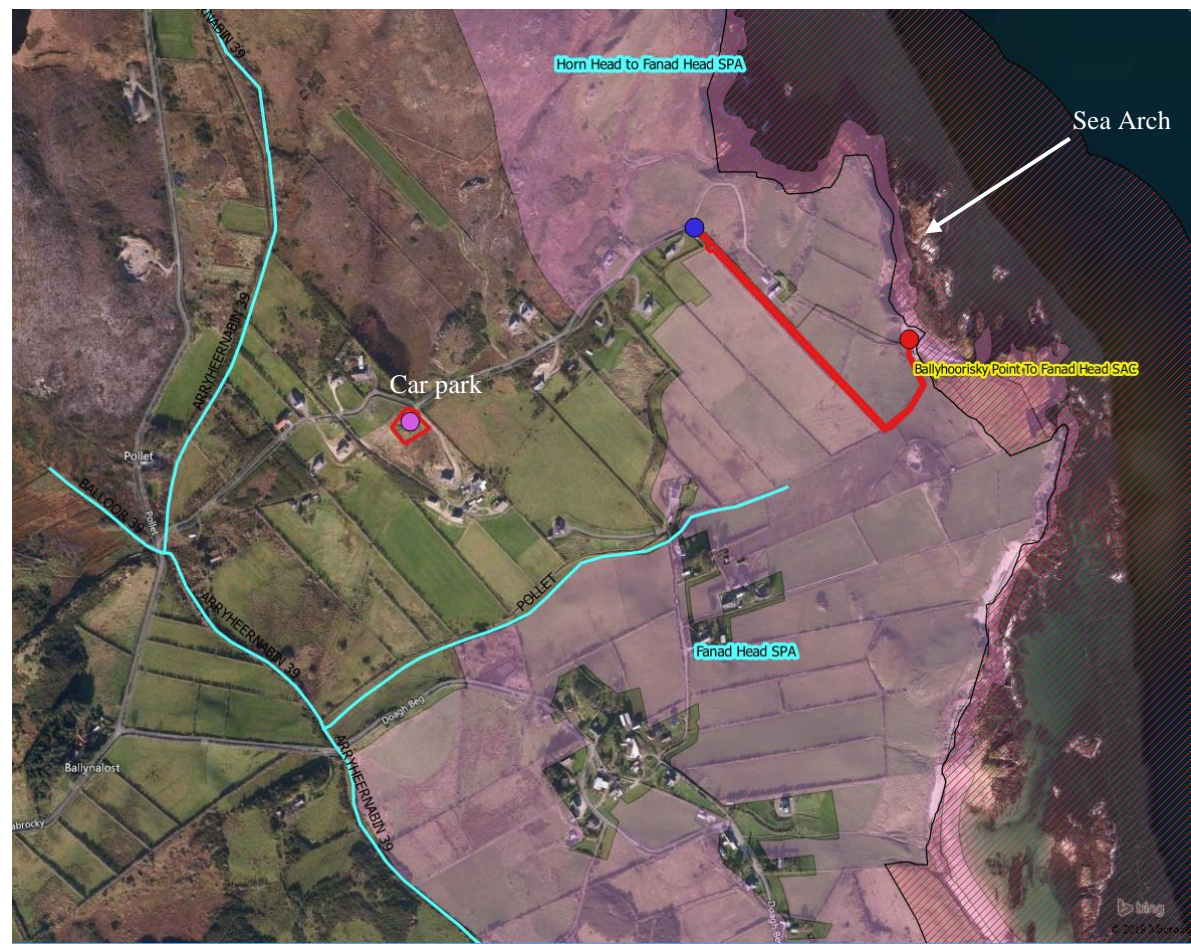
## Typical Cross Section & Long Section through 'Excavated' Path with Water-Bar (@ Ch. 70m on sloping ground conditions)



