

# Screening for Appropriate Assessment

**July 2023**

**Active Travel Scheme  
Permeability Link**

**Attifinlay, Carrick-On-  
Shannon**

County Leitrim

Prepared for Leitrim County Council



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## 1 Introduction

This AA Screening report has been prepared by Coiscéim Consulting, for Leitrim County Council, who wish to undertake the development of a permeability link between Cara Court, Glencarrick and the carpark of Aura Leitrim Leisure Centre and the public playground in Attifinlay, Carrick-on-Shannon. A section of the bituminous footpath will also provide heavy vehicle access to Uisce Eireann pump station from Glencarrick.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive), and in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The report assesses the implications of the Proposed Scheme, (on its own, and in combination with other plans or projects), for European Sites (NATURA 2000 sites), in view of the conservation objectives of those sites. It examines the evidence and data to identify and assess the implications of the Proposed Scheme on European sites, in view of the conservation objectives of each of those sites. It considers whether the Proposed Scheme, by itself and in combination with other plans or projects, would adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. In reaching a conclusion, the mitigation measures deemed necessary to avoid or reduce any potential negative impacts, are proposed and explained.

The purpose of this AA Screening is to provide an examination, analysis and evaluation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme on European sites and to present findings and conclusions with respect to the Proposed Scheme in light of the best scientific knowledge in the field. This AA Screening will inform and assist the competent authority in determining whether or not the Proposed Scheme will adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, taking into account their conservation objectives.

The Proposed Scheme is not connected to or necessary to the management of any European sites.

### 1.1 Legislative Context

The Birds and Habitats Directives - Council Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92 /43 /EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) – is a piece of European legislation which requires its member states to establish protected sites as part of a European wide network of sites (the Natura 2000 network) for habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation. These European sites within the Natura 2000 network include Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas designated under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive, respectively. The network includes both terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas.

SACs are designated on the basis of key habitats, listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive (including priority Annex I habitat types which are in danger of disappearance) and for protected species listed on Annex II. SPAs are selected for bird species (listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive), regularly occurring populations of migratory bird species (such as ducks, geese and waders), and areas of international importance for migratory birds. The specified habitats and species for which each SAC and SPA is selected, correspond to the qualifying interests (in the case of SACs) or special conservation interest species (in the case of SPAs) for the sites, for which conservation objectives are prepared.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that:

‘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. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

This provision is transposed into Irish law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 as amended. Section 177U(4) of the said Acts provides for screening for Appropriate Assessment as follows:

*'The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of [...] a Proposed Scheme [...] is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the [...] Proposed Scheme, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.'*

In this report, consideration also has been given to the evolution in interpretation and application of directives and national legislation arising from recent case-law studies of the European and Irish courts, in respect of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

## **2 Methodology**

### **2.1 Statement of Competence**

This report was authored by Dr Niamh Burke of Coiscéim Consulting. The background and experience of the author and contributors to this report are set out below.

Niamh Burke is Principal Ecologist with Coiscéim Ecology. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Natural Sciences with Environmental Science and a PhD in salmonid ecology. She is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) with the Society for the Environment (Soc Env) and a Full Member of the CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management). Niamh is a senior scientist with academic research and consulting experience in terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology and fluvial geomorphology. She is an experienced project manager with a full working knowledge of EIA, the planning process and relevant environmental legislation, both national and European. She also holds a post-graduate diploma in Environmental Law and Planning, from the honourable Society of Kings Inns.

With a specialism in aquatic habitats, she also has experience of terrestrial species' surveys and mitigation approaches. In her extensive consultancy roles she has acted as reviewer for all ecological reporting, ensuring consistency of standards and approach.

