From: CARMEL KELLY on behalf of planning mailbox

MARTINA PARKE (PLANNING) To:

Subject: FW: Rossylongan planning permission payment ref 665697

Date: 14 July 2025 15:40:40 image435208.png image551978.png Attachments:

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From: Darren Reynolds <

**Sent:** 14 July 2025 15:34

To: planning mailbox <Planning@Donegalcoco.ie>

Cc: BRIAN KEOGH < >; DARRYL CONNOR

ADRIAN DUFFY ; Finn McGroarty

**Subject:** Rossylongan planning permission payment ref 665697

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Hi,

Section 5 planning application attached.

Regards,

Darren

**Darren Reynolds** 

**Estates Manager | Coillte | Coillte** Unit 10, N5 Business Park, Moneen, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland F23 X406



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**RECEIVED DATE: 14/07/2025** 



#### **SECTION 5 APPLICATION**

#### FOR DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

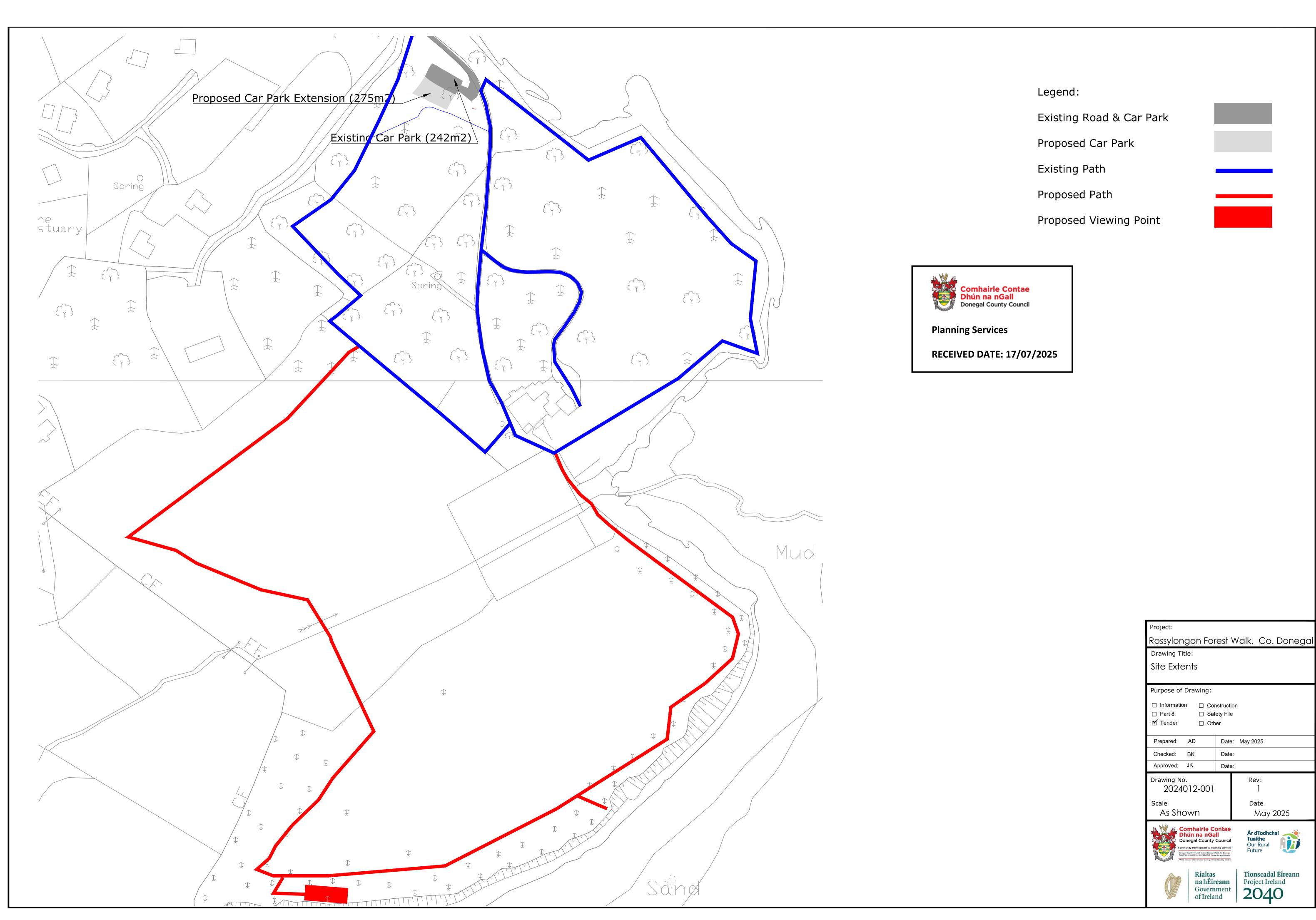
Completed application form & supporting documentation to be returned to the Planning Authority by email to planning@donegalcoco.ie

Name of Applicant(s):	
Agent Name:	
(if applicable)	
Location of Proposed Development / Works:	
(Townland or postal address as	
appropriate and Eircode if available)	
appropriate and Encode in available)	
	ncluding details of works (where applicable):
(Only works listed below will be assessed u	ınder <u>this</u> section 5 application)



Is the development a Protected	Yes	No
Structure or within the curtilage of a Protected Structure?		
Has a declaration under Section 57 of	Yes	No
the Planning and Development Act		
2000 (as amended) been requested or		
issued in respect of the property.		
Applicant(s) Interest in the site:		
If not the Owner of the site, please		
provide the name of the Landowner:		
Please list types of plans, drawings		
etc. submitted with this application:		
Planning History - list any relevant		
planning application reference numbers:		
Are you aware of any enforcement		
proceedings connected to the site? If		
so, please supply details:		
I hereby certify that the inform	nation provided is true	and accurate

I hereby certify that the information provided is true and accurate		
Signature of Applicant/Agent:		
Date:		





**Planning Services** 

**RECEIVED DATE: 17/07/2025** 

# COILTE

## FÁILTE GO HEASTÁT MHIC MANUSA

## WELCOME TO MAC MANUS ESTATE

#### ROS UÍ LONGÁIN

thailte shliocht John Murray as Broughton ar dtús. Bhronn Séamas 1 an chuid ba mhó de na tailte i mbarúntachtaí Bháineach agus Bhaollach ar John Murray thart ar an mbliain 1619, tráth a ndearnadh cúlghairm ar phaitinní fhormhór na ndeontaithe beaga. Ina dhiaidh sin, ligeadh an t-eastát ar léas do ghrúpaí éagsúla amhail: An Coimisiún Teamparáltas Eaglasta, Thomas Brooke, Uas., Robert Steel Uas., an tUrramach C. A. Stubbs, agus John B Bevan, a cheannaigh an t-eastát ó Horatio G. Murray Stewart. Dhíol Bevan le A. R. Thompson é i mí na Samhna 1906 ar £1,800, agus athdhíoladh ansin le Pádraig Mac Manus é i mí an Mheithimh 1912 ar £2,000.

Garmhac le Turlach Mac Manus ab ea Pádraig Mac Manus, duine a d'aistrigh ó Chontae Ard Mhacha go Tamhnach an tSalainn tar éis Éirí Amach 1798. Rugadh Pádraig in 1864 agus d'fhreastail sé ar Scoil Ghleann Chuach i dTamhnach an tSalainn. Bhain sé cáilíocht amach mar Chúntóir Modhscoile ach dhiúltaigh fónamh faoi Bhord Briotanach. Chuaigh sé ar imirce go dtí na Stáit Aontaithe ansin, áit a ndeachaigh sé isteach sa Chabhlach. Tar éis dó 8 mbliana a chaitheamh ar muir, d'fhreastail sé ar an gcoláiste ag Mar De Platt san Airgintín agus ceapadh é ina Ollamh le Matamaitic agus Litríocht an Bhéarla. Tar éis dó tréimhse a chur isteach mar theagascóir do nianna agus do choimircithe de chuid Ghobharnóir Buenos Aires, ceapadh é ina bhainisteoir ar a n-eastáit (estancias). Bheadh estancia dá chuid féin aige amach sa saol.

Bhunaigh Pádraig Mac Manus craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge in Buenos Aires, chomh maith le nuachtán dátheangach darbh ainm "The Fianna". Ailt a bhain le hÉirinn a bhíodh sa nuachtán, cuid acu a scríobh Pádraig féin iad, chomh maith le scéalta lena dheartháir Séamus agus lena bhean chéile, an banfhile Ethna Carberry. Bhí Mac Manus i dteagmháil le hArt Ó Gríobhtha, Dubhghlas de hÍde, Pádraig Mac Piarais agus daoine eile a bhí ag troid ar son neamhspleáchas na hÉireann.

Bhí triúr mac ag Pádraig agus Elsa (Ní Ruairc roimh phósadh di): Niall, Cormac agus Conor. Chuir teagascóir oideachas ar na buachaillí sular thosaigh siad ag freastal ar Choláiste Adhamhnáin, Leitir Ceanainn. Agus na buachaillí ar coláiste san Eilvéis in 1928 thug a dtuismitheoirí cuairt orthu i bPáras, áit ar bhuail eipidéim fliú iad. Cuireadh i seanreilig Chill Ó mBaird iad.

Le cabhair dhílis ó oibrithe áitiúla, rinne Pádraig Mac Manus an teach a leathnú, an gairdín múrtha a fhorbairt, úllord mór a leagan amach agus crainn a chur ar fud na háite, rudaí a d'athraigh an t-eastát ag Ros Uí Longáin ó bhonn. Sna 1980idí, fágadh an t-eastát ag Coillte d'fhonn is go mbeadh fáil ag an bpobal air, agus ar an gcoinníoll go dtabharfaí Eastát Mhic Manusa air.