## Typical Cross Section through Non-Excavated Path (@ Ch.320m on flat ground conditions)

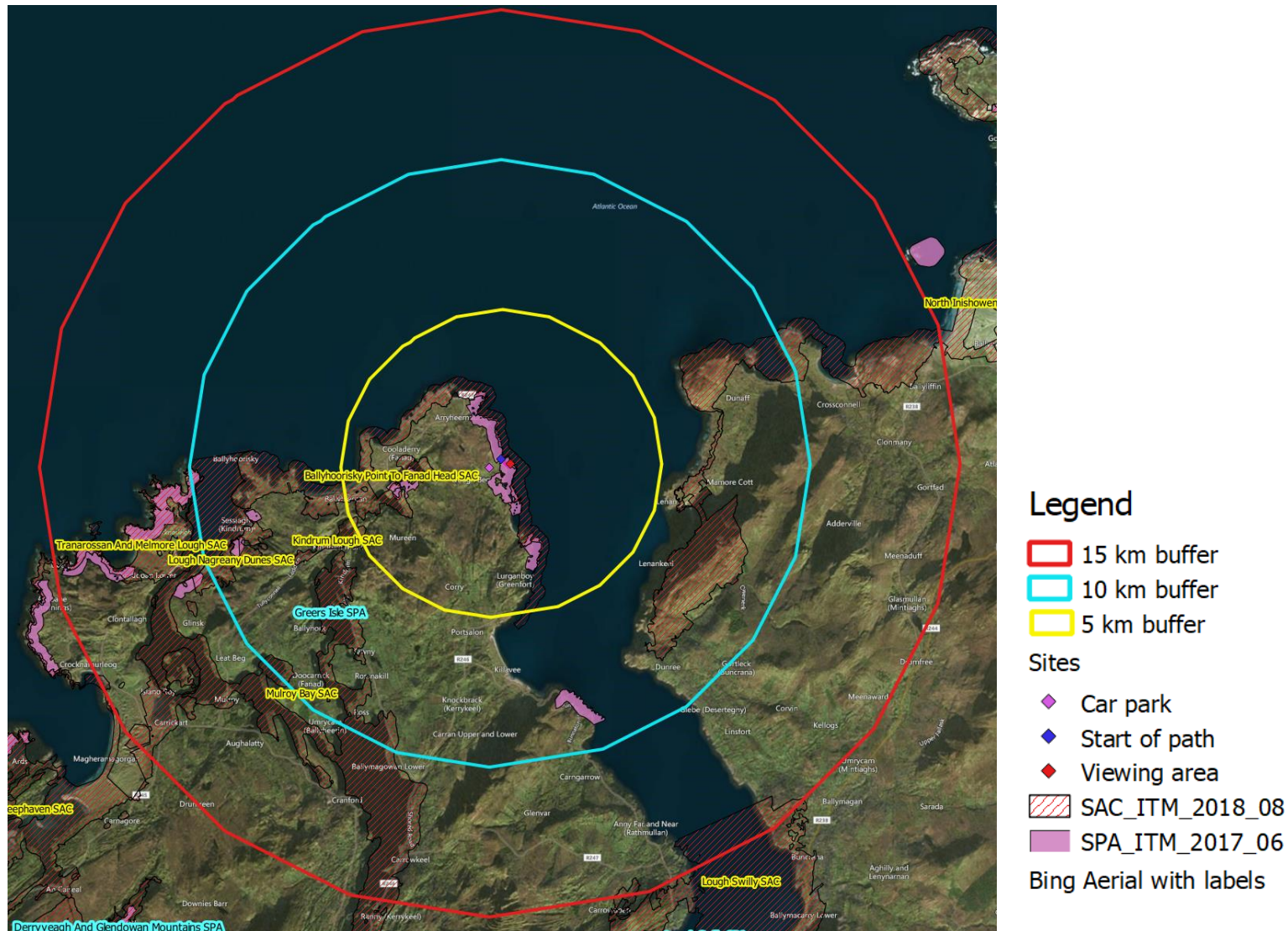


**Appendix 2a:** Aerial view of habitats including rivers and European sites in proximity of path and associated proposed car park.





**Appendix 2b:** (1) Proposed project vis-à-vis European sites within 5, 10 and 15 km radius of access path and car park.







**Appendix 2c:** Location of Corncrakes in Fanad in the past 13 years vis-à-vis proposed path project. NPWS record and David McNamara (Ranger) for 2019.



### Legend

- 2006\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2007\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2008\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2009\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2010\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2011\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2012\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2013\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2014\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2015\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2016\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2017\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - 2018\_Corncrake\_Locations
  - ★ 2019 Corncrake (David McNamara)
- Fanad Arch Project**
- ◆ Car park
  - ◆ Start of path
  - ◆ Viewing area
  - ▭ Proposed path
- SAC\_ITM\_2018\_08**
- ▨ Ballyhoorisky Point To Fanad Head
  - ▨ Kindrum Lough SAC
  - ▨ Mulroy Bay SAC
- SPA\_ITM\_2017\_06**
- Fanad Head SPA
  - Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA

### Close up:





**Appendix 3:** Site Synopsis and Conservation Objectives for identified European sites ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)).

**SITE SYNOPSIS**

**SITE NAME: FANAD HEAD SPA SITE**

**CODE: 004148**

Fanad Head SPA comprises two areas of extensively managed grassland on the Fanad Head peninsula on the north coast of Co. Donegal. Included within the site is an area of grassland between Kinny Lough and Shannagh Lough, and another area around the village of Doagh Beg on the western shore of Lough Swilly south of Fanad Head. The principal habitat present is grassland but small areas of scrub and wetlands also occur.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Corncrake.

Fanad Head SPA supports a breeding population of Corncrake (4 pairs - five year mean peak between 2003 and 2007, based on records of calling males). Fanad Head SPA is one of a suite of sites along the western seaboard that is regularly utilised by nationally important numbers of breeding Corncrake.

Corncrake winter in southern and eastern Africa, migrating northwards to arrive on their breeding grounds from early April onwards, departing again in August and September. They require the cover of tall vegetation throughout their breeding cycle and are strongly associated with meadows which are harvested annually, where they nest and feed. Annual cutting of these meadows creates a sward which is easy for the birds to move through. Other habitats, which can provide cover for Corncrake in the early and late stages of the breeding season, are also important for this species.