### **2.2 Guidance and Approach**

This report has been prepared with site-specific information gained from a desktop study and a field site visit – undertaken during July 2023. The assessment was compiled having regard to the following documents:

European Commission Guidance:

*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 (European Commission, 2001)*

*Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission 2000)*

*Nature and Biodiversity Cases – Ruling of the European Court of Justice (European Commission 2006)*

*Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Rulings of the European Court of Justice (European Commission Final Draft September 2014)*

*Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2019)*

*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 (European Commission, 2021)*

National Guidance:

*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2010 revision)*

*Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 (NPWS, 2010)*

*OPR Practice Note PN01. Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021)*

The following guidance has been referenced in characterising the habitats and impacts, including determining magnitude and significance of impacts, as relevant in the application to Appropriate Assessment and European sites:

*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Assessment, 2018)*

*Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, August 2017)*

*Environmental Guidelines Series for Planning and Construction of National Roads (National Roads Authority, 2005-2009)*

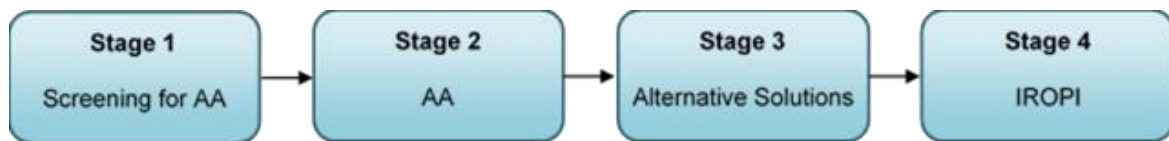
The following documents were referenced during the Desk-top study to inform the assessment:

- Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie), including conservation objectives documents
- Online data available on protected species as held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) from [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)
- Gilbert, Andrew Stanbury & Lesley Lewis (2021) Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4: 2020–2026. *Irish Birds* 43: 1-22
- Information on the surface water network and surface water quality in the area available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)
- Information on groundwater resources and groundwater quality in the area available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) and [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)

- Information on the location, nature and design of the Proposed Scheme supplied by the applicant's design team
- Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 (Leitrim County Council 2023)

### 2.3 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown in Figure 2.1:



**Figure 2.1 The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009*)**

#### 2.3.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

For those sites where potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the site's conservation objectives (i.e., the process proceeds to Stage 2).

#### 2.3.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts of them on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e., the process proceeds to Stage 3).

### 2.3.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

### 2.3.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

## 3 Project Description

The project aim is the establishment of a permeability link between Cara Court, Glencarrick and the car park of Aura Leitrim Leisure Centre and the public playground in Attifinlay, Carrick-On-Shannon. Land take is required for the Proposed Scheme.

The Scheme will consist of a bituminous footpath 2.0m in width over an approximate length of 95 meters. The works will involve the construction of a pedestrian-only footpath with an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the Cara Court end of the footprint. A small section of the footpath will provide heavy vehicle access to an Uisce Eireann pump station from Glencarrick, with kerb edging to delineate vehicular access to the pump station.

The existing mature leylandii tree/hedge will be removed from Cara Court including root stumps to make way for the development. Scrub present in the west of the site is to be removed and the ground is to be prepared for planting. Timber post and rail fence will be erected along the scheme.

An existing manhole cover and biscuit in the southern end of the site will be lowered to tie into the proposed footpath level. The proposed site layout and Permeability Link Construction Details are included in Appendices B and C respectively, of this report.

The major benefit of this project is to provide pedestrians safer, quicker access between the two housing estates of Glencarrick and Cara Court with Aura Leitrim Leisure Centre and the public playground. The permeability link will also offer residents of Cara Court a much more direct pedestrian route towards Rosebank Retail Park.

This project is consistent with the vision and strategic aims contained within Leitrim County Council Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 *“To provide for sustainable transport infrastructure and connectivity including walking and cycling infrastructure and initiatives and optimize the return of investment on infrastructure while preserving the natural and built heritage”*.

Walking and cycling are the most sustainable modes of transport and are key components to movement and accessibility in urban and inter-urban areas. Benefits accruing for both the environment and population, include reducing air and noise pollution and traffic congestion as well as contributing to healthy and more active lifestyles. Encouraging and promoting walking and cycling as a sustainable mode of transport and moving away from reliance on the private car will depend on providing well connected and integrated pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.



Figure 3.1 below shows the site location and site boundary for the proposed works.



