



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

**Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe**  
Our Rural  
Future



**An Ciste um Athghiniúint  
agus Forbairt Tuaithe**  
Rural Regeneration and  
Development Fund



**Project Ireland 2040**  
Building Ireland's Future



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

## AA Screening Report & Determination in respect of: 'Ramelton Re-Imagined' – A Restorative & Transformational Historic Town Centre Public Realm Scheme

### STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:

<b>(a) File Reference No:</b>	Ramelton Re-Imagined
<b>(b) Brief description of the project or plan:</b>	<p>The proposed Ramelton Re-Imagined Part 8 scheme for the site provides for the development of a Restorative &amp; Transformational Historic Town Centre Public Realm scheme. The proposed works in question include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction of a new public realm environment at Gamble's Square delivering an enhanced capacity for civic events and social purpose;</li> <li>▪ Construction of a new public realm environment at the Market Cross and the recreation of a civic meeting place inclusive of public seating area with a feature sculpture piece;</li> <li>▪ Construction of a new multi-user public park environment at 'the Bing' incorporating new levels and topography to ensure all abilities access and opportunities for rest, play and gathering;</li> <li>▪ Construction of a new public realm environment at Market Square including a new paved shared surface and street furniture;</li> <li>▪ Construction of a new public realm environment at the Quays; and</li> <li>▪ All associated ancillary works.</li> </ul> <p>All works shall be located in the town centre of Ramelton within the townland of Ramelton in the Letterkenny &amp; Milford Municipal District.</p>
<b>(c) Brief description of site characteristics:</b>	<p>The site for the proposed development comprises 1.72ha in area and is located in the town centre of Ramelton, County Donegal. The site consists of 5 existing key public spaces at: Gambles Sq, The Market Cross, The Market Square, The Bing and The Quays and is both served and accessed by public roads</p>

	<p>consisting primarily of the Shore Rd, Castle Street and Bridge Street.</p> <p>The site is located within a built-up, long established town centre environment of mixed-uses including commercial, residential, retail, services, cultural uses, car parking, roads infrastructure and amenity areas reflective of its town centre location.</p> <p>The site is also located in a Quays and Harbour environment and is adjoined to the west by the River Lennan.</p> <p>The subject site is adjacent to three designated Natura 2000/European sites: Lough Swilly SPA, Lough Swilly SAC and the River Lennan SAC.</p>
(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted: e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW	--
(e) Response to consultation:	--

## STEP 2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.

European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest <sup>1</sup>	Distance from proposed development <sup>2</sup> (km)	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
Lough Swilly SAC [002287]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• *Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> </ul>	Ca. 2m	<p>Yes</p> <p>The site lies directly adjacent to this SAC.</p>	Yes- see step 3
Lennan River SAC [002176]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>• Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>• Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]</li> </ul>	Ca. 200m	<p>Yes</p> <p>Due to the close proximity of the area of works.</p> <p>The Lennan River SAC is upstream of the area of works and therefore surface water connectivity is not identified.</p>	Yes
Mulroy Bay SAC [002159]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> </ul>	Ca. 7.4km	<p>No</p> <p>There is no hydrological</p>	No

			connectivity with this SAC	
Ballyarr Wood SAC [000116]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>	Ca. 3.8km	No  This SAC is upstream of the proposed development.	No
Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC [002047]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>• Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>• Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> </ul>	Ca. 12.5km	No  This SAC is upstream of the proposed development.	No
Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA [004039]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</li> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>) [A466]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>• Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</li> <li>• Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191]</li> </ul>	Ca. 14km	No  Given the separation distance and that works are taking place in an urbanized setting which does not represent favourable habitat for the listed species.	No
Lough Swilly SPA [004075]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] - wintering</li> <li>• Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] - wintering</li> <li>• Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] - wintering</li> <li>• Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] - wintering</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] - wintering</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] - wintering</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] - wintering</li> <li>• Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] - wintering</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] - wintering</li> <li>• Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] - wintering</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] - wintering</li> </ul>	Ca. 2m	Yes  The site lies directly adjacent to the SPA.	Yes- see step 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] - wintering</li> <li>Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] - wintering</li> <li>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] - wintering</li> <li>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] - wintering</li> <li>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] - wintering</li> <li>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] - wintering</li> <li>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] - wintering</li> <li>Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] - wintering</li> <li>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] - breeding</li> <li>Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] - [wintering]</li> <li>Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] - breeding</li> <li>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] – breeding</li> <li>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] – wintering</li> <li>Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>			
Lough Fern SPA [004060]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059]</li> <li>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	Ca. 3.8km	No  The designated site is upstream of the proposed development, there will be no deterioration in water quality and the separation distance will rule out any disturbance as a factor.	No

### STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:

Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/magnitude etc.)
<p><b>Construction phase e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation clearance</li> <li>Demolition</li> <li>Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits)</li> <li>Dust, noise, vibration</li> <li>Lighting disturbance</li> <li>Impact on groundwater/dewatering</li> <li>Storage of excavated/construction materials</li> <li>Access to site</li> <li>Pests</li> </ul>	<p>Lough Swilly SAC and SPA and River Lennan SAC are brought forward for further consideration on the basis that they are within the zone of influence of the development site.</p> <p>The primary impacts are expected to arise at Construction stage.</p> <p>The works are not necessary for the management of the said Natura 2000 sites. Given that there will be no works within any internationally designated sites, there will be no loss of habitat.</p> <p><b>Lough Swilly and River Lennan SAC:</b></p> <p>Instream works are not proposed as a part of this project. Works adjacent to waterbodies will adhere to standard best</p>

practice construction standards and therefore it is not considered that there is any potential for a deterioration in water quality within the Lough Swilly SAC or River Lennan SAC (which lies directly upstream of the development site). In addition, no works are proposed within the boundaries of either SAC and therefore it is not considered that there will be any impact, direct or indirect on the QI habitats of these SAC's. This also applies to QI species, whose populations are contained further upstream in the River Lennan SAC such as FWPM, slender naiad and salmon spawning.

Mobile QI species such as Otter and salmon can be susceptible to direct impacts, such as mortality. However, the works are proposed in the context of a busy and urbanised environment in the existing town centre of Ramelton and outside the aquatic environment. It is not considered therefore that the works present any added potential for direct mortality to QI species. Construction works are also proposed during daylight hours when otters are less active. Having regard to the existing levels of human activity and noise disturbance associated with the town centre environment it is not considered that the proposed works will result in a significant deviation from baseline levels. Therefore, there will be no anthropogenic disturbance to otter and the proposed lighting scheme will reduce levels of light pollution on the adjacent estuarine atmosphere, improving foraging conditions for otter.

**Accordingly, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects as a result of the proposed development on the Lough Swilly or River Lennan SAC.**

#### **Lough Swilly SPA**

The primary risk of impact relates to disturbance to waterbirds during construction. The SPA is primarily designated for wintering bird species and direct impacts (such as mortality) are considered unlikely given the low intensity of the proposed works and their confinement to a built, urban environment. Again, in the absence of instream works and given adherence to standard best practice construction standards it is not considered that there is potential for a deterioration in water quality or impact on prey items or foraging habitat for QI species.

Potential indirect impact could include visual and noise disturbance during re-paving and works on The Bing and The Quays at the northern end of the site. However, the presence of existing riverside walls at this location will provide full or partial concealment towards much of the development area and it is considered that visual disturbance to roosting and foraging birds will be low level. The walls will also provide a level of screening for, or abatement of, noise disturbance with the exception of the Quays. However, it is considered that a moderate baseline level of noise disturbance exists at this location as a result of the periodic presence of boats and loading trucks in addition to normal town centre disturbance associated with traffic, pedestrian, and dog walkers etc. Roosting species in the vicinity of the town include: teal, redshank, and grey heron. Roosting numbers within potential disturbance distance to the town are low, likely as a result of baseline disturbance levels. The presence of workmen will not increase baseline activity. There maybe some limited disturbance to foraging species during construction but this will not likely exceed baseline levels and there is an abundance of alternative foraging habitat with any change being temporary.

	<p>The only breeding species for which the Lough Swilly SPA is designated are Sandwich tern, common tern, and black headed gull. The most important site for these species is 8km away at Inch Island and outside the zone of influence for this development. The existing environment in Ramelton is not suitable for colonial breeders.</p> <p><b>Having regard to existing baseline levels of disturbance, the low intensity and phased nature of the works, it is not considered that there will any likely significant effects as a result of the proposed development on the Lough Swilly SPA.</b></p>
<p><b>Operational phase e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct emission to air and water</li> <li>• Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment</li> <li>• Lighting disturbance</li> <li>• Noise/vibration</li> <li>• Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction</li> <li>• Presence of people, vehicles and activities</li> <li>• Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks)</li> <li>• Potential for accidents or incidents</li> </ul>	<p>Once complete it is not considered that the regeneration of the existing public realm environment in Ramelton Town Centre will result in a change in function or use which would significantly alter existing baseline levels. <b>It is not considered that the operational phase will result in any likely significant effects on a Natura 2000 site.</b></p>
<p><b>In-combination/Other</b></p>	<p>Projects with potential for in-combination impacts were considered. One project was brought forward for further detailed considered given its large scale and potential overlap with the subject site. This project is the proposed new WWTP including 1590m of outfall pipeline, 1no. main wastewater pumping station at Ramelton and Rathmullan and 1no. network waster pumping station at Rathmullan. Plan.Reg.No. 20/51157 refers. This project is submitted to AA and EIA and an NIS and EIAR have been prepared. As a result a range of mitigations to protect water quality, to protect species from disturbance and to protect the QI's and SCI's of the Natura 2000 sites have been employed. Given these factors and the findings of no residual effects <b>it is not anticipated that there will be a significant effect on Lough Swilly SAC, SPA or the River Lennan SAC as a result of in-combination effects.</b></p>

<p><b>(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:</b></p>	
<p>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area</li> <li>• Disturbance to QI species</li> <li>• Habitat or species fragmentation</li> <li>• Reduction or fragmentation in species density</li> <li>• Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.)</li> <li>• Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI</li> <li>• Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p> <p>There will be no loss or fragmentation of habitat.</p> <p>There will be no reduction to water quality.</p> <p>There is no potential for an increase in disturbance to QI species.</p>

<p><b>(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?</b></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>No</p>

While detailed design methodologies will be engaged during the construction phase, these are not required to avoid or reduce any effects on a European site. These measures are not relied upon to reach a conclusion of no likely significant effects on any European site during the construction phase.