Corncrake is listed on the 2010 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. This is due to population and range declines of more than 50% in the last 25 years across significant parts of its range.

Fanad Head SPA is of high ornithological importance as it supports a nationally important population of Corncrake, a globally threatened species. Corncrake is also listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

5.11.2014

## Conservation objectives for Fanad Head SPA [004148]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:

Bird Code	Common Name	Scientific Name
A122	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>

**Citation:** NPWS (2018) *Conservation objectives for Fanad Head SPA [004148]. Generic Version 6.0.*

*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

## **SITE SYNOPSIS**

**SITE NAME: Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA**

**CODE: 004194**

The Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA comprises a number of separate sections of the north Co. Donegal coastline stretching some 70 km eastwards from Dooros Point, south-west of Horn Head to just south of Saldanha Head, south of Fanad Head. The site includes the high coast areas and sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m) and the sand dunes and lake at Dunfanaghy/Rinclevan. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary, except at Horn Head where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included to provide areas for foraging and socialising activities for breeding seabirds. Sea cliffs are present along virtually all the site. Almost all are greater than 10 m in height. They are often over 30 m and rise impressively to over 200 m in a few places. The geology consists of both metamorphic and igneous intrusive rocks. The metamorphic rocks are quartzites and schists. The igneous rocks are silica-rich granites and more the basic dolerites and granodiorites. A small low-lying peninsula of metamorphic limestone occurs at Cloonmass Point and Isle just north of the Ards peninsula.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Chough, Peregrine, Fulmar, Cormorant, Shag, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill, Greenland White-fronted Goose and Barnacle Goose. The site is also of special conservation interest for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 breeding seabirds. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Large areas of habitat included in the site are semi-natural, often on unenclosed land, but there is some improved and semi-improved agricultural land also. Apart from the ubiquitous and well-developed vegetated sea cliff and cliff top habitat, the semi-natural habitats present include fixed dunes, Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*) dunes, dune heath, dune slacks, machair, dry heath, wet grassland, improved and semi-improved grassland, and lakes.