Caitheann Coillte dúthracht le háiseanna a chur ar fáil don phobal áitiúil. D'oibríomar as lámha a chéile le Grúpa Cairde Fhoraois Ros Uí Longáin le maoiniú a bhaint amach sa chaoi go ndéanfaí an láithreán seo a athchóiriú de réir a chéile ar bhealach atá ag teacht lenár bhfís foraoise.

Téigh chuig www.coillte.ie le tuilleadh sonraí a fháil.

#### ROSSYLONGAN

of the lands of the descendants of John Murray of Broughton. Most of the lands in the baronies of Banagh and Boylagh were granted to John Murray by James 1st around 1619, when patents of most of the smaller grantees were revoked. Subsequently the estate was leased to various groups that included: The Church Temporalities Commission, Thomas Brooke Esq., Robert Steel Esq., Rev, C. A. Stubbs, and John B. Bevan who purchased the Estate from Horatio G. Murray Stewart. The property was sold by Bevan to J. A. R. Thompson in November 1906 for the sum of £1800, and re-sold to Padraig Mac Manus in June 1912 for the sum of £2,000.

Padraig Mac Manus, was a grandson of Turlough Mac Manus who moved from County Armagh to Mountcharles after the 1798 Rebellion. Padraig was born in 1864 and attended the Glencoagh school at Mountcharles. He qualified as a Model School Assistant but refused to serve under a British Board, emigrated to the U.S.A. and joined the Navy. After 8 years at sea he attended college at Mar De Platt, Argentina and was appointed a Professor of Mathematics and English Literature. After a period as tutor to nephews and wards of the Governor of Buenos Aires he was appointed manager of their estancias (estates), and would later own his own vast estancia.

the Gaelic League in Buenos Aires, and a bilingual newspaper "The Fianna", which contained material of Irish interest, some written by Padraig, and stories by his brother Seamus and his wife, the poetess Ethna Carberry. Mac Manus was in contact with Arthur Griffith, Douglas Hyde, Patrick Pearse and others who were striving to gain Irish Independence.

Padraig and Elsa, née O'Rourke, had three sons, Niall, Cormac and Conor. The boys were educated by a tutor before attending St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny. In 1928 the boys, while at college in Switzerland, were visited in Paris by their parents who fell victims to a flu epidemic. They were laid to rest at the old Killymard Graveyard at Edrim.

Padraig Mac Manus, with the loyal help of local workers, transformed the estate at Rossylongan by extending the house, developing the walled garden, setting a large orchard and engaging in the extensive planting of trees. In the 1980s the estate, would pass to Coillte with the wish that the public would have access, and would be named, Estát Mhic Manusa.

Coillte are committed to providing amenities for the local community. We have collaborated closely with the Friends of Rossylongan Forest group to allocate funding for the phased restoration of this site in line with our future forest vision.

Please visit www.coillte.ie for more details.

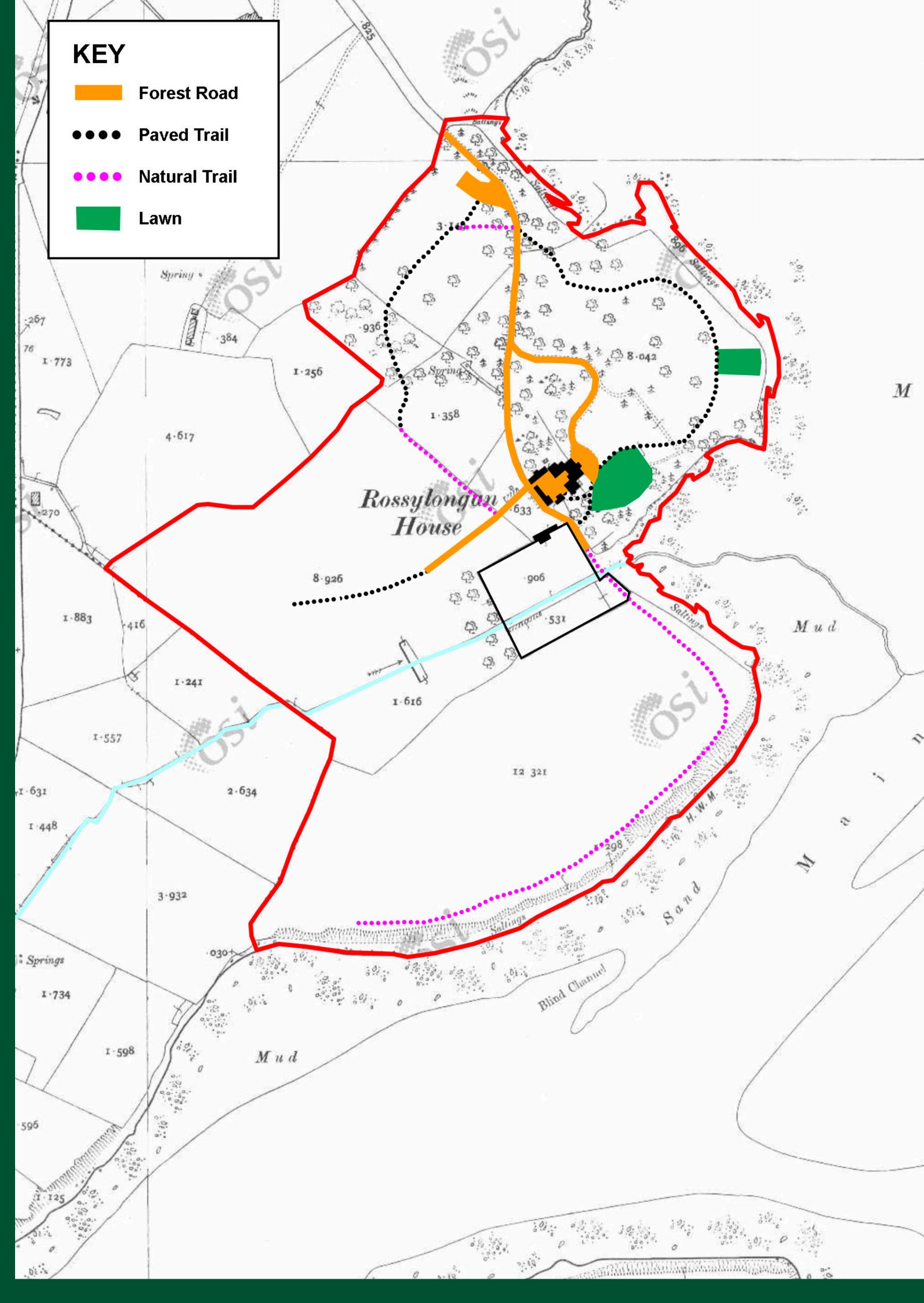












Map: First phase of plan

Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éirea
Project Ireland
2040













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**RECEIVED DATE: 14/07/2025** 

## Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment for a Walking Trail at Rossylongan, 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 Appropriate Assessment for a Walking Trail at Rossylongan, Co. Donegal

### In line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive



Prepared for:

**Donegal County Council** 

Prepared by:

**Earthy Matters Environmental Consultants** 

Glenvar, Kerrykeel,

Letterkenny

Co. Donegal

www.earthymatters.ie



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#### Appendices including all maps.

Appendix 1a: Site location and aerial view.

Appendix 1b: Site layout drawings.

Appendix 1c: Method statement.

Appendix 2a: Habitat map.

Appendix 2b: Species composition within compartments.

Appendix 2c: Location of proposed walking trail vis-à-vis European sites.

Appendix 2d: Site location vis-à-vis European Sites (SAC and SPA) in close proximity to the proposed trail.

Appendix 3a: Site Synopsis and Conservation Objectives.

Appendix 3b: Distribution of Qualifying Interests of Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC.

Appendix 3c: Distribution of Qualifying Interests of Donegal Bay SPA.

Appendix 3d: Summary data and roost location maps for the roost survey.

Appendix 4: Site development (red cross) vis-à-vis national coastal flood extent map around Donegal Bay.

Appendix 5: Photos of the site.

#### **SUMMARY**

Project title:	Construction of a walking trail within a Coillte forest
Project proponent:	Donegal County Council
Project location:	Rossylongan estate
Conclusion	It has been scientifically and objectively concluded during the Screening process that significant impacts on the following European Sites located within a 15 km radius and those beyond this radius but hydrologically connected, are considered unlikely as a result of proposed development:
	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (00133)
	Donegal Bay SPA (4151)
	Therefore, these European Sites can be screened out and it is deemed that it is not necessary to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.

#### INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared by Earthy Matters Environmental Consultants on behalf of Donegal County Council to determine the potential impacts, if any, of a walking trail at Rossylongan Estate, 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.

#### 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 to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the 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) in a step-by-step manner this report seeks to inform the screening process required as the first stage of the Appropriate Assessment procedure and also to provide full and detailed information as required for the second stage, namely Appropriate Assessment, should the competent authority decide that such an assessment is required.

#### Screening stage:

- Determination whether the project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European 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.

#### Methodology

This screening report includes the ecological impact assessment and testing required under the provisions of Article 6(3) by means of the first and second stages of Appropriate Assessment. In this context, a review of the potential, residual (indirect and direct) and cumulative impacts, as well as mitigation measures have been undertaken. It is based on an analysis of existing ecological information including documented information about the designated and non-designated areas involved, as well as a walk-over survey carried out by the author in December 2023. A habitat/vegetation assessment was undertaken by the author to assess the ecological interest of the area.