## Step 4. Screening Determination Statement

### The assessment of significance of effects:

Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is **not likely** to have **significant** effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

On the basis of the information on file, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to:

- the regenerative nature, scale, low intensity, and phased nature of the proposed development within an existing town centre environment;
- the existing levels of anthropogenic disturbance within the town centre environment;
- the absence of instream works, and
- the level of habituation by foraging birds and avoidance by roosting species;

it is concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the above listed European sites or any other European site, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives. **An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.**

### Conclusion:

	Tick as Appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is <b>no likelihood</b> of significant effects on a European site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate assessment not required.
(ii) It is <b>uncertain</b> whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request further information to complete screening <input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
(iii) <b>Significant effects</b> are likely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:

*Ruth Oliver*

26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Signature and Date of the Decision Maker:



26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Appendix to AA Screening Report and Determination  
in respect of the  
Ramelton Re-Imagined – A Restorative &  
Transformational Historic Town Centre Public Realm  
Scheme**



# Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

## Ramelton Historic Town Centre- Public Realm Enhancement Project, Co. Donegal



**Report produced by Woodrow APEM Group.  
On behalf of Building Design Partnership Ltd. (BDP)**

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**January 2022**



## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	Screening for Appropriate Assessment - Proposed Ramelton Town Public Realm Enhancement Project, Co. Donegal
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Checked by client	26/01/2022
Status / Version / Date	Final 26/01/22

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This report was authored by Alice Clarke and Fionn Murphy

Alice Clarke is an Assistant Ecologist with Woodrow APEM Group ('Woodrow'). Alice has completed an MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology at Queen's University, Belfast. She has gained experience working in ecological consultancy roles in Ireland over the past three years, and has authored Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screenings, Natura Impact Statement (NIS) reports and Ecology Chapters for Environmental Impact Assessments Reporting (EIAR). Subsequently, Alice is familiar with the process of ecological assessment. She has worked for a wide range of Clients, including within the forestry, wind energy, residential, business development and wastewater treatment industries. She has experience of bat survey and assessment work, and assists with bird survey and habitat survey, assessment and report writing.

Fionn Murphy is an Ecologist with Woodrow APEM Group ('Woodrow'). He holds a B.Sc. in environmental science and a M.Sc. in environmental science from the Universities of Copenhagen and Hohenheim (double degree). He is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Fionn has a broad range of ecological experience having worked in a variety of consulting and research roles in Ireland, Denmark and Germany. He has authored reports and managed projects for numerous different developments including for forestry, recreation, infrastructure and wind energy developments.

This report was reviewed by Mike Trewby. Mike is a highly experienced ecologist with over 20 year's fieldwork & research experience and is a Full Member Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). While specialising in avian studies, he has expanded his field skills to cover a range of survey methodologies. He is also experienced at undertaking invertebrate surveys and amphibian surveys. Mike is regarded as one of the leading authorities on chough ecology in Ireland having produced reports detailing the ecology of several regional chough populations and assisting in the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for choughs. He has studied some of the country's iconic bird species including red grouse and important seabird colonies adorning the Irish coastline.

### **Fionn Murphy – Qualifications:**

MSc – Environmental Science, University of Copenhagen & University of Hohenheim, 2017.

BSc – Environmental Science, National University of Galway Ireland, 2012.

### **Mike Trewby-- Qualifications**

PGDip Environmental Studies University of Strathclyde 2002

BSc Zoology & Botany University of Namibia 1995 –1997

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd. (Woodrow) was engaged on behalf of the applicant, BDP on behalf of Donegal County Council, to prepare an Appropriate Assessment screening report for the proposed regeneration of the public realm in Ramelton town, Co. Donegal. This report addressed both the construction phase and its operation upon completion.

The intention of this Appropriate Assessment screening report is to determine, in view of best scientific knowledge, applying the precautionary principle, and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant internationally designated sites, whether the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, may adversely affect the integrity of any internationally designated sites. Also known as European Sites, they comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended. SACs are designated for the protection of certain habitats and species under the Habitats Directive. Ireland is required under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to designate SPAs for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. This includes certain listed rare and vulnerable species, regularly occurring migratory species, such as ducks, geese and waders, and wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

This report provides information which can be used to assist the Competent Authority in applying Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> as necessary, under their roles, functions and responsibilities in relation to the Appropriate Assessment of plans or projects.

The legislative context of the requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment is outlined in the following sections.

## 1.2 Legislative context

### 1.2.1 *Requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening*

An Appropriate Assessment Screening provides the information necessary to fulfil the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and Regulation 42 of the (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in determining the potential impacts on Internationally Designated Sites of the proposal. The European Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive) was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as amended by Council Directive 97/62/EC. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm) [Accessed November 2019].

Regulations 2011 (Habitats Regulations). Regulation 42(1) of the 2011 Regulations requires that:

*“A Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Site as a European Site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the Site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European 2000 Site”.*

Case law<sup>2</sup> has required that measures which are *intended to avoid or reduce* the harmful effects of the proposed development on any relevant internationally designated site, i.e. specific mitigation, cannot be considered at the screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment process and where this arises, the plan or project must be assessed fully.

If, following the screening process, a likely significant effect is predicted or cannot be ruled out; under Regulation 42(6), a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required in order to determine the potential for impact on the integrity of an internationally designated site. In the event of a negative assessment in terms of an adverse effect on Site integrity, a proposal can only be consented in the absence of feasible alternatives and for ‘Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest’ (IROPI). In such cases, compensatory measures to ensure the integrity of the European Site is maintained, are required. The Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the ‘Habitats Directive’ states that:

*“any uncertainty over the precise nature and/or magnitude of the adverse effects should be thoroughly tested. Where appropriate, a precautionary approach should be adopted and the assessment of adverse effect based on a worse-case scenario.”<sup>3</sup>*

### **1.2.2 Requirement for a Natura Impact Statement**

The Appropriate Assessment test assesses whether, in view of the best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, the proposed project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, may adversely affect the integrity of any internationally designated sites.

If, following the screening process, a potential significant effect is predicted or cannot be ruled out, under Regulation 42(6) an Appropriate Assessment is required in order to determine the potential for impact on integrity of a European site.

Regulation 42(9) of the 2011 Habitats Regulations states:

Where a public authority is required to conduct an Appropriate Assessment pursuant to paragraph (6) in relation to a plan or project that it proposes to undertake or adopt, it shall:

- Prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS);
- Compile any other evidence including, but not limited to, scientific evidence that is required for the purposes of the Appropriate Assessment; and,

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<sup>2</sup> People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17); and, Heather Hill Management Company clg v An Bord Pleanála [2019] IEHC 450.

<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2007) Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance\\_art6\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf) [Accessed January 2022].

- Submit a Natura Impact Statement together with evidence compiled under *subparagraph (b)* to the Minister not later than six weeks before it proposes to adopt or undertake the plan or project to which the Natura Impact Statement and evidence relates.

Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2001 (as inserted by section 57 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010) sets out the appropriate procedure for Local Authority projects with potential to impact on internationally designated sites. This requires that, where an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of a development by a local authority that is a planning authority, they will prepare, or cause to be prepared, a Natura Impact Statement. The Natura Impact Statement shall then be provided to *An Bord Pleanála* for them to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

With the Screening for Appropriate Assessment having determined that potential significant effects on European Sites could not be ruled out (see Section 3 of this report), a Natura Impact Statement is required under Regulation 42(9) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural habitats) Regulations 2011. This Natura Impact Statement provides an assessment of the proposal considering potential impacts on Qualifying Interests within European Sites and provides mitigation proposals to avoid impacts on the integrity of European Sites. This allows for an audit trail through Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive to facilitate an Appropriate Assessment by a competent authority.

### **1.2.3 Main sources of information**

The following guidance documents and sources of information were consulted:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2010 rev.). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities;
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- European Community Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) – The Habitats Directive (European Commission 1992);
- European Commission (2021) Commission Notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>4</sup>;
- European Commission (2021) ANNEX to the Commission Notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>5</sup>;
- European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (European Commission 1997);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018);

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<sup>4</sup> European Commission Notice: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/methodological-guidance\\_2021-10/EN.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/methodological-guidance_2021-10/EN.pdf) [Accessed January 2022]

<sup>5</sup> European Commission Notice ANNEX: [EN annex.pdf \(europa.eu\)](EN annex.pdf (europa.eu)) [Accessed January 2022]

- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management<sup>6</sup>;
- European Community Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) – The Habitats Directive;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maps<sup>7</sup>;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services online MapViewer<sup>8</sup>;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service's data (downloaded GIS datafiles)<sup>9</sup>;
- To review other planning applications in Co. Donegal – Donegal CoCo Planning Viewer<sup>10</sup>, and;
- Natura Impact Statement for County Donegal Towns & Villages Sewerage Schemes: Ramelton – Milford – Rathmullan (RMR) Sewerage Scheme (Woodrow, 2020)

#### 1.2.4 Field Data

This document references a recent Woodrow sustainable solutions Ltd. report (Woodrow 2020), accepted by An Bord Pleanála, now in the public domain.

This report details wintering bird survey findings from high and low tide counts in the vicinity of Ramelton from October-March 2020. Information from this report is intended to support a screening decision discussed in **Section 3**. This provides context by way of informing behavioural patterns of species for which Lough Swilly SPA is designated. The findings of this report are displayed in **Section 3.3**.