The site holds an important population of breeding Chough, a Red Data Book species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive; 22 breeding pairs were recorded from the

site in the 1992 survey and 32 in the 2002/03 survey. The sea cliffs on the site provide breeding and roosting sites for the birds whilst the land adjacent to the cliff tops provides feeding habitat. A number of areas slightly further from the coast are used for feeding or flocking, e.g. at Black Burrow near Dooros Point and at Melmore Lough on the Tranarossan Peninsula. The site also holds a large Peregrine population (7 pairs in 2002); this species is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

The site is also used by a large assemblage and wide variety of nesting seabirds, the cliffs around Horn Head being of particular importance. The site supports nationally important populations of Fulmar (1,974 pairs), Cormorant (79 pairs), Shag (110 pairs), Kittiwake (3,853 pairs), Guillemot (4,387 pairs), Razorbill (4,515 pairs) and Black Guillemot (204 individuals), as well as smaller populations of Puffin (189 pairs), Herring Gull (21 pairs), Great Black-backed Gull (5 pairs) and Common Gull (2 pairs) – all seabird data from 1999.

New Lake/Rinclevan and the dunes to the west (west-south-west of Dunfanaghy) supports nationally important Greenland White-fronted Goose (196) and Barnacle Goose (160) populations - all figures are average peaks for the 5 seasons 1995/96-1999/00. The Greenland White-fronted Goose flock has increased in size since the 1980s. These are considered to be the birds that formerly frequented blanket bog sites in vicinity of the Calabber River valley. High within-winter count variability suggests that there are hitherto unlocated feeding sites in the region. The Barnacle Goose flock is part of an internationally important population that also uses the islands of Inishbofin and Inishdooey. The geese feed on the dune grassland and on intensive grassland. Whooper Swan (30) also occurs regularly, along with a range of other waterfowl species, notably Pochard (234) which are well suited to the shallow lake waters. Other species present include Teal (108), Mallard (87), Tufted Duck (87), Goldeneye (11), Mute Swan (63) and Coot (52).

In summer, the site supports a good diversity of breeding waders. A survey in 1996 recorded the following: Lapwing (11 pairs), Dunlin (6 pairs), Snipe (1 pair), Redshank (2 pairs), Oystercatcher (1 pair) and Common Sandpiper (2 pairs).

The Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA is of high importance for Chough and Peregrine, both species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. It also supports an internationally important assemblage of breeding seabirds, that includes nationally important populations of seven species, i.e. Fulmar, Cormorant, Shag, Kittiwake,

Guillemot, Razorbill and Black Guillemot. The Greenland White-fronted Goose and Barnacle Goose populations are also of national importance. Both of these species, as well as Whooper Swan, are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. A good diversity of other wildfowl species occurs, notably Pochard. The diversity of breeding waders is also of importance, especially Dunlin, a localised species in Ireland and also one that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, and Lapwing, a declining and Red listed species.

13.11.2006

## ***Conservation objectives for Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA [004194]***

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:

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<b>Bird Code</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
A009	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
A018	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
A045	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>
A103	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
A188	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
A199	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>
A200	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>
A346	Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
A395	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>

**Citation:** NPWS (2015) *Conservation objectives for Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA [004194].*  
*Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

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### Site Name: Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC Site

Code: 001975

This large coastal site lies approximately 20 km north of Millford in north Donegal. The coastline consists of a series of bays, with rocky headlands and steep cliffs at the east end. The underlying geology is predominantly granodiorite, a basic igneous rock. The east-facing coast is of quartzite and is exposed as a rocky shore and low cliffs. Large quantities of windblown sand dominate the northern section of the site.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- [1220] Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks
- [1230] Vegetated Sea Cliffs
- [3110] Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals
- [3140] Hard Water Lakes
- [1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*)
- [1833] Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*)

Vegetated sea-cliffs are well represented at the site and are best developed to the south of Fanad Head where they reach a maximum height of 120 m. Species such as Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Campion (*Silene vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*), Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and the scarce Roseroot (*Rhodiola rosea*) occur. The Red Data Book species Scots Lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum*) has been recently reported from sea cliffs at the site.

Shingle beaches are also a feature of this site. These are best developed in the various small sheltered bays, especially between Ballyhoorisky Point and Rinboy Point, and also along the stretch of coastline between Rinmore and Currin Point. The vegetation of the habitat within the site is typically sparse due to the exposed and highly mobile nature of much of the substrate. Species such as Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), Sea Mayweed (*Matricaria maritima*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) occur.

The machair grassland which is found within the site is characterised by its sandy substrate and gently undulating topography. The predominant grasses are Red Fescue, Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). A wide variety of flowering herbs are also present, including Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus praecox*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor*). Low-lying wet areas occur where the sandy soils have eroded down to below the water table. These marshy areas are characterised by Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*). Much of the machair is in a degraded state due to over-grazing and amenity pressure.

Lakes are also well represented and include some of the best examples of base-rich, nutrient-poor lakes in the county. Shannagh Lough is an important, though small, example of a lowland oligotrophic lake of sandy plains in an extreme northern location. It is situated approximately 1 km from the coast and is almost entirely enclosed by rocky ground. The lake is locally heavily vegetated, with such oligotrophic species as Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), Quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*), Alternate Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum alterniflorum*), the pondweeds *Potamogeton perfoliatus* and *P. berchtoldii*, and a diversity of stoneworts (*Chara aspera*, *C. virgata*, *Nitella flexilis* and *N. translucens*). Of particular note is that Shannagh is the type site for the little known *Nitella spanioclema*, which is probably endemic. Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*), a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, is also present.

Two other lakes within this site, Kinny Lough and Magheradrumman Lough, are good examples of hard water lakes with *Chara* formations. Kinny Lough is a medium sized lake separated from the sea by a machair plain and dune system.