**Figure 3.1 Site Location map**

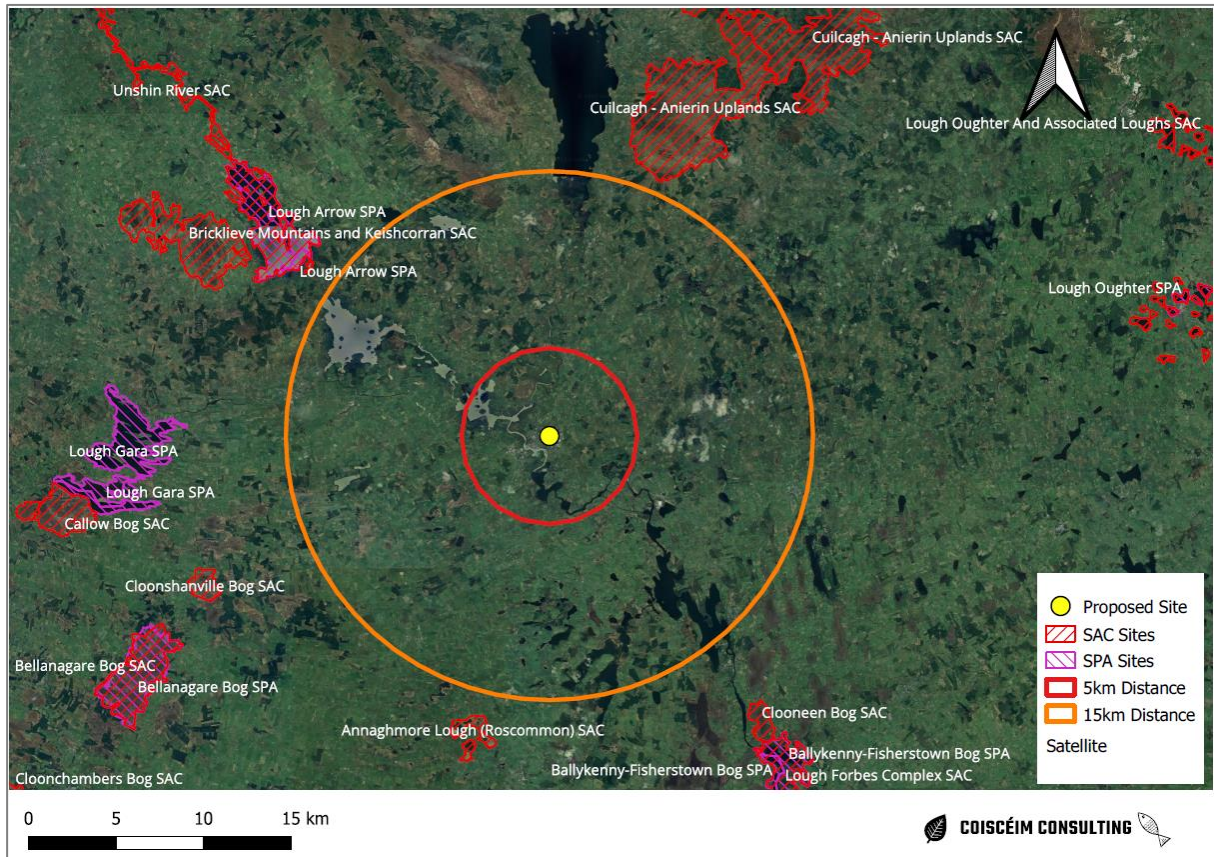
**4 Overview of the Receiving Environment**

**4.1 European sites**

The nearest European site to the proposed development is Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC [000584] situated approximately 15.7km northeast of the site. The next nearest European sites to the proposed development are Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [001626], Lough Arrow SAC [001673] and Lough Arrow SPA [004050] some 16.3km, 16.5km and 16.8km in distance.

The Attinlay stream is 80m from the proposed development and is hydrologically connected to the River Shannon which is part of the Upper Shannon catchment. While European sites form part of the Shannon River system (the nearest being Lough Forbes SAC and Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA, south of Rooskey), they are too distant (>30 km downstream) to be affected by the works proposed and are therefore not at risk.