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<sup>6</sup> OPR (2021): [OPR Launches its First Practice Note on Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management - The Office of the Planning Regulator](#) [Accessed January 2022]

<sup>7</sup> EPA Maps. Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> [Accessed January 2022]

<sup>8</sup> NPWS Map Viewer. Available at: <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/> [Accessed January 2022]

<sup>9</sup> NPWS Maps and Data. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data> [Accessed January 2022]

<sup>10</sup> Donegal CoCo Planning Viewer. Available at: <https://donegal.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8be91e332a8f47bfbbe83add1550c666> [Accessed January 2022]

## 2 SITE DESCRIPTION & FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Location

The proposed development is situated in the centre of Ramelton town and encompasses an area alongside the River Leannan, from the Shore Road as far as the town's quays, in addition to the parallel Castle Street and Bridge Street to the south. This encompasses road and footpath surfaces in addition to a development of a green area known as 'The Bing'. The development area is adjacent to Lough Swilly SPA and Lough Swilly SAC, which stretch as far as the river wall, ca. 200m north east of Leannan River. SAC. The geographic context is shown in **Figure 1** and the site overview is shown in **Figure 2**. The proposed area of works is a well frequented urban area, home to approximately 1,200 people, which also experiences seasonal influxes of tourists to the designated heritage town. Open to both traffic and pedestrians, the area of proposed works contains a number of cafes and restaurants, with waterfront areas being utilised for informal outdoor seating for businesses near the quayside of the town. As such, the area of proposed works experiences a considerable ongoing level of human activity.

### 2.2 Description of proposed development

The proposals comprise public realm improvement works in Ramelton for five central public spaces including The Mall and Gamble's Square, The Bing Park, Market Square, The Quays and Market Cross, as identified in **Appendix I**. The proposals also include improvements to pedestrian footpaths and the provision of safe crossings at various points to enhance the pedestrian environment.

The proposed design has taken a sensitive approach to creating a series of enlivened public spaces connected by a walk-able continuous path 'The Ramelton Loop' that wraps around the historic core centre. The total Site area for the proposed works encompasses 1.72 hectares. There are no changes to the level of existing parking provision. Works will extend as far as the existing river walls but will not involve alterations to this structure and will take place over a low intensity, phased basis. The construction phase of the proposal will involve:

- **Paving works:**

Due to restrictions on noise in areas of residence and business, contractors are obliged to adhere to various noise control measures which are considered intrinsic to proposals.

Works will be monitored by noise sensors which will notify crews if an acceptable decibel limit has been exceeded, based on measured pre-construction baseline levels.

Paving will be undertaken primarily by hand/with the use of hand tools. Works will use existing build-up where possible, eliminating the need for demolition of existing surfaces. Due to restrictions on noise in areas of residence and business, works will be monitored by noise sensors which will notify work crews if an acceptable decibel limit has been exceeded. Cutting of stone will take place off site as a noise limiting measure. Any small local cuts, if required, will take place in a cutting tent using noise suppressing saws. Works will require the use of an excavator during formation, with loaders and a telehandler employed to move materials. Finally, planers and rollers will be required during the final resurfacing works. Works will follow Best Practice Guidelines for working



near water, as outlined by Inland Fisheries Ireland (2016)<sup>11</sup>. It is estimated paving works will take approx. 40-45 weeks.

- **Works to the Bing:**

Works will be undertaken in an already soft-landscaped area, installing footpaths, street furniture and planting. Very little demolition is required during these works, which usually adds to ambient noise. These works are estimated to be shorter in duration than the paving works.

- **Lighting:**

Works will be undertaken to update the lighting in the town to LEDs and Optics, this more modern lighting scheme will result in light being concentrated on pathways and roads as opposed to the river. This would be expected to significantly decrease light pollution to the estuarine habitat, which is currently occurring under the dated existing lighting. Proposed lighting installations are detailed within **Appendix II**.

Upon completion, there is not considered to be a change in use of the town centre. Works are considered to be a regeneration of existing areas.

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<sup>11</sup> Guidelines on protection of fisheries during construction works in and adjacent to waters, 2016. Available at: <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/2016/Guidelines%20Report%202016.pdf> [Accessed January 2022]

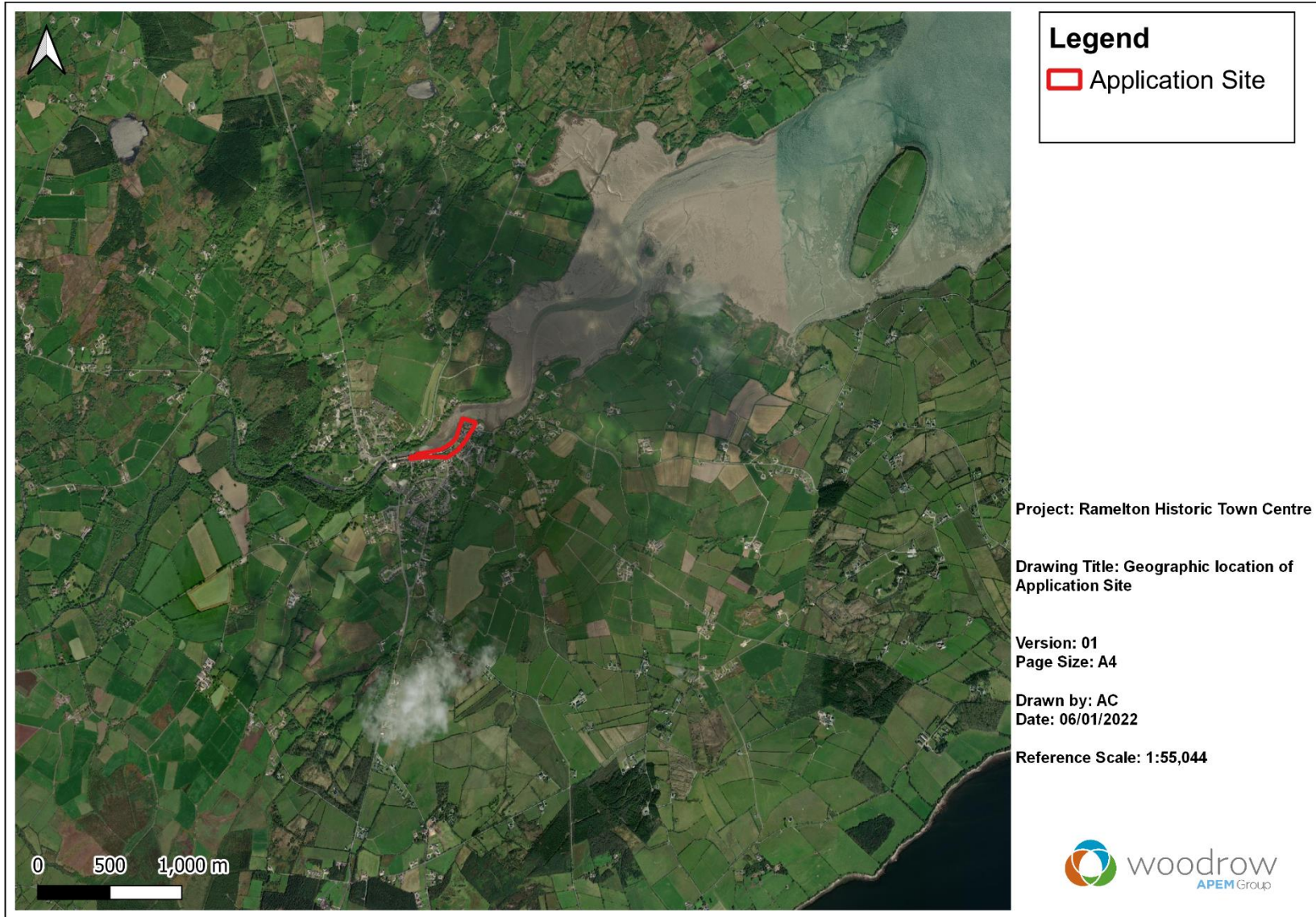


Figure 1 – Geographic context for proposed Application Site in Ramelton town, Co. Donegal