Magheradrumman Lough is a small lake with sandy shores and a sandy bottom. A wide variety of plant communities occur in these lakes, with both soft and hard water species present. *Chara* communities are well developed, with *Chara aspera*, *C. contraria*, *C. desmacantha*, *Chara rudis*, *C. globularis*, plus *Nitella flexilis* and *N. translucens*. Also present are the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*, Shoreweed, both Spiked and Alternate Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, *M. alterniflorum*), Autumnal Water-starwort (*Callitriche hermaphrodita*), Lesser Water-plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*), and a range of pondweeds (*Potamogeton praelongus*, *P. crispus* and *P. filiformis*).

This site contains many other coastal habitats including sandy beaches with drift line vegetation, sand dunes, wetlands, coastal heath and open marine water, the latter included in the site for its ornithological interest.

A number of rare and threatened Red Data Book plant species have been recorded from the site: Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), Scots Lovage, and from lakes in the site, Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*) and Slender Naiad. The latter two species are legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.

A population of the rare whorl snail, *Vertigo angustior*, has recently been discovered within the site at Kinlackagh Bay. This is associated with a shallow stream valley within dunes. *Vertigo angustior* is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

The site is of ornithological importance for waterfowl, with nationally important numbers of Sanderling, Eider and Long-tailed Duck, as well as good numbers of Oystercatcer, Ringed Plover and Turnstone. Peregrine Falcon and Chough both breed within the site; these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

The site is also used by Otter, Frog and Irish Hare, each of which is listed in the Red Data Book.

The site is grazed by both sheep and cattle and this, coupled with fencing off of certain areas and heavy use of fertilizers, has caused damage to some parts of the site.

This site is of ecological and conservation importance for the occurrence of examples of four habitat types that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, the presence of Red Data Book plants species, including one listed on Annex II of this Directive, the presence of a population of *Vertigo angustior*, and for the large populations of several bird species that use it.

## Conservation objectives for Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC [001975]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

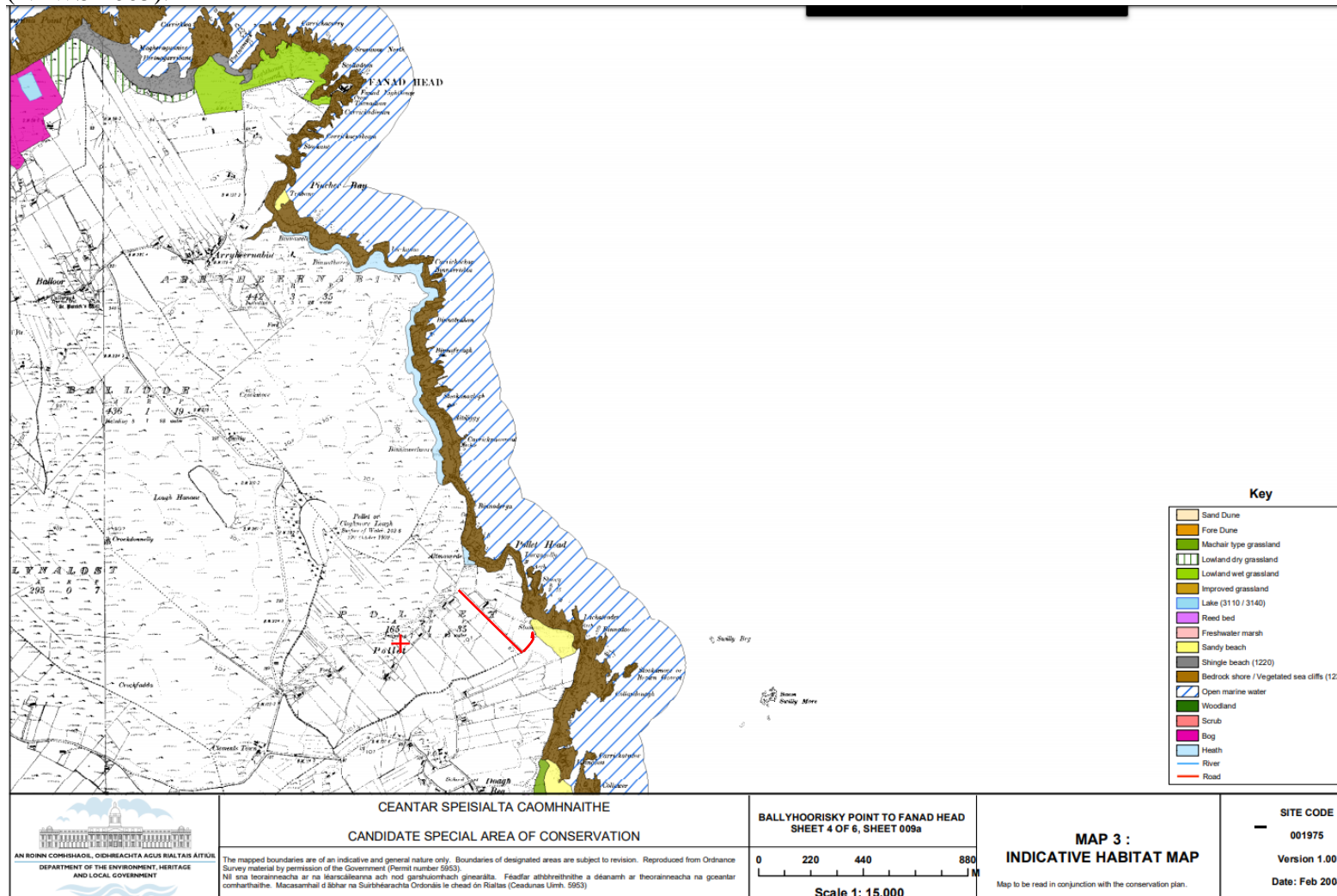
- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