Guidance documents on the Appropriate Assessment process have been referred to during the preparation of this NIS. These include:

- NPWS (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.
- 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.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AND THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

#### Brief description of the project

Donegal County Council has proposed to develop a walking trail within Rossylongan estate (Appendix 1a), which is owned by Coillte. The footpath will extend from an existing path and will be c. 1.8 km in length, a maximum of 2 m wide, and will be gravel finished. It will require foot bridges to cross the Rossylongan stream at three locations, one in the eastern part and two in the western part of the property. A viewing platform is also proposed at the south-west corner (Appendix 1b).

All works will be carried out following best practices that have been developed with this report and appear in the Method Statement by Donegal County Council (see Appendix 1c), which comprises all the environmental precautions of works carried out near rivers and streams.

#### Brief description of the receiving environment

Rossylongan is a c. 16 ha Coillte-owned forested state situated on the northern shore of Donegal Bay (Appendix 1a). It comprises various species compartments planted all the way to the shorefront, with winding walking paths, open clearings and the remains of an old house and outbuildings at the centre. Coillte has begun site works on the clearance and have opened up the old car park area so that visitors and walkers alike will be able to explore the trails in the estate. A natural padded trail already exists as the first part of the trail longing the Donegal Bay (southern boundary) (see photos in Appendix 5).

The soil comprises a shallow O horizon over a deep and poorly drained mineral (coarse clay) soil. The bedrock has been classified as Bundoran Shale formation.

The Rossylongan stream [37\_4097] crosses the proposed site from west to east. It belongs to the Leitrim Hill Stream sub-basins and the Eske\_010 Sub-catchment. Several ditches criss-cross the estate in a linear fashion, mostly west to east. Flooding risks are not envisaged at this location (Appendix 4).

The dominant habitat (c. 80%) within the site boundary is mixed broadleaved/conifer woodland (WD2), the remaining 20% being mixed broadleaved only (WD1) and a pure conifer (Sitka spruce) plantation (0.4ha) (Appendix 2a). The list of species for each compartment can be found in Appendix 2b and comprises alder (Alnus glutinosa), ash (Fraxinus excelsior), beech (Fagus sylvatica), grand fir (Abies grandis), oak (Quercus spp.), sycamore (Acer pseudoplantanus), Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris), Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), poplar (Populus tremula) and Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis). Some individual specimen are scattered throughout the part including cherry, yew (Taxus baccata) and western red cedar (Tuja plicata). Various shrub layer species occur underneath the more mature trees and include smaller sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), holly (Ilex aquifolium), birch (Betula spp.) and oak. Further west, the undergrowth is mostly rushes (Juncus spp.) and briars.

Coillte manages the woodland and continuous cover forest is planned for the foreseeable future with the long-term goal of conversion to broad leaf woodland while retaining the Scots pine, yew, and any unique tree species of historical value.

Invasive species were recorded throughout the site. A large patch of black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) is located at the mouth of a drain close to the car park and rhododendron is present throughout the forest. The Rhododendron is currently being mulched to encourage natural native tree regeneration and this is working.

The proposed trail adjoins Donegal Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) compartment #OA416 and is located within the 1 km Hectad: G97D (see Appendix 3e for a list of recorded species).

#### Identification of designated sites within the zone of influence

Using aerial photography and databases held online at www.npws.ie, a list of all European sites, namely Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and SPA, located within a 15 km radius of the proposed development site were reviewed. Following the Guidance for Planning Authorities (NPWS, 2010) and adopting the precautionary principle in identifying these sites, it has been determined that given the nature and location of the project vis-à-vis natural features and surrounding topography (located on a peninsula on the northern shore of Donegal Bay), all the European sites located outside the 10 km radius are not likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

Fifteen SAC and five SPA are located within the 10 km radius (see Appendix 2b). However, all but three European sites are located outside the 5 km radius. Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (00133), Donegal Bay SPA (4151) and Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (00163) are the only European sites identified within the 5 km radius. As the latter is located upstream on the other side of Donegal town, it is deemed outside the *zone of influence*. Thus, the European Sites that require investigation in this report are **Donegal Bay SPA** and **Donegal Bay SAC**. These are briefly described in Table 1, together with their Qualifying Interests for which they have been designated.

Table 1: Designated European sites within 5 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?
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (00133)	Adjacent downstream	<ul> <li>Mudflats and sandflats [1140]</li> <li>Fixed coastal dunes (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea [2170]</li> <li>Humid dune slacks [2190]</li> <li>Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]</li> </ul>	Yes. Indirect water pollution impacts may occur via hydrological pathways (surface/groundwater flows) from potential impact sources (runoff) to mudflats and sandflats habitats, and to the seal population.  Screened in.
Donegal Bay SPA (4151)	Adjacent downstream	<ul> <li>Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer) [A003]</li> <li>Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046]</li> <li>Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065]</li> <li>Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144]</li> <li>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>	Yes. Given the proximity of this SPA, the development may directly impact via noise disturbance or indirectly impact via the degradation of the habitats (feeding, roosting etc.) required by bird populations for which this SPA is designated.  Screened in.
Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (00163)	1.7 km north- east upstream	<ul> <li>Oligotrophic waters [3110]</li> <li>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</li> <li>Old sessile oak woods [91A0]</li> <li>Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>	No. There are no hydrological pathways between the development and this SAC, which is located upstream and inland, on the other side of Donegal Town.  Screened out.

#### Description of the European sites and their Conservation Objectives

Conservation objectives are presented in Appendix 3a.

Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (00133)

Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC is a sheltered estuarine system around Donegal Town that covers 1,810 ha and includes extensive intertidal mudflats and sandflats habitats, together with a small proportion of fixed dunes and humid dune slacks on the Murvagh peninsula, where the Red Data Book species round-leaved wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*) occurs. The population of Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) in the SAC is one of the largest in the country, and the site provides an essential habitat for a diversity of estuarine bird species, and the islands are visited by the Greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*). The Qualifying Interests of Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC are listed in Table 1.

#### Donegal Bay SPA (004151)

Donegal Bay SPA (004151) is a very large (10,461 ha), marine-dominated site. It extends from Doorin Point to the west of Donegal Town to Tullaghan Point in County Leitrim. The objective of this designated site is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation interests for this SPA (see Table 1). It is also the aim of this SPA to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the 'Wetland' habitats contained within Donegal Bay SPA, which are identified to be of conservation importance for non-breeding (wintering) migratory water birds. Therefore, the wetland habitats are considered to be of additional special conservation interest. Most of the wetland area in this SPA corresponds to the inter-tidal Donegal Bay, which includes the area adjacent to the proposed development.

#### Identification and significance of potential impacts

Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (00133)

The Conservation Objectives of the 3 habitats and 1 species for which this SAC has been designated are detailed in Table 2. Only those features of the project that have the potential to impact on the features and Conservation Objectives of the identified European sites are considered. Any element of a plan or project that has the potential to affect the Conservation Objectives of a European Site's integrity, including its structure and function should be considered significant. The following issues were examined in relation to the potential impacts of the project (either alone or cumulative) on the identified European sites:

#### Habitat loss due to land-take or habitat fragmentation

The proposed development site adjoins Donegal Bay SAC and SPA, although the trail and 'buffer' area of at least 2 m is located outside the boundary of the SAC/SPA and therefore no loss of habitats is anticipated. **Mudflats and sandflats habitats [1140]** are recorded throughout Donegal Bay and in close proximity from the proposed trail (c. 30 m south downstream) (see Appendix 3b). The removal of vegetation and other path works will be limited in their extent (footprint of the path) and indirect disturbance (runoff) would also be negligible given the gravel surface of the path and overall size. Other coastal habitats for which this SAC has been designated include a variety of **sand dunes habitats** (Table 2), which are located further west of the bay at Mountcharles and Murvagh, both located > 2 km away on the other side of the bay.

The potential for accidental disturbance to the coastal habitats is deemed insignificant given the project's location and description following standard best practices (see Method Statement in Appendix 1c). In addition, the extent of the proposed trails will not cause fragmentation of any habitats and none within the SAC.

#### Disturbance to Harbour Seal [1365]

The proposed trail is located on the northern shore of Donegal Bay, away from any Harbour seal breeding, moulting or resting sites (Appendix 3b, map 6). The trail will not impact or fragment potential suitable habitats.

#### Donegal Bay SPA (004151)

The Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay SPA, based on the principles of favourable conservation status, include the following (NPWS, 2012):

<u>Objective 1</u>: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the waterbird Special Conservation Interest species listed for Donegal Bay SPA.

This objective is defined by the following attributes and targets:

- To be favourable, the long-term population trend for each waterbird Special Conservation Interest species should be stable or increasing. Waterbird populations are deemed to be unfavourable when they have declined by 25 % or more, as assessed by the most recent population trend analysis.
- To be favourable, there should be no significant decrease in the range, timing, or intensity of use of areas by the waterbird species of Special Conservation Interest, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

<u>Objective 2</u>: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Donegal Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise the site.

This objective is defined by the following attributes and targets:

• To be favourable, the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than an area of 10,461 ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

The current site conservation condition of the species for which Donegal Bay SPA has been designated can be found below (NPWS, 2012): Great Northern Diver is currently considered unfavourable, while the status of the other three species is favourable.