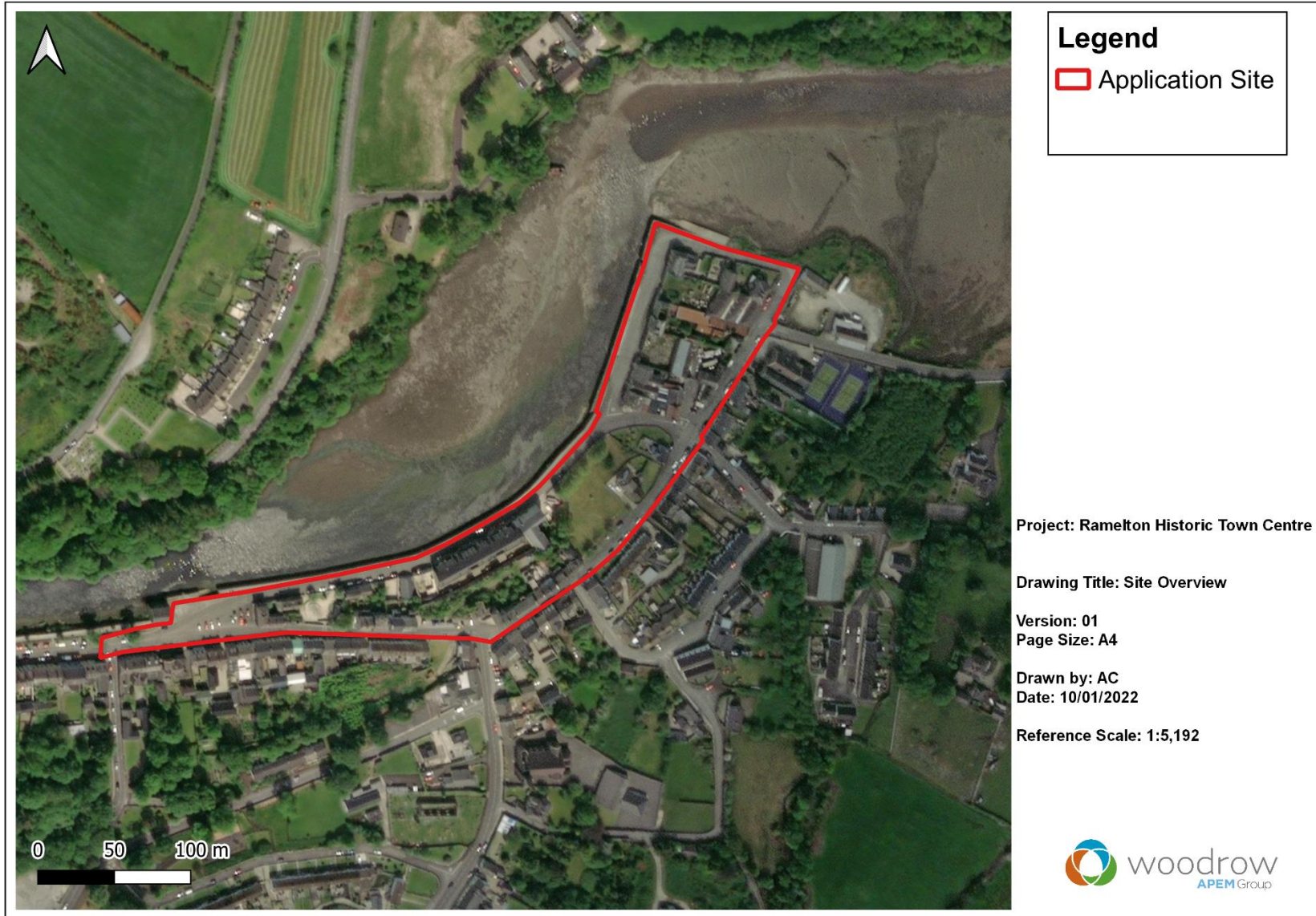


Figure 2 - Site overview

### 3 POTENTIAL IMPACT ON EUROPEAN SITES

The following sections provide information on surrounding European Sites. These can then be assessed based on factors such as proximity to proposal, qualifying features, and their conservation status. A screening matrix is provided regarding the potential impacts and likely significant effects of the planned proposal on these designated sites.

Within each section, the site's conservation objectives are laid out, the potential for the proposal to affect them is considered, and a conclusion on the potential for the proposal to have a significant effect on its qualifying features (and therefore on the European Site) is made.

#### 3.1 Zone of Influence

The following section provides information on European Sites which are potentially within the Zone of Influence of the proposal. European Sites within 15 km of the proposed Application Site are shown in **Figure 3**.

The Appropriate Assessment Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2010) derive a guideline distance of 15 km from UK Guidance (Scott Wilson *et al.*, 2006). However, the potential impacts on designated sites are dependent on the location, topography and environment at the development site, the nature of impacts arising, the sensitivity of receptors and the causal links and conduits, rather than simply the distance. In many cases the potential Zone of Influence is considerably less than 15 km (for example noise and airborne pollution) while the potential zone of influence could be greater than 15 km, for example if there is a significant and direct hydrological pathway e.g. a main river which flows directly into a European Site, or if a QI / SCI species ranges over areas which are greater than 15 km from a European Site for which they are a listed feature of interest. In this case, the zone of influence is deemed to include areas within c. 1km of the Application Site.

The Steps to follow when identifying which Natura 2000 (European Site) may be affected by a plan or project are available from the European Commission Guidance (2021) *Commission Notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. In particular, the assessment should identify:

- *Any Natura 2000 sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;*
- *Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;*
- *Natura 2000 sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g., loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range); and,*
- *Natura 2000 sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.*

European Sites with potential pathways for impacts are identified in order to establish the zone of influence of the proposal. These can then be assessed based on factors such as proximity to the proposed works, the Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Sites (and the species or habitats upon which these rely), and their conservation status. Further information on this is also available within the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) *OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*.

On consideration of the scale, design and location of these works, the Zone of Influence of this proposal is not considered to be greater than 1km, and potentially less.

European Sites within the 15km of the proposal and those sites within c. 1km, deemed the potential zone of influence, are shown in **Table 1**. **Figure 3** illustrates the proximity of these European Sites to the proposed works, and potential connectivity where relevant.

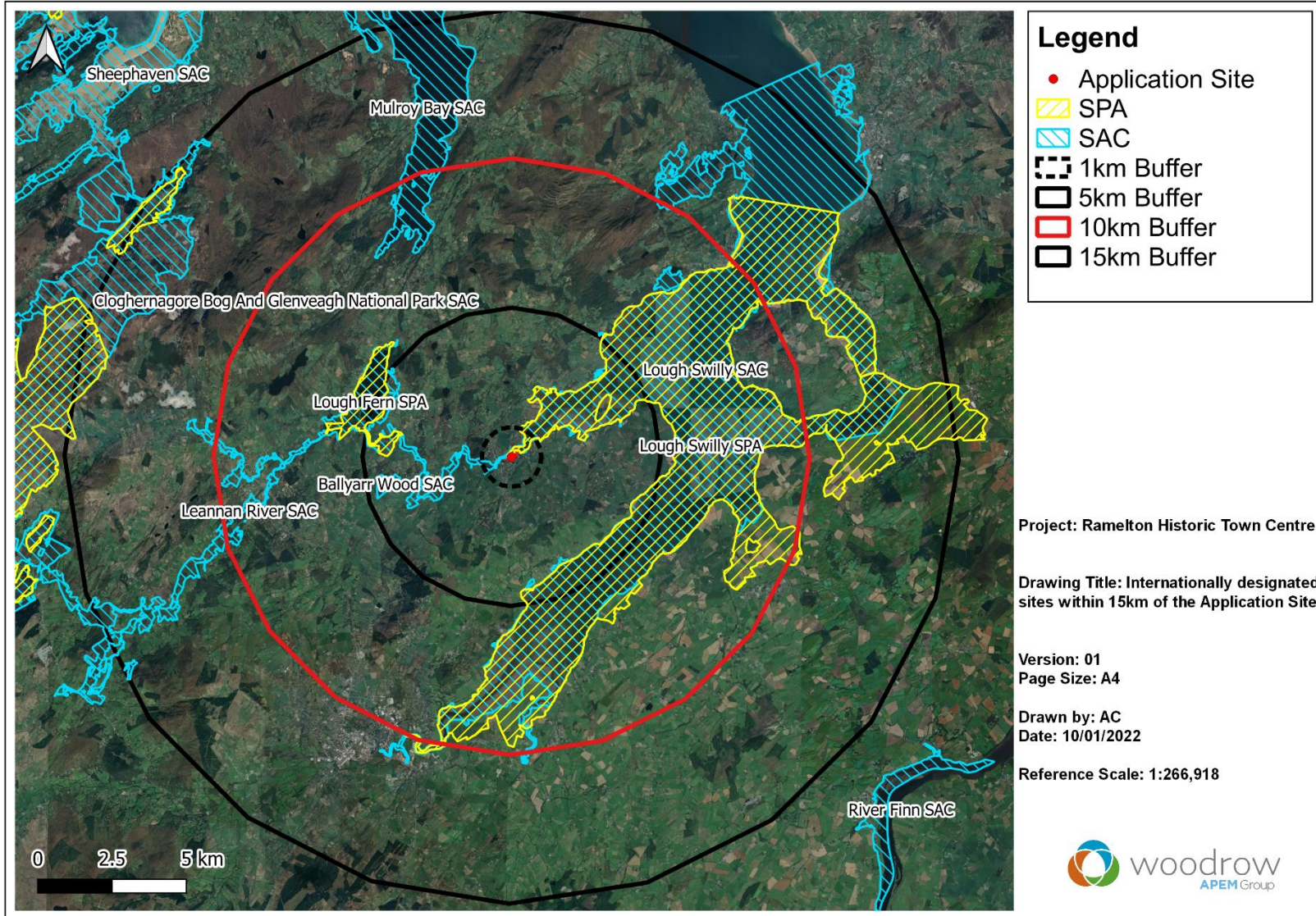


Figure 3 - European sites within the Zone of Influence of the proposed development in Ramelton, Co. Donegal

**Table 1 - Designated sites with potential connectivity to proposed development**

Internationally designated sites	Main features of interest * = <i>A priority habitat – habitats which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory, are highlighted with an asterisk</i>	Distance from the proposal	Potential Site- Pathway-Receptor Linkage via proximity of site, and/or surface water connectivity? <sup>12</sup>
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
Lough Swilly SAC [002287]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• *Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> </ul>	ca. 2m	<b>Yes</b> , the site lies directly adjacent to the SAC.
Leannan River SAC [002176]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>• Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>• Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]</li> </ul>	ca. 200m	<b>Yes</b> . Due to close proximity to area of works.  Leannan River SAC is upstream of the area of works, as such there is not considered to be surface water connectivity.
Mulroy Bay SAC [002159]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> </ul>	ca.7.4km	<b>No</b> . There is no hydrological connectivity with this SAC.

<sup>12</sup> EPA Maps <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> provides online mapping for rivers, streams, flow direction arrows, ground water vulnerability layers and designated sites for Ireland and parts Northern Ireland etc. – This website was used to assess the potential for connectivity of watercourses and ground water from the proposal to Natura 2000 sites.