### Qualifying Interests

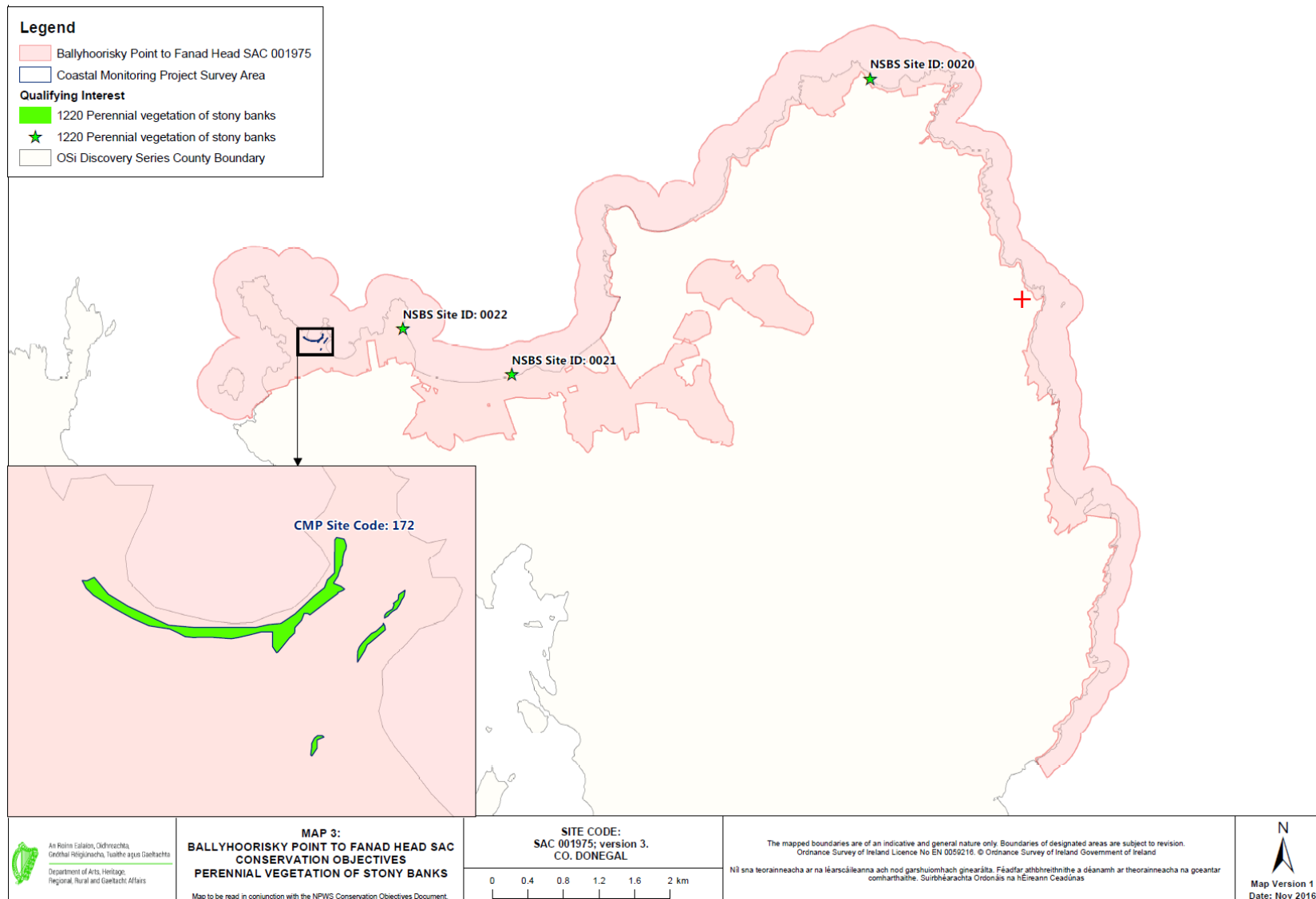
*\* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

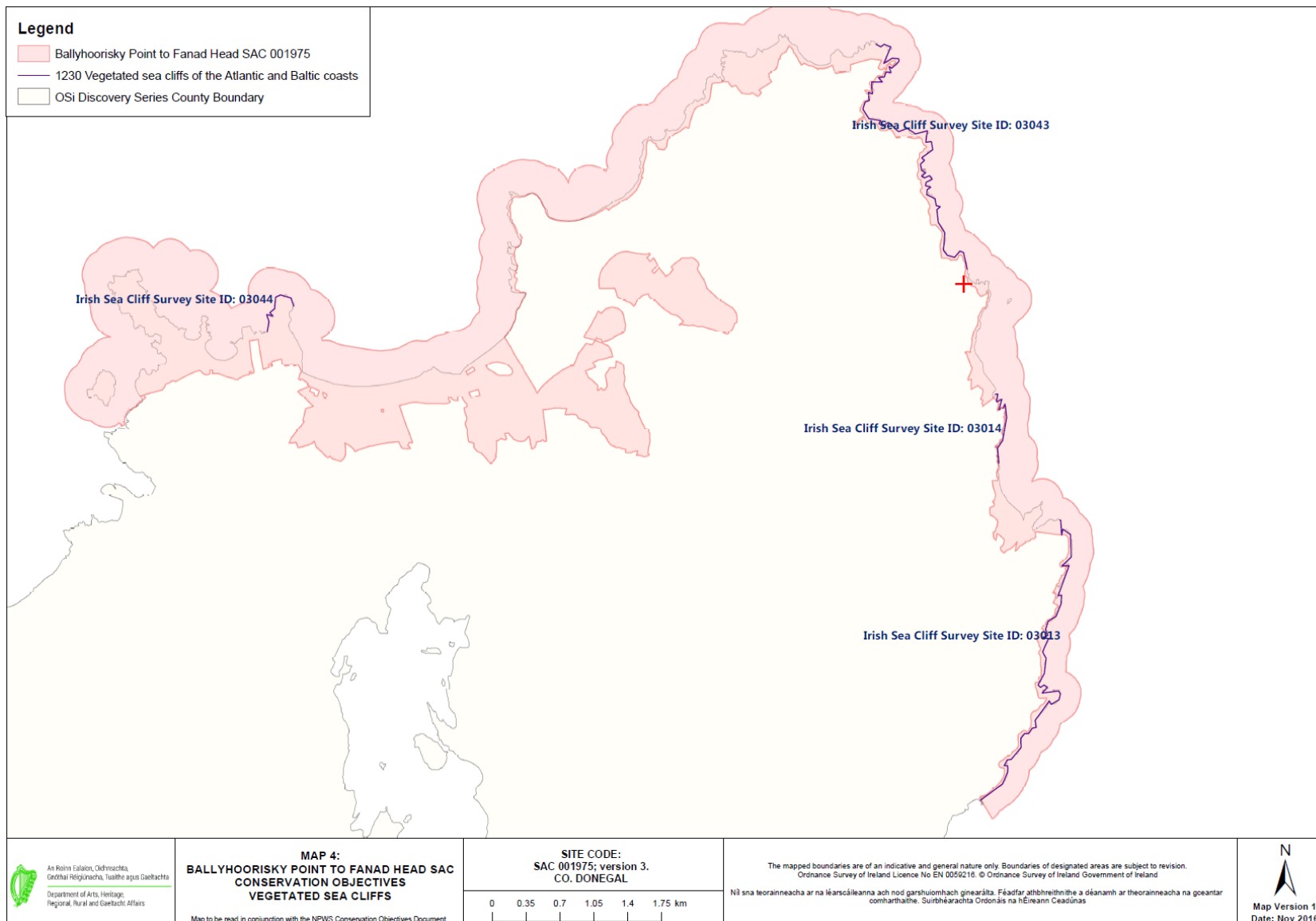
	Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC
1014	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i>
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
1833	Slender Naiad <i>Naias flexilis</i>
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.