Special Conservation Interests	Site Population Trend <sup>a</sup>	Site Conservation Condition	BoCCI Category <sup>b</sup>	Current all- Ireland Trend <sup>c</sup>	Current International Trend <sup>d</sup>
Light-bellied Brent Goose*	+ 140.9	Favourable	Amber	+ 58.0	Increase
Great Northern Diver*	- 32.6	Unfavourable	Green	n/c	n/c
Common Scoter	+ 8.4	Favourable	Red	n/c	Stable
Sanderling	+ 186.6	Favourable	Green	+ 109.4	Stable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Site population trend analysis; see Table 4.2 and text of Section 4.2 for more details; <sup>b</sup>After Lynas *et al.* (2007); <sup>c</sup>all-lreland trend calculated for period 1994/95 to 2008/09; <sup>d</sup>international trend after Wetland International (2006)

#### Disturbance to birds

Disturbance near an SPA can result in loss of bird numbers using the area and, therefore, the construction works could affect local bird populations. The shore nearest the trail is part of the subsite 0A416 "Muckros Strand, which was surveyed in 2009/2010 and, together with the latest data from I-Webs, the records show that it is moderately used by species in winter-time at low tides, including Light-bellied Brent Goose (Appendix 3d). Overall, this area has a low species richness (see tables in Appendix 3c).

The disturbance score in this 0A416 sector has been deemed *low* with 'bait digging' recognised as the main activity responsible for disturbance.

- → The woodland habitats are not used by birds for which the SPA has been designated.
- → No work will encroach on the shore where birds can be present at low tide, and work will be limited to a small footprint at any one time.
- → The construction activities will be carried out outside winter and at high tide (when habitats are not exposed to birds), thus the temporary disturbance to habitats would, overall, be deemed insignificant.
- → In addition, there is no light pollution associated with the project that would impact the birds.

In conclusion, due to limited construction activities taking place in the forest and within a small footprint, disturbance due to noise will not be significant and any potential impact can be avoided by avoiding construction during the winter season (Oct–April). Thus, no negative impacts are foreseen on bird populations, and the Qualifying Interests for Donegal Bay SPA will remain the same after the project.

Finally, the zone of influence for potential air quality impacts upon any European sites is conservatively assessed as less than 1 km. It is deemed that the walking trail would not increase long-term levels of air pollution.

The known Conservation Objectives for each relevant Qualifying Interest associated with the screened-in European sites are presented, and the potential impacts are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Description, significance and mitigation of potential impacts on Qualifying Interests of the identified European sites. Note only the Qualifying Interests, as published on 30 September 2014, are provided here. Version 1 was assessed.

Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Sensitivity	Potential threat from proposed development		
	Donegal Bay SPA				
[A003] Great Northern Diver [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose [A065] Common Scoter [A144] Sanderling [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the non-breeding waterbird special Conservation Interest species listed for Lough Foyle SPA. This is defined by 2 attributes and targets.  To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Lough Foyle SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by 1 attribute and target (area of wetland habitat)	-Habitat modification: Activities that modify discrete areas or overall habitats within the SPA.  -Anthropogenic disturbances that occur in or near the site and are either singular or cumulative in nature.  -Ex-situ factors: Habitats situated within the immediate hinterland of the SPA or in areas outside of the SPA but ecologically connected to the SPA.	-The project will require short-term, localised construction activities that will not encroach on any habitats within the SPA, which would result in the displacement of these birds or a reduction in their numbers.  -The work zone or final trail will not act as a barrier or modify any habitats that would impact the bird populations for which this SPA was designated.  -The boundary of Donegal Bay SPA was defined to include the primary wetlands habitats of this site; the project does not encroach on this SPA or on nearby habitats that would be used by the birds or habitats ecologically connected to this SPA.  -Light pollution is deemed insignificant as it will remain the same as before.  -Noise pollution is deemed insignificant due to a) the temporary nature of the project, b) the locale, and c) work will take place at high tide outside winter months [Oct to April].  Qualifying Interests will remain the same after the project.		
	l	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC			
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	2012 – Version 1 To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC,	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitive to changes in farming practices, including grazing frequency,	This habitat is not present within the boundary of the development and while in close proximity (Appendices 2c and 3b), it will not be significantly impacted by the proposed development.		

	which is defined by the following list of 2 attributes and targets:	fertilisation, and reclamation. Sensitive to drainage.	
[2130] Grey dunes*	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by the following list of 9 attributes and targets.	Sensitive to (a) farming practices, (b) mechanical damage from recreational activities, (c) erosion, and (d) dumping of soil and other materials.	This habitat is not present within or in close proximity to the boundary of the development and will not be impacted.
[2170] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by the following list of 9 attributes and targets.	Sensitive to (a) farming practices, (b) mechanical damage from recreational activities and (c) invasion by seedlings from nearby plantations.	This habitat is not present within or in close proximity to the boundary of the development and will not be impacted.
[2190] Humid dune slacks	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by the following list of 2 attributes and targets.	Sensitive to (a) farming practices, (b) mechanical damage from recreational activities and (c) invasion by seedlings from nearby plantation.	This habitat is not present within or in close proximity to the boundary of the development and will not be impacted.
[1365 Harbour Seal Phoca vitulina]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by the following list of 5 attributes and targets.		The proposed trail is located on the northern shore of Donegal Bay, away from Harbour seal breeding, moulting or resting sites (Appendix 3b, map 6). The trail will not impact potential habitats.

Table 3: Finding of No Significant Effects report matrix.

nformation about the project	
Brief description of the project	c. 1.8 km walking trail
	Partially adjoins Donegal Bay SPA/SAC
	No resource requirements (water abstraction etc.) and no atmospheric emissions, other than emissions from the work vehicles. Short-term duration of construction.
Brief description of European sites within the likely cope of influence of the project	The European Sites considered necessary to investigate in this screened report are:
	- Due to proximity: Donegal Bay SPA and SAC
s the project or plan directly connected with the nanagement of any European site?	No.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project being assessed could affect the site	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.
Assessment of significance of effects	The scope of influence of the project is regarded to be insignificant due to the following factors:
	- Location and type of development (prescriptions).
	- Small construction footprint within a forest and thus limited disturbance.
	- Temporary, low impact disturbance on birds.
	Therefore, it is anticipated that the proposed project would not result in any direct or indirect disturbance to species or habitate associated with this SAC.
Describe the individual elements of the project ikely to give rise to impacts on the European site.	No negative impacts are foreseen.
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:	
Reduction of habitat area within European sites:	-None. The trail is outside the boundary of the Donegal Bay SAC/SPA.
Disturbance to key species:	-Construction will be limited to high tides and outside winter months [Oct–April].
Habitat fragmentation:	-There will be no fragmentation of habitats either estuarine, coastal or farmland or designated that could impact upon the Qualifying Interests of the identified European sites.
Reduction in species density:	<ul> <li>No mechanism to cause reduction in species density relating t</li> <li>SPA feature birds has been identified.</li> </ul>
Changes in key indicators of conservation value:	All habitats and species will remain of the same conservation value after the project.
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.	No likely significant impacts.

#### 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 species or habitats for which European sites have been designated.
- 4. Therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for this project.

Field assessment and Screening assessment and report was carried out by Dr Florence Renou-Wilson (PhD, M.Sc. (Ag.), Dip. EIA&SEA Mngt).



#### References

NPWS (2011) Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (site code 133) Conservation objectives supporting document -coastal habitats Version 1 December 2011.

NPWS (2011) Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (site code 133) Conservation objectives supporting document -marine habitats and species Version 1 – November 2011.

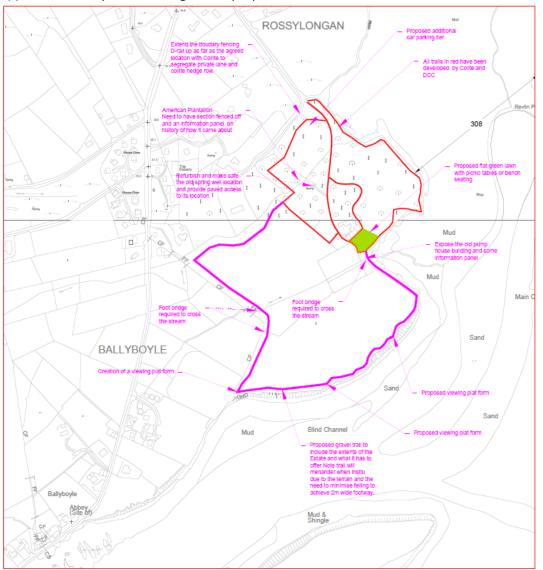
NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC 000133. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2012) Donegal Bay SPA (Site Code 4151). Conservation Objectives Supporting document. Version 1.

Appendix 1a: Site location and aerial view of Rossylongan Estate, Co. Donegal and proposed walking trail.



Appendix 1b: Proposed walking trail in purple.



Appendix 1c: Method Statement for the construction of gravel walking trail.

#### General:

The Environmental Management practices associated with the Method Statement for this project aim to minimise inputs of pollutants to aquatic systems and avoid serious pollution incidents.