Internationally designated sites	Main features of interest * = A priority habitat – habitats which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory, are highlighted with an asterisk	Distance from the proposal	Potential Site- Pathway-Receptor Linkage via proximity of site, and/or surface water connectivity? <sup>12</sup>
Ballyarr Wood SAC [000116]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>	ca. 3.8km	<b>No</b> , this SAC is upstream of the proposed development
Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC [002047]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>• Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>• Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> </ul>	ca. 12.5 km	<b>No</b> , this SAC is upstream of the proposed development
<b>Special Protection Areas (SPA)</b>			
Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA [004039]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</li> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>) [A466]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>• Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</li> <li>• Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191]</li> </ul>	ca. 14 km	<b>No</b> , given the separation distance and that works are taking place in an urbanised setting which does not represent favourable habitat for the listed species.



Internationally designated sites	Main features of interest * = A priority habitat – habitats which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory, are highlighted with an asterisk	Distance from the proposal	Potential Site- Pathway-Receptor Linkage via proximity of site, and/or surface water connectivity? <sup>12</sup>
Lough Fern SPA [004060]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	ca. 3.8km	<b>No.</b> As the designated site is upstream of the proposed development, there will be no deterioration in water quality and the separation distance will rule out disturbance as a factor.
Lough Swilly SPA [004075]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] - wintering</li> <li>• Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] - wintering</li> <li>• Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] - wintering</li> <li>• Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] - wintering</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] - wintering</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] - wintering</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] - wintering</li> <li>• Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] - wintering</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] - wintering</li> <li>• Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] - wintering</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] - wintering</li> <li>• Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] - wintering</li> <li>• Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] - wintering</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] - wintering</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] - wintering</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] - wintering</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] - wintering</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] - wintering</li> <li>• Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] - wintering</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] - breeding</li> <li>• Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] - [wintering]</li> <li>• Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] - breeding</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] – breeding</li> </ul>	ca. 2m	<b>Yes</b> , the site lies directly adjacent to the SPA.

Internationally designated sites	Main features of interest * = A priority habitat – habitats which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory, are highlighted with an asterisk	Distance from the proposal	Potential Site- Pathway-Receptor Linkage via proximity of site, and/or surface water connectivity? <sup>12</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] – wintering</li> <li>Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>		

## **3.2 Description of sites within 15km of the Application Site**

The proposed development works in Ramelton town occur within 15km of 8 no. European Sites, comprising 3 SPAs and 5 SACs, as listed in **Table 1** above. Three European Sites are considered to lie within the potential Zone of Influence of the proposed upgrade works:

- Lough Swilly SAC (Site Code: 002287)
- Leannan River SAC (Site Code: 002176)
- Lough Swilly SPA (Site Code: 004075)

This is because the works will be taking place at a distance of approx. 2m from Lough Swilly SAC and Lough Swilly SPA, and c. 200m from Leannan River SAC, therefore, impacts from disturbance or pollution cannot be ruled out. Further information on the importance of these three European Sites is detailed in **Section 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3** below.

### ***3.2.1 Lough Swilly SAC [Site Code: 002287]***

#### Site description and importance

This SAC is estuarine in character, comprising the inner part of Lough Swilly, with shallow water and intertidal sand and mudflats being the dominant habitats. Saltmarsh habitats are also well represented, particularly in Ramelton. Two areas of woodland exist within the SAC, dominated by sessile oak, which supports a range of breeding bird species including Woodcock. The area is of high ornithological importance for waterbirds, "*The shallow waters provide suitable habitat for grebes and diving duck, while the intertidal flats are used by an excellent diversity of wildfowl and waders. At high tide, the duck and wader species roost on the saltmarshes and shorelines, with some species moving to the adjacent pasture and arable fields*".<sup>13</sup>

### ***3.2.2 Leannan River SAC [Site Code: 002176]***

#### Site description and importance

This SAC is situated in north Donegal, and comprises the River Leannan and its main tributaries and lakes. The site is selected for Annex I habitats Oligotrophic waters, and Annex II species, in particular Freshwater Pearl Mussel, "*A survey in 1995 estimated the population within the site at about 1,000 individuals, ranging in age from comparatively young (< 5 years) to 80+ years*".

The site also supports numerous other habitats and species, including some Red Data Book plant species such as Globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*), Heath Cudweed (*Omalotheca sylvatica*), Small-white Orchid (*Pseudochis albida*) and Pillwort, which are also legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> NPWS Site Synopsis: Lough Swilly SAC. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY002287.pdf> [Accessed January 2022]

<sup>14</sup> NPWS Site Synopsis: Leannan River SAC. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY002176.pdf> [Accessed January 2022]

### 3.2.3 Lough Swilly SPA [Site Code: 004075]

#### Site description and importance

This SPA encompasses the inner part of Lough Swilly in Co. Donegal, including Inch Lough and a series of improved pasture and arable fields on the south side of Lough Swilly, which are of importance to geese and swans. The site is of international importance for three species, Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose and Greylag Goose, of national importance for its wintering bird population, and holds nationally important populations of Black-headed gull, Sandwich tern and Common tern. The EU Habitats Directive also emphasises the importance of the wetland habitats utilised by these species.<sup>15</sup>

### 3.3 Field Results

Field surveys conducted at Ramelton as a component of the Natura Impact Statement for a proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant to serve Ramelton, Milford and Rathmullan (Woodrow, 2020). While winter bird surveys in 2020 covered a much larger area of the estuary, the following species were recorded roosting within proximity of the proposed Application Site.

**Table 2 - High tide roosting count summary (Source: Woodrow, 2020)**

Species	Number of individuals roosting	Distance from proposed works (at closest point)
Grey heron	3	203m north
Redshank	2	146m east
Teal	7	146m east

#### 3.3.1 *Summary of results:*

Surveys provided an insight into the activity of wintering bird species near the proposed Application Site at Ramelton. At high tide, roosting grey heron were observed some 203m north of the proposed upgrade works in Ramelton town, teal and redshank were observed roosting approx. 146m east of the proposed works. At low tide, larger roosts of common gull, wigeon, curlew, oystercatcher and greenshank were located ca. 1.5km northeast of the town, and out of range for visual and noise disturbance. A host of species were observed foraging in the area at low tide. Low numbers of roosting birds may suggest that there is avoidance of the area due to the constant levels of disturbance. Areas ca. 1-1.5km north of Ramelton host much larger roosts, possibly as a function of lower levels of disturbance and/or the availability of more suitable habitat.

There appeared to be a certain level of habituation to disturbance by foraging species, which were observed sometimes in close proximity to the town, with gull species (particularly black-headed gull) being prominent.

<sup>15</sup> NPWS Site Synopsis: Lough Swilly SPA. Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004075.pdf> [Accessed January 2022]

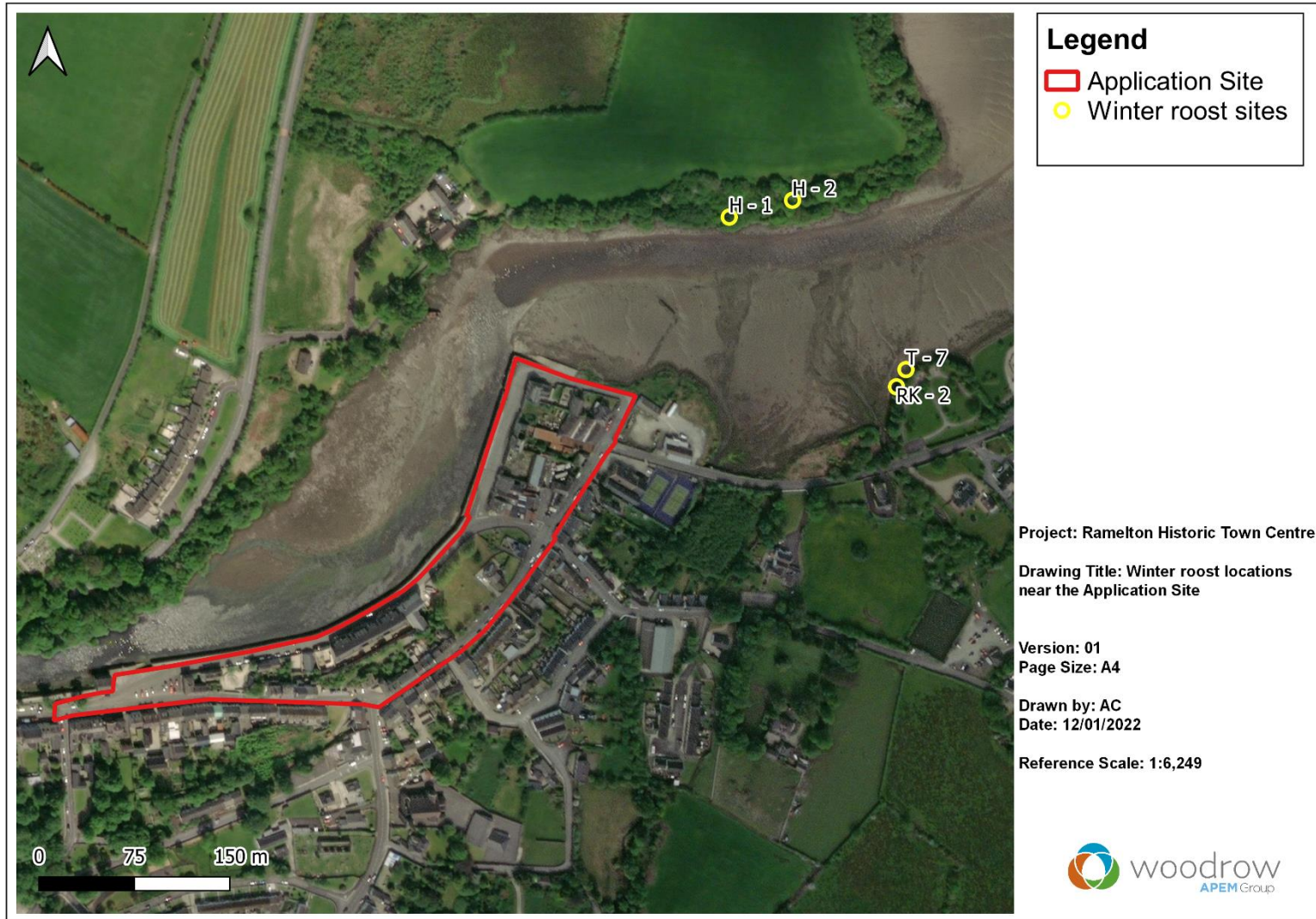


Figure 4 – Depiction of winter high tide roosts derived from information in Woodrow, 2020

### **3.4 Assessment of likely impacts affecting European Sites**

The above **Table 1** has highlighted that Lough Swilly SAC, Leannan River SAC and Lough Swilly SPA are considered to be within the Zone of Influence of the Application Site, given their close proximity to the site.