**Appendix 3b:** Indicative habitat map within Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC in the vicinity of proposed project (red line and cross). (NPWS 2005).

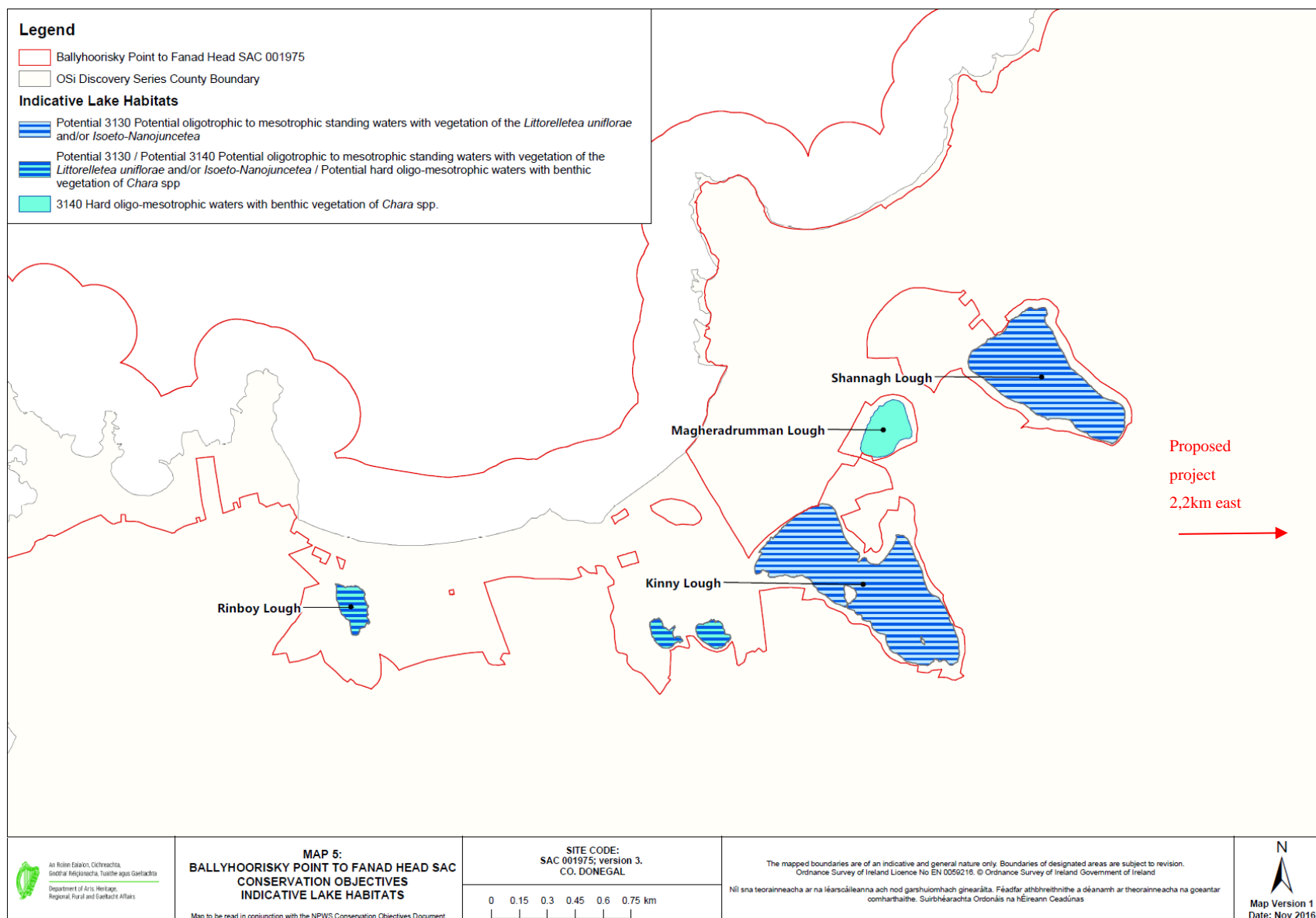


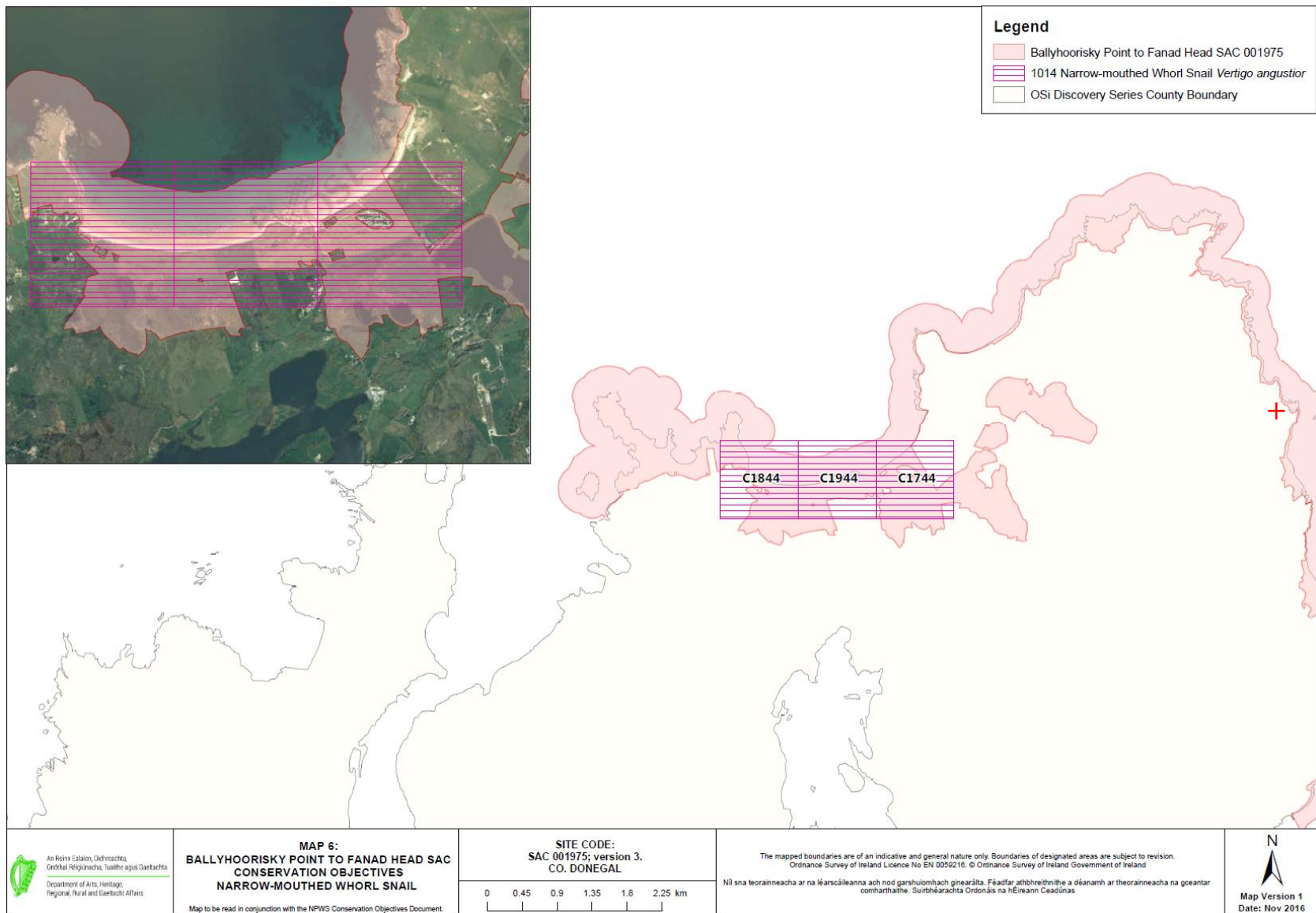
**Appendix 3c:** Location of qualifying interests (see Table 1) associated with Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC vis-à-vis proposed project (red cross). (NPWS 2017).