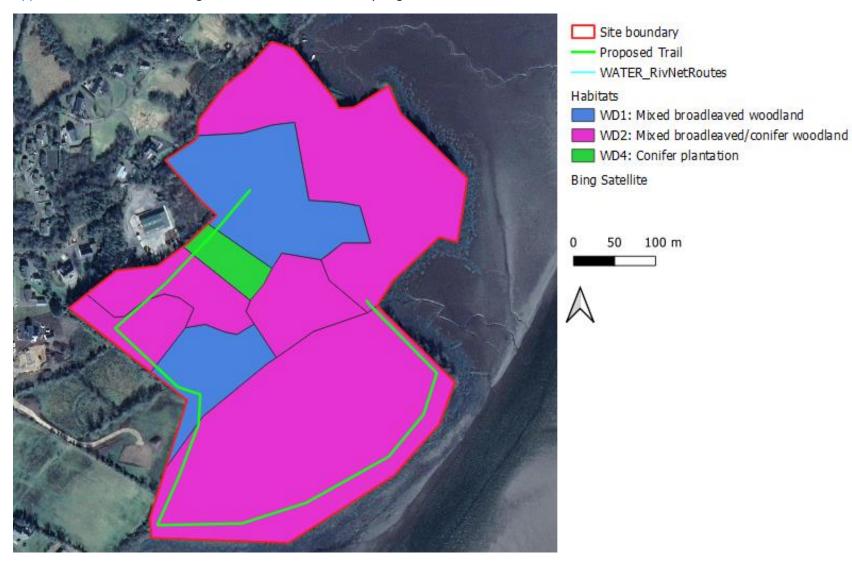
- → They include good standards that conform to the Inland Fisheries Ireland Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites (www.fisheriesireland.ie).
- → The contractors will be made aware of the boundaries of Donegal Bay SPA, as well as the location of all streams, to prevent any damage or accidents that would impact the SPA directly or indirectly.
- → No re-fuelling and maintenance of vehicles will take place on-site.
- → Appropriate spill kits will be kept on site in strategic locations, such as close to refuelling areas, chemical handling areas or waste storage areas. Staff will be trained in their use and in deployment of the spill kits.
- → There shall be no disposal of waste onto Donegal Bay shore or to any streams, ditches or storm drains.
- → No excavated material should be disposed of within or at Donegal Bay SPA boundaries.

Installation of viewing platform

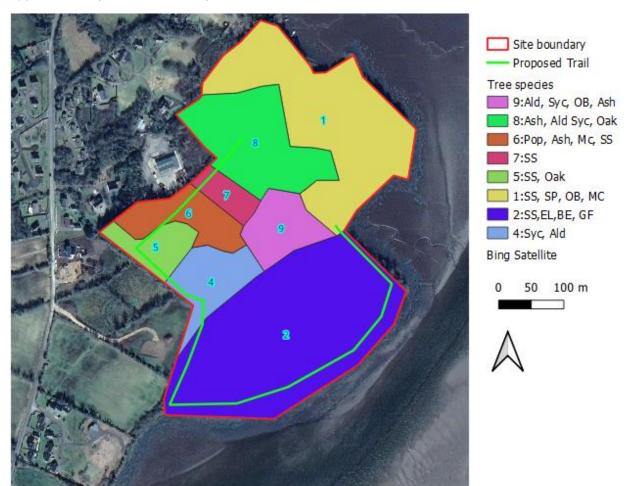
Removal of soil or other material from site:

• If spoil is to be removed from site, it shall be removed by a licensed haulier to a licensed and approved landfill site.

Appendix 2a: Habitats following Fossitt classification of Rossylongan.

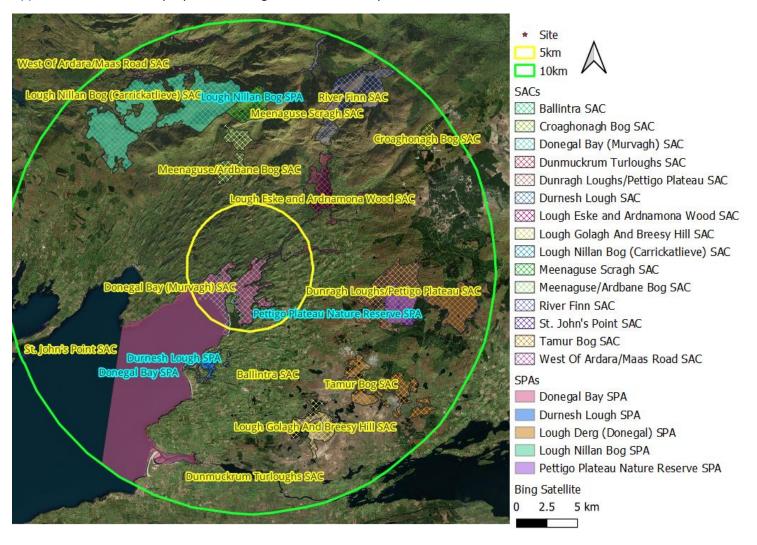


Appendix 2b: Species within compartments

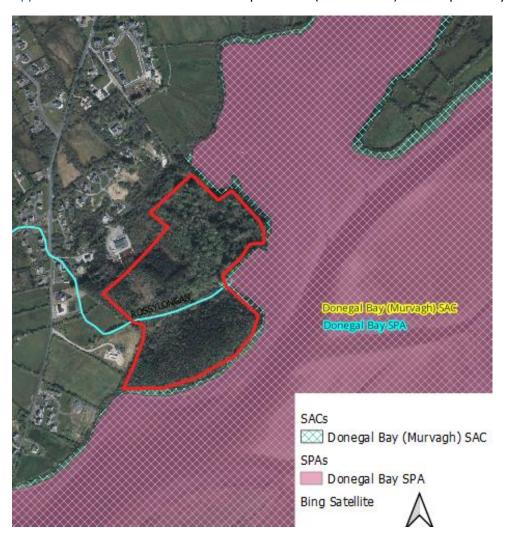


List of abbreviations of species:		
Species name		
Alder		
Ash		
Beech		
Grand Fir		
Sycamore		
Scots pine		
Monterey cypress		
Cherry		
Poplar		
Sitka spruce		
	Species name  Alder  Ash  Beech  Grand Fir  Sycamore  Scots pine  Monterey cypress  Cherry  Poplar	

Appendix 2c: Location of proposed walking trail vis-à-vis European sites.



Appendix 2d: Site location vis-à-vis European Sites (SAC and SPA) in close proximity to the proposed trail.



Appendix 3a: Site Synopsis and Conservation Objectives of identified European sites.



SITE SYNOPSIS

Site Name: DONEGAL BAY SPA

CODE: 004151

Donegal Bay SPA is a very large, marine-dominated, site. It extends from Doorin Point, to the west of Donegal Town, to Tullaghan Point in County Leitrim, a distance of approximately 15 km along its northeast/south-west axis. It varies in width from about 3 km to over 8 km. The site includes the estuary of the River Eske, which flows through Donegal Town, and the estuary of the River Erne, which flows through Ballyshannon. Much of the shoreline is rocky or stony, with well-developed littoral reefs in places. There are also extensive stretches of sandy beaches, especially from the Murvagh peninsula southwards to Rossnowlagh and at the outer part of the estuary of the River Erne. Shingle or cobble beaches are also represented. There are extensive areas of intertidal flats associated with the estuary of the River Eske, reflecting the very sheltered conditions in this part of the bay. These have been shown to be biotope rich, and supporting a range of macro-invertebrates, including polychaete worms (Hediste diversicolor, Arenicola marina and Nephtys hombergii) and bivalves (Scrobicularia plana, Cerastoderma edule and Macoma balthica). Elsewhere, a narrow fringe of intertidal flats is exposed at low tides. Salt marshes are found in the sheltered conditions of the innermost part of the bay. A number of small, grassy, islands occur in the innermost part of the bay. The waters of the shallow bay overlie mostly sandy substrates, though reefs occur in places.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Great Northern Diver, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Common Scoter and Sanderling. 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.

Donegal Bay supports an excellent diversity of wintering waterbirds, especially species associated with shallow bays (all figures are mean peak counts for four of the five winters between 1995/96 and 1999/2000). It has an internationally important wintering population of Great Northern Diver (138) and is consistently one of the top sites in the country for this species. It also has one of the few regular populations of Black-throated Diver in the country (11), and Red-throated Diver (21). It supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (207) and nationally important populations of Common Scoter (860) and Sanderling (68). A range of other species associated with estuarine and shoreline habitats occurs at the site, including Cormorant (29), Shelduck (24), Wigeon (224), Mallard (100), Long-tailed Duck (14), Red-breasted Merganser (38), Oystercatcher (581), Ringed Plover (99), Golden Plover (103), Lapwing (122), Dunlin (269), Bar-tailed Godwit (49), Curlew (359), Redshank (93), Greenshank (12) and Turnstone (53). Gulls are regular in autumn and winter, especially Black-headed Gull (239) and Common Gull (297).

This large coastal site is of high ornithological importance, with two species having populations of international importance (Great Northern Diver and Light-bellied Brent Goose) and a further two species having populations of national importance (Common Scoter and Sanderling). Also of note is that five of the regularly occurring species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Great Northern Diver, Black-throated Diver, Red-throated Diver, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.

13.10.2010

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#### Donegal Bay SPA 004151



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Qualifying Interests * indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive		
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	
A003	Great Northern Diver Gavia immer	wintering
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose Branta bernicla hrota	wintering
A065	Common Scoter Melanitta nigra	wintering
A144	Sanderling Calidris alba	wintering
A999	Wetlands	

Please note that this SPA overlaps with Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133), Durnesh Lough SAC (000138) and Lough Melvin SAC (000428) and is adjacent to Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (000163). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping and adjacent sites as appropriate.





Site Name: Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC Site Code: 000133

This site occupies the inner part of Donegal Bay, immediately to the south-west of Donegal Town. It contains the estuary of the River Eske and a number of other significant rivers. The area is underlain by Carboniferous limestone and shale, although blown sand and other recent deposits obscure much of the solid geology.

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):

[1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats

[2130] Fixed Dunes (Grey Dunes)\*

[2190] Humid Dune Slacks

[1365] Common (Harbour) Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

Most of the site consists of intertidal habitats, notably mud- and sandflats, sea inlets and bays, tidal rivers, estuarine channels and sandy beaches. These areas are generally unvegetated but are obviously nutrient-rich, as extensive beds of shellfish occur in parts of the bay. The following macroinvertebrate species are common throughout much of the bay: *Arenicola marina, Hediste diversicolor, Scrobicularia plana* and *Macoma balthica*.