The proposed works are not necessary for the management of this European Site. There is potential for the proposed town upgrade works to cause Likely Significant Effects on Qualifying Interests of these three European Sites. Given that there will be no works taking place within any internationally designated sites, and there will be no loss of habitat. As there will be no in-stream activities and improvement works will adhere to best practice guidelines on protection of fisheries during construction works in and adjacent to waters (IFI, 2016), it is concluded that there will be no impact upon water quality. Direct impacts could arise as a result of mortality to mobile QI species. It is considered that potential **indirect** impacts of the proposed development could arise as a result of noise and visual disturbance.

The primary impacts are expected to arise from the construction stage of this proposed development. The completed upgrades will not result in any change in function or usage for Ramelton town.

#### **Lough Swilly SAC**

##### Habitats

Due to the lack of instream works and adherence to best practice standards when working adjacent to waterbodies, there is not considered to be the potential for a deterioration in water quality. Furthermore, no works will take place within the boundaries of Lough Swilly SAC. Therefore, it is not considered that there will be any impact, direct or indirect on the QI habitats of this SAC.

##### Species

Otter, being a mobile species can be susceptible to direct impacts, such as mortality, in addition to indirect impacts relating to human disturbance and the introduction of artificial lighting.

Given that all works will take place in an already busy urbanised area, completely avoiding the nearby aquatic environment, it is not considered that these low intensity works present any added potential for direct mortality to otter. Furthermore, it is necessary that the construction phase will take place during daylight hours, a period of when otters are less active.

Due to the existing levels of human activity and noise disturbance associated with an urbanised environment, the proposed phased repaving works are not considered to present a significant deviation from baseline levels. There will therefore be no increase in anthropogenic disturbance to otter. The proposed upgrade of the town lighting scheme will reduce levels of light pollution on the adjacent estuarine atmosphere, improving foraging conditions from otter.

Considering the above factors, it is considered that there will be **no likely significant effects** as a result of the proposed development on lough Swilly SAC.

## Leannan River SAC

### Habitats

Due to the lack of instream works and adherence to best practice standards when working adjacent to waterbodies, there is not considered to be the potential for a deterioration in water quality.

Furthermore, no works will take place within the boundaries of Leannan River SAC, which lies upstream of the proposed works. Therefore, it is not considered that there will be any impact, direct or indirect on the QI habitats of this SAC.

### Species

As the Leannan River SAC lies upstream of the proposed development, there is not considered to be potential for indirect impacts on species as a result of a deterioration in water quality. This applies to QI species, whose populations are contained further upstream, such as freshwater pearl mussel, slender naiad and salmon (spawning).

Mobile QI species such as otter and adult salmon likely travel close to the area of works, meaning there could be potential for direct impacts resulting in mortality. However, the scope of works, which are entirely contained to an urbanised, terrestrial environment will preclude the possibility for direct impacts on mobile QI species.

Otter can be susceptible to indirect impacts relating to human disturbance and the introduction of artificial lighting.

Due to the existing levels of human activity and noise disturbance associated with an urbanised environment, the proposed low intensity repaving works are not considered to present a significant deviation from baseline levels. There will therefore be no increase in anthropogenic disturbance to otter. The proposed upgrade of the town lighting scheme will reduce levels of light pollution on the adjacent estuarine atmosphere, improving foraging conditions from otter.

## There will be no likely significant effects

## Lough Swilly SPA

The primary risk of impact relating to the project is disturbance to waterbirds during construction. Upon completion, the project will not represent a change in usage to Ramelton town.

This SPA is primarily designated for wintering bird species. **Direct impacts** (such as mortality) on bird species are considered unlikely given the low intensity of works and their confinement to a built, urban environment.

Potential **indirect** impacts related to the proposed works include:

- Noise disturbance to species of interest during re-paving works and improvement works on 'The Bing'
- Visual disturbance to species of interest during re-paving works and improvement works on 'The Bing'

Due to adherence to best practice and no instream works, there is not considered to be the potential for a deterioration in water quality, thus will not impact on prey items or foraging habitat for QI species.

It is considered that the potential for visual disturbances will primarily arise as a result of works taking place in the most northerly area within the Application Site (the quays), the presence of river walls and buildings will provide partial or full concealment towards much of the rest of the proposed development area. Applying the disturbance guidance outlined in Cutts *et al* (2013), is it considered visual disturbance for roosting and foraging birds will be of a **low-level**. The presence of river walls

and building will also present a level of screening for noise, the only exception to which being near the quays of the town, where there is no river wall. This could lead to a temporary moderate-level of noise disturbance based on the potential need for a small excavator for a short period of time. However, it is noted that a moderate baseline level of noise disturbance is present in this area due to the periodic presence of boats and loading trucks, in addition to a host of other disturbance factors such as traffic, pedestrians and dog walkers.

As shown in **Table 2**, roosting species in vicinity of the town include teal, redshank and grey heron. Redshank in particular are considered to be sensitive to noise stimuli, however, Redshank will forage extremely close to plant machinery (<50m) (Cutts et al. 2013). The presence of workmen will not present an increase in baseline levels of activity in the town due to constant disturbance as a result of footfall and traffic. Furthermore, roosting numbers within potential disturbance distance to the town are observed as being low, likely as a function of baseline disturbance levels. There may be some disturbance to foraging species during the construction phase, but this will likely not exceed baseline levels. Furthermore, there is an abundance of alternative foraging habitat, with any potential increase in disturbance being temporary. The significance of effects is displayed in the Screening Matrix in **Table 5**.

Sandwich tern, common tern and black headed gull are the only breeding species for which this SPA is designated. The most important site for this is at Inch Island, over 8km from proposed works (NPWS, 2011b), outside of the zone of influence for this proposed development. The highly disturbed and urbanised area surrounding Ramelton, is considered unsuitable for colonial breeders.

**Taking baseline levels of disturbance into consideration, along with the low intensity, phased nature of works, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects as a result of the proposal**

## 4 CONSIDERATION OF 'IN-COMBINATION' IMPACTS

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 15 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations state that any plan or project that may, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, significantly affect a Natura 2000 site should be the subject of an Appropriate Assessment. The assessment of in-combination impacts is therefore an important part of the screening process.

In-combination impacts can be an issue when proposals have a small impact on European Sites as a result of factors such as disturbance or pollution. If other proposals also have a further small impact, the combined result can be a significant impact on the site.

**Table 3 - Projects with the potential for in-combination impacts, excluding retentions**

Planning Reference Number	Description of works	Distance from Application Site	Date granted
1751295	Refurbishment and alteration of existing historic warehouse building to create two new townhouses. the proposed development will include repairs and alterations to the existing building, new external paving at perimeter of building, with connection to existing foul/storm	0m	29/3/2018



	drainage networks and all other associated site works		
1950833	Change of use of former genealogical & heritage centre to new artisan food/crafts development to include lounge & dining, ancillary kitchens, toilets, storage and also change of use to 2 no. holiday rental apartments and (2) alterations to exterior to include re-opening of 4 no. blocked gable windows at second floor level and provision of extract ducting on rear elevation with all associated site works	0m	21/8/2019
1851089	Fenced emergency fire escape route through existing open yard with the formation of a pedestrian opening within the existing stone wall separating the open yard and the rear of the ancestry centre; re-open a former window and to enlarge the same opening to form an emergency fire exit and all associated works	0m	14/11/2018
2050247	Renovations and alterations to existing ground floor retail unit to include new shopfront & signage (2) change of use from residential accommodation on first floor to retail use including internal and external renovations and alterations	0m	24/7/2020
2051157	Construction of: 1) a new wastewater treatment plant (wwtp) in the townland of Tirroddy with associated and ancillary development works 2) approximately 1,590m of treated effluent outfall pipeline in the townlands of Tirroddy and Brownknoe, including approximately 160m marine section & outfall diffuser located in lough swilly 3) 1 no. main wastewater pumping station at Ramelton in the townland of Ramelton including all ancillary development works, 4) 1 no. main wastewater pumping station at Rathmullan in the townland of Rathmullan & ballyboe including all ancillary development works, flood 5) 1 no. network wastewater pumping station at rathmullan in the townland of rathmullan & ballyboe including all ancillary development works.	0m	01/07/2021

The above listed development highlighted in pink and its potential for in-combination impacts are considered further below. The remaining developments above are considered to have no potential for in-combination impacts, given the short-term, minor nature of the works.

This project falls within Lough Swilly SAC, Lough Swilly SPA and Leannan River SAC, and partially overlaps with the Application Site. Given the large scale of this WwTP project and the overlap, the potential for in-combination impacts must be discussed further.

Given the large—scale nature of this project, both an NIS and an EclA have been produced, meaning a range of mitigations to protect water quality, to protect species from disturbance and to protect QIs and SCIs of the nearby SACs and SPAs have been employed for the duration of the construction period. These also reduce the risk of in-combination impacts as a result of the proposed project and the WwTP overlap.

These include:

- Employment of an ECoW before and throughout works;
- Protections for water quality including silt curtains, chemical spill protections and turbidity monitoring;
- All water discharged via surface water and foul water drains will be compliant with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Irish Water (IW) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards;
- No demolition works will take place at Ramelton during wintering bird season (October-April);
- Acoustic and visual barriers will be put in place during works commencing September-April (applying the 'Waterbirds Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit' from Cutts et al. (2013));
- Works will be supervised by an ornithologist.