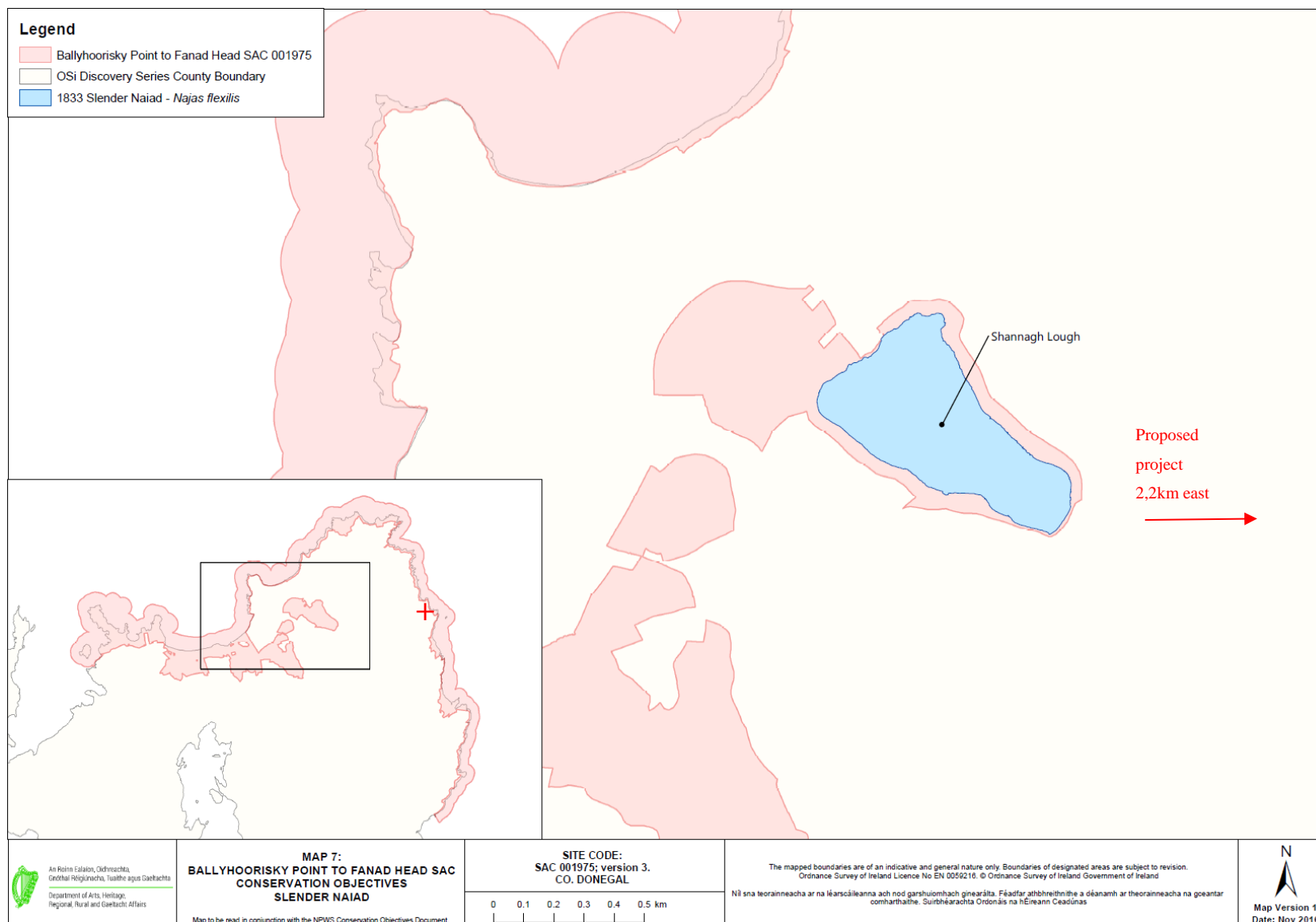












**Appendix 4:** Plate of photos (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019)

Existing waste ground where car park is proposed (facing north-west)



Existing waste ground where car park is proposed (facing north)





Entrance of access path to be concreted to ease access to the field (facing north).



Upper section of hedgerow to be pruned back to the boundary of the field; tall (unmown) vegetation sward (facing south).





Middle section of hedgerow consisted of planted fushio, to be pruned back to the boundary of the field (facing south).



Middle section of field where the hedgerow ends and the path will follow sheep fencing.





Pollet burn at the southern boundary of the field.



Southern boundary of field where path will follow the hedgerow (right hand side); Pollet burn is running on the left hand side (facing west).

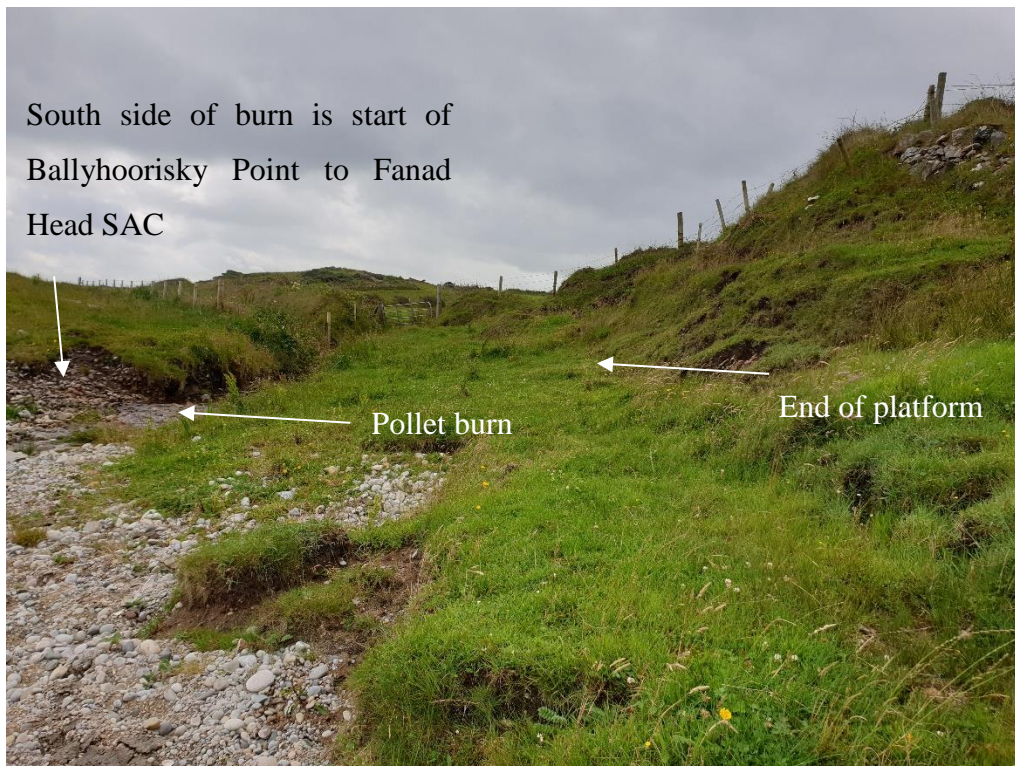




Close up of recently piped ditch and pruned hedgerow where path will be constructed (facing south).



Location of elevated platform to finish path (facing south-west).



**End of report**

# Appendix C

## Drawings

Drawing No.	Title
2018/ORIS/FA/001	Site Locations
2018/ORIS/FA/002	Site Extents – Access road, footpath & viewing area
2018/ORIS/FA/003	Site Extents – Car Park
2018/ORIS/FA/004	Site Extents - Signage
2018/ORIS/FA/005	Path Detail Ch. 0m – 200m & Access Road
2018/ORIS/FA/006	Path Detail Ch. 200m – 380m
2018/ORIS/FA/007	Path Detail Ch. 380m – 480m
2018/ORIS/FA/008	Path Detail Ch. 480m – 520m & Viewing Area
2018/ORIS/FA/009	Footpath - Typical Cross Sections