Along some parts of the shore, saltmarsh has developed. Dominant plants there include Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*). Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*), Sharp Rush (*Juncus acutus*) and Saltmarsh Rush (*J. gerardi*) are also common, while brown seaweeds (*Fucus* spp.) are abundant lower down the shore profile.

On the stable parts of some of the shingle and boulder beaches, Common Scurvygrass also occurs, along with Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and Sea-milkwort (*Glaux maritima*).

Sand dunes, including fixed dunes, occur in parts of the site, especially at Murvagh. Intact sections contain Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*) and Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*) in the young dunes, with abundant Marram in the fixed dunes. These stable areas are frequently species-rich, with abundant Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), a well-developed moss community including *Thuidium tamariscinum* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, and herbs such as Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus praecox*), Heath Dog-violet (*Viola canina*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Dune slacks also occur and in one slack the Red Data Book species Round-leaved Wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*) occurs.

Both Common Scoter and Brent Goose are found in the greater Donegal Bay area, from Bundoran north to Murvagh. The Bay provides one of the most important sites in the country for the Common Scoter, with peak numbers of approximately 1,500 individuals in 1984/85 - 1986/87. This species uses large wintering grounds makingcounts difficult, but in recent years peaks of 662 birds (1995/96) and 1,073 birds (1997/98) have been recorded in the area. Other wintering species of note from the site include

Ringed Plover 175, Oystercatcher 119 and Dunlin 221 (data based on 18 counts from 1984/85 - 1986/87). Small numbers (up to 50) of Greenland White-fronted Goose from the Pettigo flock fed at Inishpat Island in the 1980s, but have rarely done so in recent years.

The site supports a population of Common Seal (maximum count of 148 in the all- Ireland survey of 2003). This species is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Land use in the area consists of boating and fishing in the bay, with a little shellfish aquaculture. Grazing occurs on terrestrial habitats, while recreational pressures are severe on parts of the dunes. A large part of the dune system is excluded from the site due to its development as a golf course and to the presence of conifer plantations. Despite these pressures, the site is of international importance due to the presence of a wide range of habitats, including three listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, an important seal colony and the occurrence of significant bird populations.

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#### **National Parks and Wildlife Service**

**Conservation Objectives Series** 

#### Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC 000133



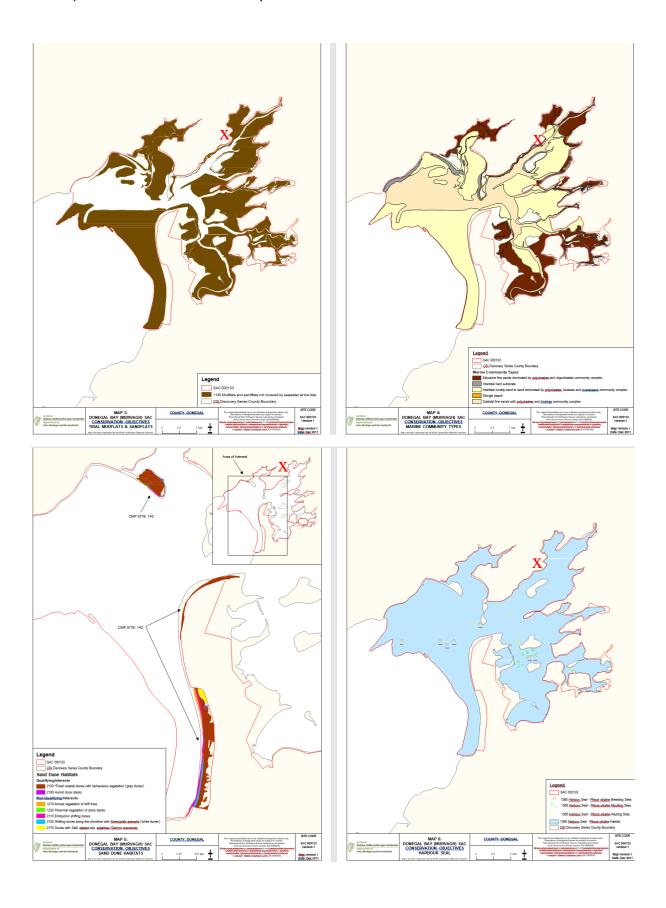
#### Qualifying Interests

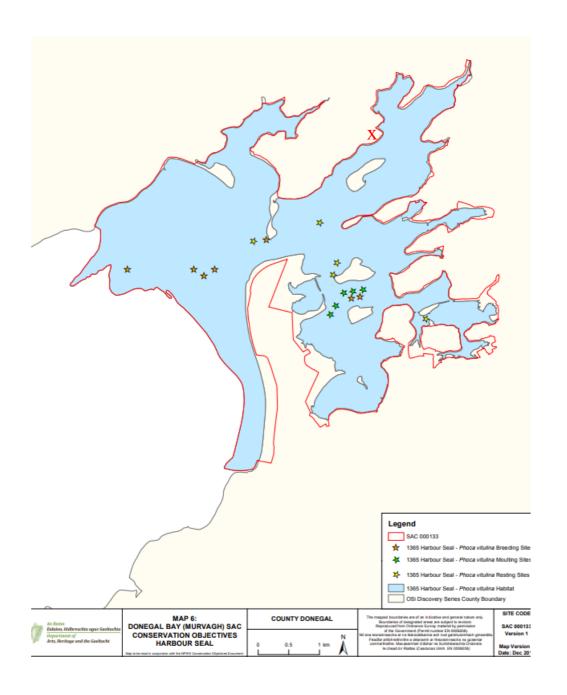
\* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
1365	Harbour Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>
2130	*Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')
2190	Humid dune slacks

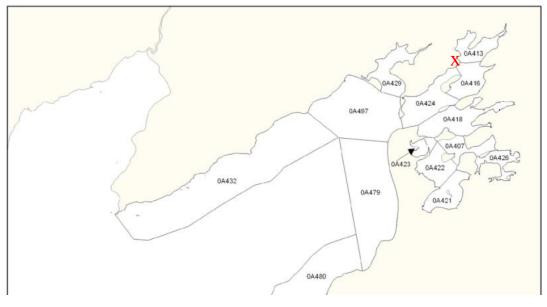
Please note that this SAC overlaps with Donegal Bay SPA (004151) and is adjacent to Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (000163). See map 2. The Conservation Objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping and adjacent sites as appropriate.

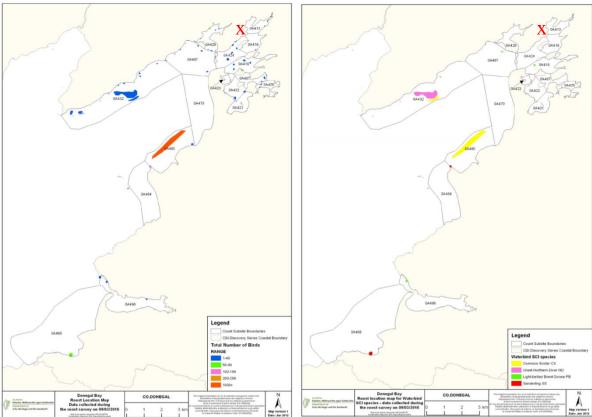
Appendix 3b: Distribution of Qualifying Interests of Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (from NPWS, 2012). Development site location indicated by red cross.