Given these factors, and the findings of no residual effects as a result of mitigation measures, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant effect on Lough Swilly SAC, Lough Swilly SPA or Leannan River as a result of in-combination effects with the proposed project and the WwTP project.

## 5 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – SCREENING MATRIX

Having laid out the site features above for European Sites within the zone of influence that could be impacted by the proposal, the Significance of Impact Matrix (**Table 4**) provides an analysis of the potential for the proposal to result in a significant adverse effect on each European Site. At this stage a potential significant effect can only be ruled out if there is considered to be no risk; any uncertainty must result in a potential significant effect being assumed.

**Table 4** - Screening matrix describing potential significant effects on QI and SCI species as a result of the proposed works

European designated site/code	Interest feature*	Potential connectivity?	Potential Impact / Cause?	Potential for Significant Effects
Lough Swilly SAC (002287)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• *Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> </ul>	Yes	<p><b>Habitat loss/deterioration</b></p> <p>No works will take place within the SAC and there will be no reduction in water quality due to the lack of instream works and adherence to best practice guidelines (IFI, 2016).</p> <p><b>Disturbance to otter (indirect/direct)</b></p> <p>Due to the phased, low intensity nature of works and the already existing level of human disturbance in Ramelton town, there is not considered to be potential for an increase in disturbance to otter.</p> <p>The installation of a modern waterfront lighting scheme will greatly reduce light pollution to the estuarine habitat, resulting in a beneficial outcome to otter.</p> <p>Direct impacts are not considered likely given that all works take place in a built town environment, unsuitable otter habitat.</p>	<p><b>There is no potential for significant effects on this SAC as a result of the proposed works.</b></p>

European designated site/code	Interest feature*	Potential connectivity?	Potential Impact / Cause?	Potential for Significant Effects
Leannan River SAC (002176)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>• Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</li> <li>• Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>• Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]</li> </ul>	Yes	<p><b>Habitat loss/deterioration</b></p> <p>The proposed development is downstream of this SAC, resulting in no potential for water pollution. No works will take place within the SAC and there will be no reduction in water quality due to the lack of instream works and adherence to best practice guidelines (IFI, 2016).</p> <p><b>Disturbance to non-mobile QIs</b></p> <p>The proposed development is downstream of this SAC, resulting in no potential for a deterioration of water quality for upstream populations</p> <p><b>Disturbance to otter and salmon (indirect/direct)</b></p> <p>Due to the phased, low intensity nature of works and the already existing level of human disturbance in Ramelton town, there is not considered to be potential for an increase in disturbance to otter.</p> <p>The installation of a modern waterfront lighting scheme will greatly reduce light pollution to the estuarine habitat, resulting in a beneficial outcome to otter.</p> <p>Direct impacts to salmon or otter are not considered likely given that all works take</p>	<p><b>There is no potential for significant effects on this SAC as a result of the proposed works.</b></p>

European designated site/code	Interest feature*	Potential connectivity?	Potential Impact / Cause?	Potential for Significant Effects
			place in a built town environment, unsuitable otter habitat.	

European designated site/code	Interest feature*	Potential connectivity?	Potential Impact / Cause?	Potential for Significant Effects
Lough Swilly SPA (004075)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] - wintering</li> <li>• Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] - wintering</li> <li>• Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] - wintering</li> <li>• Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] - wintering</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] - wintering</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] - wintering</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] - wintering</li> <li>• Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] - wintering</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] - wintering</li> <li>• Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] - wintering</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] - wintering</li> <li>• Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] - wintering</li> <li>• Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] - wintering</li> </ul>	Yes	<p><b>Reduction in Habitat Quality [Wetlands and Waterbirds]</b></p> <p>There will be no reduction in water (and hence habitat) quality due to the lack of instream works and adherence to best practice guidelines (IFI, 2016).</p> <p><b>Disturbance</b></p> <p>Due to the phased, low intensity nature of works, in combination with noise limiting measures which are otherwise intrinsic to the proposed development, it is not considered that levels of disturbance will measurably exceed baseline levels in this busy urban environment. Furthermore, there is a level of habituation by foraging birds and avoidance by roosting species.</p>	<p><b>There is no potential for significant effects on this SPA as a result of the proposed works.</b></p>

European designated site/code	Interest feature*	Potential connectivity?	Potential Impact / Cause?	Potential for Significant Effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] - wintering</li> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] - wintering</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] - wintering</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] - wintering</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] - wintering</li> <li>• Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] - wintering</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] - breeding</li> <li>• Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] - [wintering]</li> <li>• Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] - breeding</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] – breeding</li> <li>• Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] – wintering</li> <li>• Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>			

## 6 CONCLUSIONS OF SCREENING

According to DoHELG (2010), the Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Screening exercise can result in one of three conditions:

- An Appropriate Assessment is not required i.e. where the plan/proposal is associated with the management of the site;
- There is no potential for significant effects i.e. Appropriate Assessment is not required; or,
- Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain i.e. the project must either proceed to Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment, or be rejected.

As displayed in the screening matrix (**Table 4**) it has been concluded that there is no potential for significant effects to occur in relation to the European Sites 'Lough Swilly SAC', 'Leannan River SAC' or 'Lough Swilly SPA' as a result of this proposal. Therefore, there is no potential for adverse impacts on the Qualifying Interests and/or Special Conservation Interests which are listed for these European Sites considered to be within the zone of influence of the proposed works.

**Following the precautionary principle, and in view of best scientific knowledge, it is determined that there is no potential for significant effects on any European site.**

**There is therefore no requirement for further Appropriate Assessment, in the form of an NIS, in this case.**



## 7 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX I – Site plans



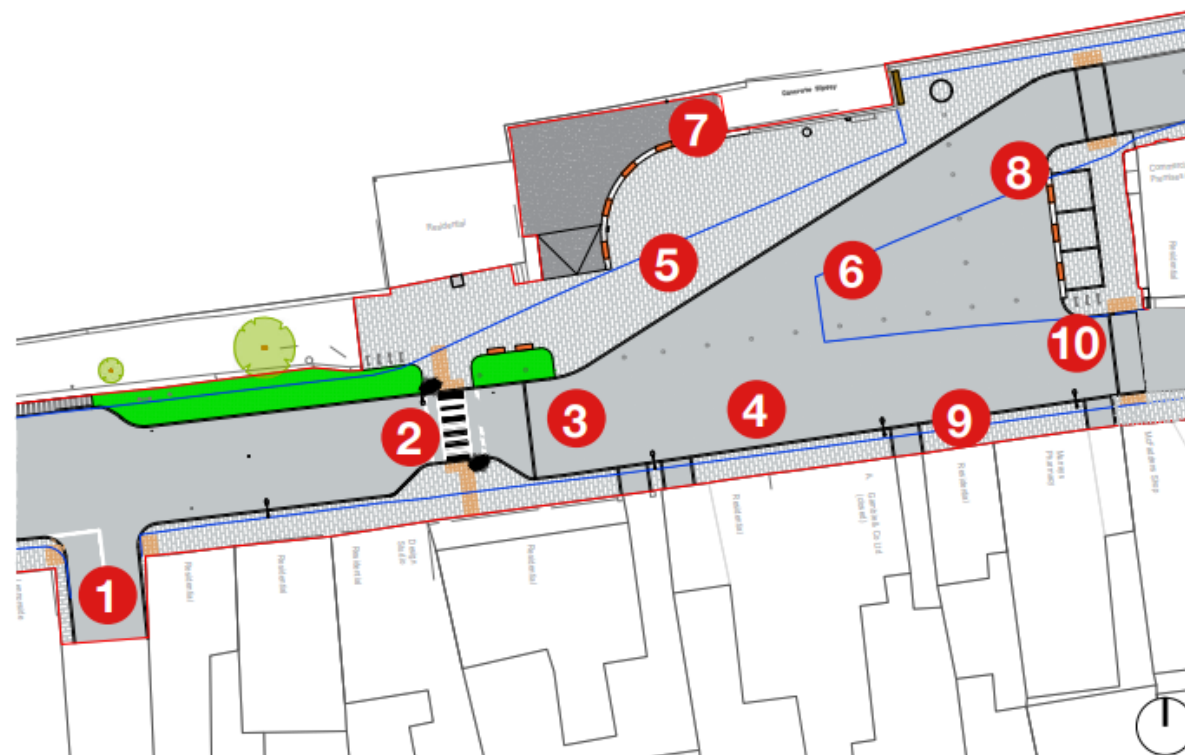
1. Gamble's Square
2. Shore Road
3. Market Cross
4. The Bing
5. Market Square
6. The Quays

**BDP.**

**Gamble's Square**

**Key enhancements:**

1. Improved pedestrian crossing at the Tank.
2. Introduction of a new Green Gateway to Gamble's Square of low-level native shrubs.
3. Installation of high quality paving and street furniture throughout. (See Section 4 Materials).
4. Retention of parking for everyday access.
5. Inclusion of a new wide walkway linking the Mall to the Shore Road creating a smooth pedestrian flow.
6. Creation of a flexible market and events space, through telescopic bollards.
7. Electricity sockets along the new retaining wall with seating (See Section 3 Gamble's Square Levels) will provide weekly market vendors with a source of energy and the public with a levelled pitching area.
8. Addition of stepped levels with seating and planting at the improved spill out area for potential restaurants and bars.
9. Placement of a new sensitive lighting scheme to function practically for people and avoid environmental overspill protecting nature.
10. The provision of cycle stands (See Section 4 Street Furniture).