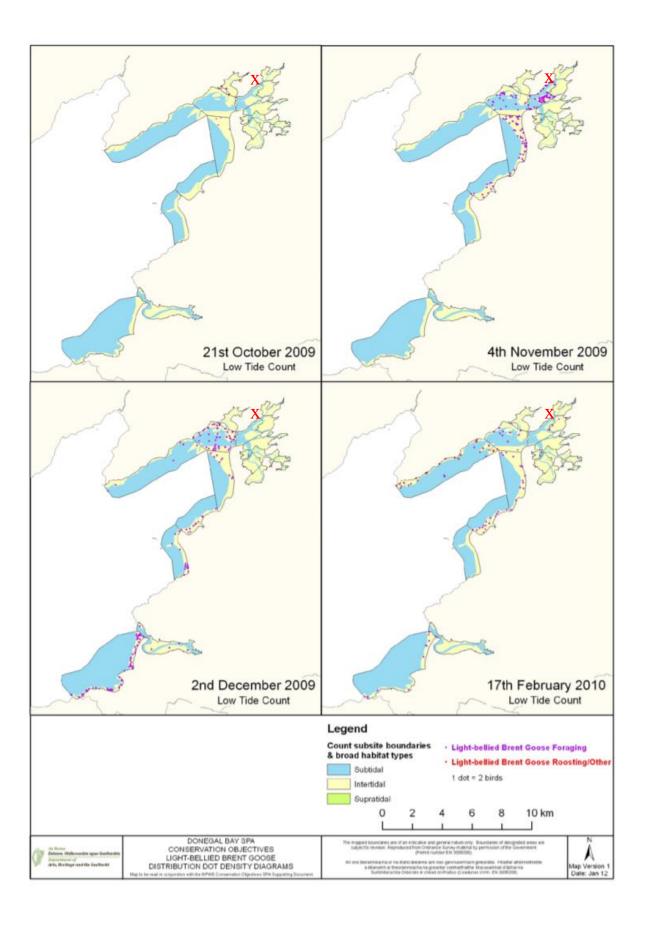


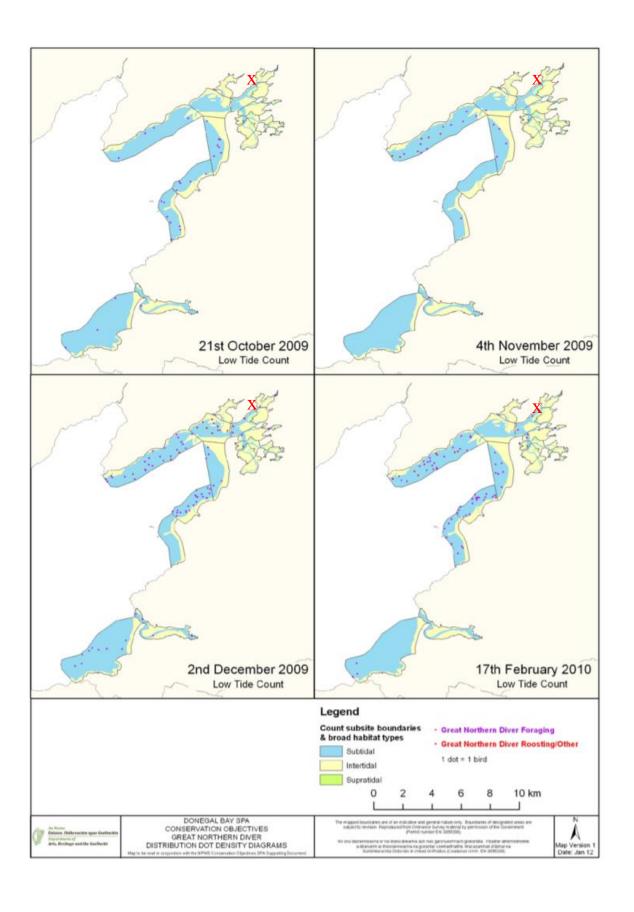


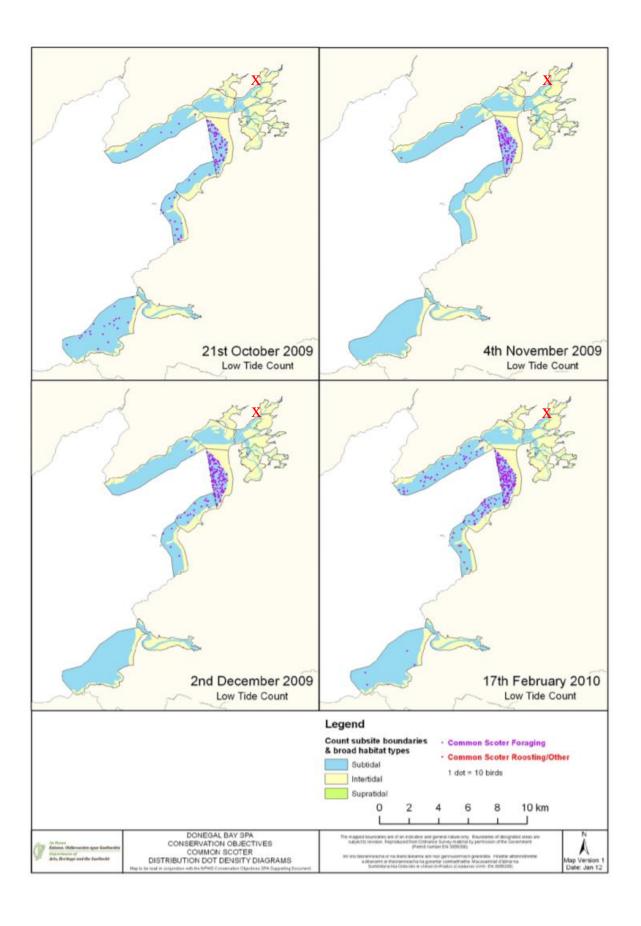
Appendix 3c: Distribution of Qualifying Interests of Donegal Bay SPA (from NPWS, 2011). Development site location indicated by red cross.

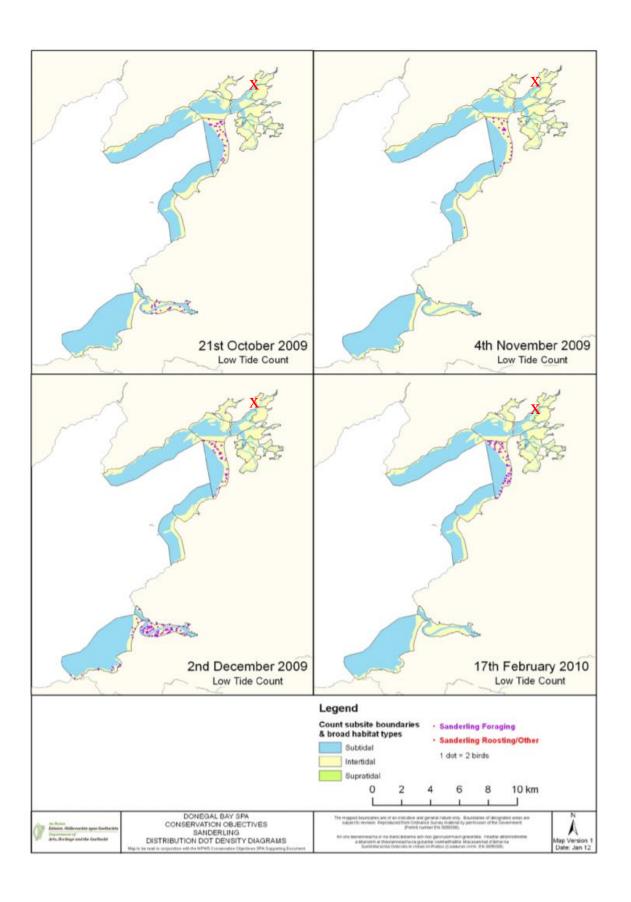












#### Appendix 3d: Summary data and roost location maps for the roost survey.

#### Summary data and roost location maps from the roost survey (08/03/10)

This table summarises the data collected from the coordinated roost survey undertaken on  $9^{th}$  March 2010. (Please see Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 for further details on methods/limitations)

#### **Donegal Bay - Roost Summary Table**

Subsite Code	Subsite Name	Number individual roost	No. Species	Total No. birds	Species	
		locations			(alphabetical order)	
0A407	Legacurry	3	4	64	BH, CM, CU, RK	
0A413	Revlin Pt.	3	4	64	BH, CM, CU, WN	
0A416	Muckros Strand	2	6	187	CU, MA, OC, RK, SU, WN	
0A418	Dungally Strand	5	4	188	CH, CM, OC, PB	
0A421	Mullanasole	1	1	22	CU	
0A422	Murvagh E	2	2	18	CU, OC	
0A423	Murvagh NE	-	-	-		
0A424	St. Ernan's Isl.	5	4	114	CU, OC, T., WN	
0A426	Roughan	2	3	16	GK, MA, T.	
0A429	Eddrim Estuary	8	5	216	BH, CU, OC, MA, PB	
0A432	Doorin Pt Salthill Pier	12	10	119	CA, CU, CX, GB, H., OC, ND, RM, PB, SA	
0A464	Rossnowlagh	2	7	386	BA, CA, DN, OC, SA, SS, TT	
0A468	Aughrus Pt - Bundoran	1	3	55	DN, RP, SS	
0A479	Murvagh	-	-	-		
0A480	Rossnowlagh - Inishfad	2	4	1,626	CX, OC, RK, TT	
0A496	Erne Estuary	3	6	80	CU, GK, OC, PB, RK, TT	
0A497	Mountcharles	9	10	119	CM, CU, DN, GB, H., LN, OC, PB, RM, RP	

Table 5.8 Disturbance Assessment – Summary Table
Number of activities recorded to cause disturbance to waterbirds during field surveys (2009/10 waterbird survey programme) plus the calculated peak disturbance score (see text for explanation). Scores 0 – 3 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 4 – 6 = Moderate Scores 7 – 9 = 100 Scores 8 – 9 Scores 8 – 9 Scores 8 – 9 Scores 8 – 9 Scores 9 Sc

Subsite Code	Subsite Name	Number Activities causing disturbance	Peak Disturbance Score	Activity Responsible	
0A407	Legacurry	0			
0Δ/113	Revlin Pt	0			
0A416	Muckros Strand	1		<ul> <li>Bait digging</li> </ul>	
0A418	Dungally Strand	1		<ul> <li>Aquaculture activities</li> </ul>	
0A421	Mullanasole	0			
0A422	Murvagh E	0			
0A423	Murvagh NE	0		<ul><li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li><li>Motorised vehicles</li></ul>	
0A424	St. Ernan's Isl.	0		<ul> <li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li> </ul>	
0A426	Roughan	1		<ul> <li>Bait digging</li> </ul>	
0A429	Eddrim Estuary	2		<ul> <li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li> </ul>	
0A432	Doorin Pt Salthill Pier	2		<ul> <li>Hand gathering - molluscs</li> </ul>	
0A464	Rossnowlagh	4		<ul> <li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li> </ul>	
0A468	Aughrus Pt - Bundoran	2		<ul> <li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li> </ul>	
0A479	Murvagh	3		<ul> <li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li> </ul>	
0A480	Rossnowlagh - Inishfad	2		<ul> <li>Walking (incl. dogs)</li> </ul>	
0A496	Erne Estuary	1		Walking (incl. dogs)	
0A497	Mountcharles	2		Aquaculture activities     Motorised vehicles	

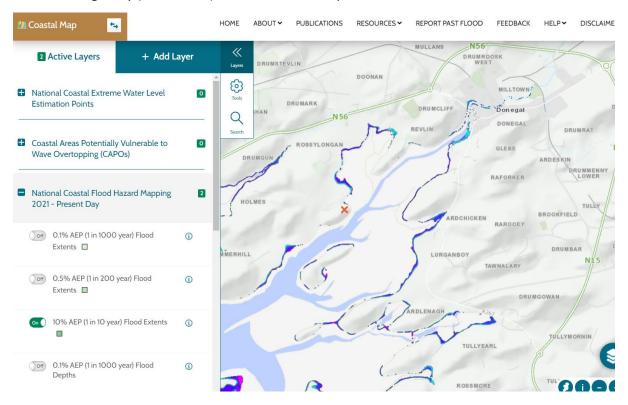
Table 5.9 Donegal Bay SPA - subsite rankings based on total numbers (LT surveys) and the peak disturbance score attained

	Species ► Subsites ▼	РВ	ND	СХ	SS
	0A407				
	0A413		L		
Г	0A416	L			
	0A418		M		
	0A421				
	0A422				
	0A423	L			
	0A424	V	L		
	0A426				
	0A429	V			L
	0A432	V	V	Н	
	0A464	Н	V	M	Н
	0A468	V	Н	Н	M
	0A479	Н	V	V	V
	0A480	Н	Н	Н	
	0A496	L	M		V
	0A497	Н	Н		

## Appendix 3e: List of recorded species within hectads.

Grid square	Species grou	p Species name	Record cou	int Date of last rec	ord Title of dataset	▼ Designation ✓
Custom	bird	Barn Owl (Tyto alba)	1	14/08/2017	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Custom	bird	Common Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus)	acumen	05/04/2020	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section 1 Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section 1 Bird Species
Custom	bird	Common Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)	2	01/03/2019	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Custom	bird	Common Wood Pigeon (Columba palumbus)	lata	24/03/2019	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
Custom	bird	Eurasian Curlew (Numenius arquata)	lati loo lata	05/04/2020	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section II Bird Species    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
Custom	bird	Eurasian Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)	2	06/10/2019	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Custom	bird	Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)		30/10/2019	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern    Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
Custom	bird	Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)	1	31/12/2011	Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species
Custom	bird	Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	1	12/10/2019	Birds of Ireland	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species    Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species

Appendix 4: Site development (red cross) vis-à-vis national coastal flood extent (1 in 10 year) map around Donegal Bay (floodinfo.ie) and final coastal map below.



Appendix 5: Photos (December 2023).

Start of proposed path at the south-eastern corner of the estate. Facing south.



Rossylongan stream (facing west).



Location of first footbridge over Rossylongan stream (facing south).



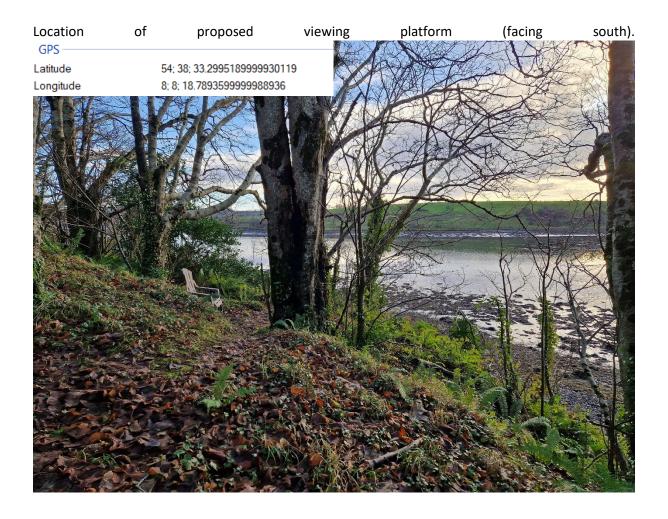
Southern part of the proposed path with Rhododendron (facing west).



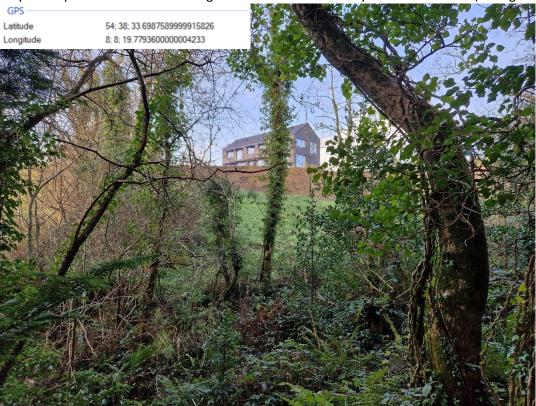
Undergrowth in southern part of the proposed path showing holly seedlings (facing south).







Proposed path location following the western boundary of the estate (Facing north-west).



Undergrowth in the western part of the estate. Facing north. Showing passage of deer.



Latitude Longitude

54; 38; 33.0871190000036108 8; 8; 20.0842789999988369

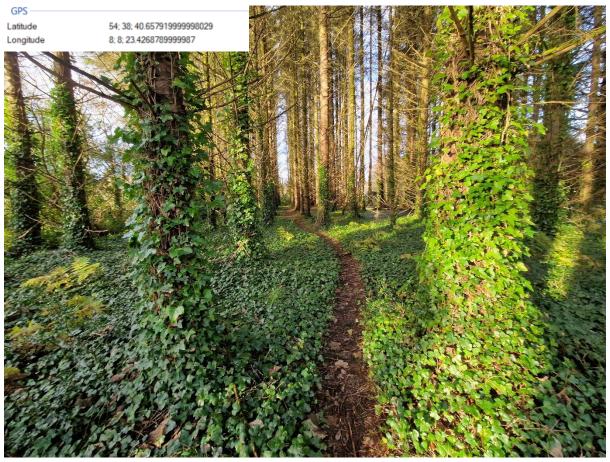
Location of footbridges required to cross the Rossylongan stream at 2 locations. Facing north.



North-western part of the estate, facing north.



North-western corner of the estate showing conifer plantation; facing north.



Final northern part of the estate where path is proposed. Facing east.



End of report



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**Planning Services** 

E: planning@donegalcoco.ie

E-mail: <u>Darren.Reynolds@coillte.ie</u>

Our Ref: S525/67

16th July, 2025

Coillte C/o Darren Reynolds Estates Manager

Re: Section 5 - Application for development at Rossylongan Woods, Donegal Town.

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your application received on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Parke

Donegal County Council Planning Services



#### Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH2349

#### Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)

**SECTION 5:-**

Request received 14th July 2025 from Coillte C/o Darren Reynolds, Unit 10, N5 Business Park, Moneen, Castlebar, Co. Mayo F23 X406 in relation to upgrading existing footpaths, carpark and create a viewing area at Rossylongan Woods,

Donegal Town, Co. Donegal

SUBMITTED:-

Written request received 14th July 2025 as above and report dated 4th August 2025 from the Executive Planner (Ref. No: S5 25/67 refers).

ORDER:-

Having considered the said request, the report of the Executive Planner, and the record forwarded to the Council by An Coimisiún Pleanála in compliance with Sub-Section 6(c) of the said Section I have concluded that a declaration on the questions in the said request should be made in the terms of that in the Schedule to this Order, the main reasons and considerations therefore being detailed therein. I therefore Order that the declaration issue to the said requester and the owners/occupiers of the land concerned and, further, that it be entered in the Council's Planning Register in compliance with Sub-Section (5) of the said Section.

**DAY OF AUGUST 2025** 



#### Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH2349

Ref.No: S5 25/67

#### **SCHEDULE**

#### IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REQUEST AS ABOVE

- **IS** Development
- IS Exempted Development

#### WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ABOVE ACT

### The Planning Authority in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

 Sections, 2, 3, and 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Class 13 and Class 33 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

#### And concluded that:

The proposal **IS DEVELOPMENT** within the meaning of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and **IS EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT** coming within the scope of Class 13 and Class 33 of Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

7311/08



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Planning Services

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Ref. No: S525/67

11th August 2025

COILLTE
C/O DARREN REYNOLDS
UNIT 10
N5 BUSINESS PARK
MONEEN
CASTLEBAR
CO. MAYO
F23 X406

Re: Upgrading existing footpaths, carpark and create a viewing area at Rossylongan Woods, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal

A Chara.

I refer to your request received on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Same has now been decided and I now issue to you herewith the Council's Declaration thereon. You are now advised that, in accordance with Section 5 (3) (a) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) where a Declaration is issued, any person issued with such a Declaration may, on payment to An Coimisiún Pleanála of such fee as may be prescribed, refer a Declaration for review by the Commission within 4 weeks of the date of issuing of the Declaration.

Mise, le meas,

For Senior Ex. Planner Planning Services

jmcc

# Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) (Declaration and Referral on Development and Exempted Development)

#### **DECLARATION**

Chief Executive's Order No:

2025PH2349

Reference No:

S525/67

Name of Requester:

Coillte

C/o Darren Revnolds

Unit 10

N5 Business Park

Moneen Castlebar Co. Mayo F23 X406

#### Summarised Description of development the subject matter of request:

Upgrading existing footpaths, carpark and create a viewing area

Location: Rossylongan Woods, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal

#### IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REQUEST AS ABOVE

**IS** Development

**IS** Exempted Development

#### WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ABOVE ACT

#### The Planning Authority in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

 Sections, 2, 3, and 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Class 13 and Class 33 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

#### And concluded that:

The proposal **IS DEVELOPMENT** within the meaning of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and **IS EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT** coming within the scope of Class 13 and Class 33 of Schedule 2. Part 1 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

For Senior Ex. Planner Planning Services

Dated this 11th day of August 2025