General Arrangement Plan (Drawing not to scale)

**BDP.**  
**Shore Road**

**Shore Road will become a vital route linking pedestrians to The Bing, The Quays and beyond. A wider footpath along the riverside and an improved lighting scheme will encourage more footfall along the Lennon to local businesses.**

The design includes:

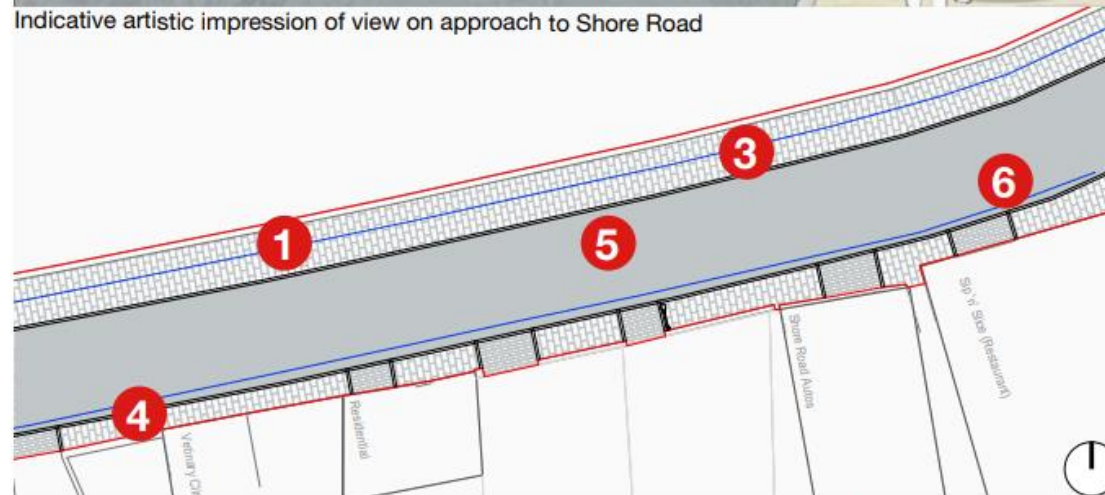
- Widening of footpath on the northern edge and addition of a demarcated footpath on the southern edge.
- Reduction in road width to 6.2m to facilitate two way traffic and uncontrolled parking along one side of the carriageway.

**Key enhancements:**

1. New paving to enhance the historic riverside promenade character (See Section 4 Materials).
2. Introduction of pedestrian crossing points to provide access to the park.
3. Creation of a seamless pedestrian access across the lower historic centre.
4. Upgrade lighting to enable safe evening use.
5. Resurfacing of carriageway improving existing levels.
6. Retention of existing parking along the road.



Indicative artistic impression of view on approach to Shore Road

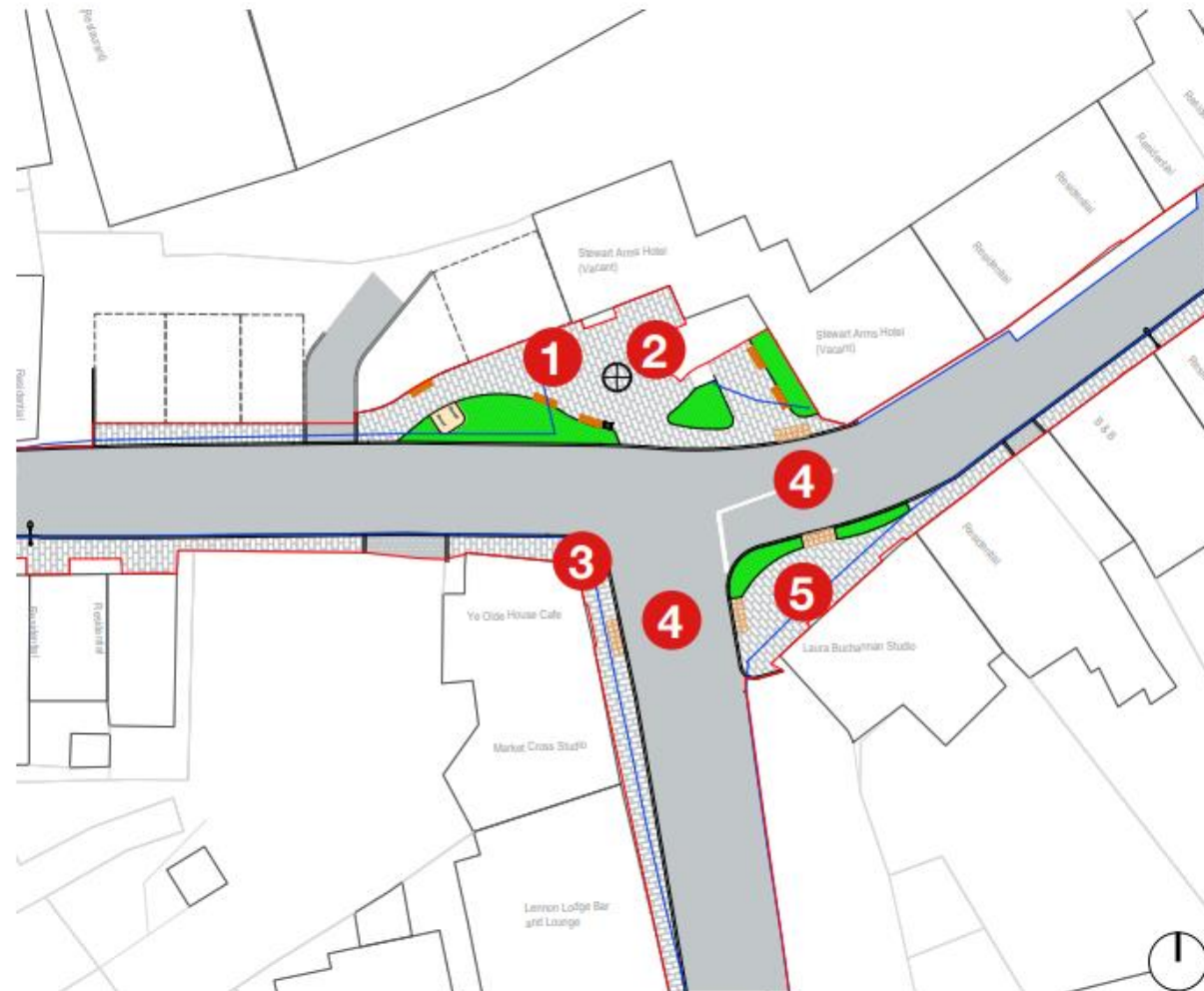


General Arrangement Plan (Drawing not to scale)

**BDP.**  
**Market Cross**

Key enhancements:

1. Creation of a new public plaza with stone paving, planting, cycle stands and seating outside The Steward Arms Hotel.
2. Addition of a sculpture referencing the original Market Cross on a local stone cut plinth.
3. Footpath improvement works.
4. Introduction of two new pedestrian crossing points, improving access for pedestrians.
5. Widened southern path with planting enhances pedestrian movement and circulation.



General Arrangement Plan (Drawing not to scale)

## **BDP.** **The Bing**

### **Key enhancements:**

1. Pedestrian entrances and level access at both Shore Road and Castle Street. These will have information boards and cycle parking.
2. Ramped access at the lower park entrance improves the accessibility of the park for all users. (See next page).
3. Introduction of event space for social, cultural and educational enrichment.
4. Series of community growing gardens.
5. A new footpath carved into the slope of the Bing with seating opportunities, incorporating low retaining walls as necessary to utilise the exiting levels and topography.
6. Bio-diverse planting buffer and natural shelter from the elements. Existing trees retained with additional tree and hedge planting.
7. A series of garden spaces, both visual and sensory, which will vary in planting palette and/or theme from garden to garden and level to level (See approach to planting).
8. A new playground with safety surfacing and themed play elements at a maximum height of 4m. (See Bing Heritage Play) Natural play elements running throughout the park.



General Arrangement Plan (Drawing not to scale)

## BDP. Market Square

### Key enhancements:

1. A new path linking Shore Road and The Quays directly to Market Square.
2. Appropriate paving and sensitive lighting will enhance the setting of the Square and create a destination for locals and visitors (See Section 4 Material, Lighting).
3. Stone trim re-instated at edge of buildings recreating the former setting.
4. The provision of cycle stands (See Section 4 Street Furniture).
5. Addition of a feature tree strategically positioned in the space to complement the setting.
6. Retention of the ability to park within the space as currently operates.
7. The provision crossings point to connect pedestrians to the square and improve general circulation around the town.
8. Creation of new footpath along Castle Street.



General Arrangement Plan (Drawing not to scale)



**BDP.**  
**The Quays**

**Key enhancements:**

1. Industrial heritage is celebrated using natural stone paving with grass joints (See Section 4 Materials).
2. Installation of formal forecourt areas to encourage trade and outdoor dining (See Section 4 Materials).
3. Bespoke and weather resistant street furniture inspired by maritime and cultural heritage. This includes seating and cycle stands. (See Section 4 Quays Street Furniture).
4. A new sensitive lighting scheme to both improve light levels and avoid light pollution (See Section 4 Lighting).
5. The re-provision of necessary vehicle protection integrated into the new furniture.



General Arrangement Plan Drawing not to scale

## APPENDIX II – Lighting Scheme

### **BDP.** Lighting

**A setting-sensitive and environmentally friendly lighting scheme will illuminate the historic town core.**

In order to improve the legibility of the town and encourage day and evening use, a holistic lighting scheme is proposed. The new lighting scheme seeks to address existing level of lighting over-spill onto the water and numerous unlit areas of the town. It also seeks to put in place a more appropriate column and lighting style which will complement both the existing architecture and the proposed public realm improvements.

Lighting heights have been specified to achieve the most appropriate lighting levels for each specific area, ensuring residential buildings and local wildlife will not be negatively impacted by light pollution.

#### **Key enhancements:**

- **Gamble Square** to have 10m LED Ely luminaries with tapered column and 90 degree arm
- **The Quays and The Bing** to have 6m LED Crieff luminaires on tapered column..
- **Elsewhere** to have 8m LED Ely luminaries
- All lighting to have a low luminaire value of 2700 in the CCT index.



Ely



Crieff