All of the European sites present in the vicinity of the proposed development are shown on Figure 4.1 below. The QIs/SCIs of the European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development are provided in Table 4.1 below.



**Figure 4.1** European sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site

**Table 4.1** European sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme

Site name and code	Distance from Operation	Reasons for designation <sup>1</sup> (*= Priority Annex I Habitat) <sup>2</sup> (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives)
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</b>		
Culcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC [000584]	The European site is approx. 15.7km from the proposed development boundary	[1393] Slender Green Feather-moss ( <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> ) [3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)* [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)

<sup>1</sup> “Qualifying Interests” for SACs and “Special Conservation Interests” for SPAs based on relevant Statutory Instruments for each SPA, and NPWS Conservation Objectives for SACs downloaded from www.npws.ie in September 2018. Data on NHA/pNHA sites from the site synopsis documents published by the NPWS (where available).

<sup>2</sup> Priority Annex I habitat types are denoted with an “\*” and are habitat types which are in danger of disappearance at a European level – from the definition of “priority natural habitat types” in Article 1(d) of the Habitats Directive

Site name and code	Distance from Operation	Reasons for designation <sup>1</sup> (*= Priority Annex I Habitat) <sup>2</sup> (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives)
		[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )* [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation  <b>NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC 000584. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</b>
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [001626]	The European site is approx. 16.3 km from the proposed development boundary	[1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [7230] Alkaline fens  <b>NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</b>
Lough Arrow SAC [001673]	The European site is approx. 16.5 km from the proposed development boundary	[3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i>  <b>NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Arrow SAC 001673. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</b>
Lough Arrow SPA [004050]	The European site is approx. 16.8 km from the proposed development boundary	[A004] Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A061] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds  <b>NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Arrow SPA [004050]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</b>
Clooneen Bog SAC [002348]	The European site is approx. 19.1 km from the proposed development boundary	[7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [91D0] Bog woodland  <b>NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Clooneen Bog SAC 002348. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.</b>

## 4.2 Habitat Survey

The proposed development site is located in Attifinlay, Carrick-On-Shannon, with the aim of linking Glencarrick estate along its northern boundary with Cara Court to its east, and Aura Leisure Centre and public playground car park at the south end of the site.

The proposed development involves the establishment of a 2.0m wide pedestrian-only footpath with an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the Cara Court end of the footprint and heavy vehicle access to an Uisce Eireann pump station from Glencarrick. Land take is required for the Proposed Scheme.

### 4.2.1 Habitats

The works will be carried out along a greenfield area adjacent to the boundaries of the public playground, Glencarrick estate hedge line and Cara Court estate. Within the site boundaries is also

an Uisce Eireann pumping station, which will be preserved, and heavy vehicle access provided over a small section of the pedestrian footpath.

No species listed **under Annex II** of the Habitats Directive were found during desktop study in the surrounding area.

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), a non-native plant species was found during the desktop study within the National Biodiversity Data Centre's 2km grid square of the proposed development. No Invasive species were recorded on site within the site boundary.

Habitats (Fossitt 2000) identified within the footprint of the proposed works are listed in Table 4.2 below.

**Table 4.2 Habitats recorded at the proposed site**

Fossitt Habitat	Habitat Code
Amenity grassland	GA2
Wet grassland	GS2
Hedgerows	WL1
Treelines	WL2
Buildings and artificial surfaces	BL3

### 4.3 Hydrology

There are no surface water features within the proposed development site.

The Attifinlay stream is 80m from the proposed development and flows in west / southwest direction. The stream is hydrologically connected to the Shannon (Upper)\_060 river (IE\_SH\_26S021010) which is part of the Upper Shannon catchment.

The river currently has a WFD status as 'Moderate' defined by biological elements (invertebrates) which represents an improvement from the previous WFD cycles of WFD testing - previously classed as 'Poor' (2013-2018).

## 5 Potential Impacts Identification of European Sites at Risk of Effects

### 5.1 Determination of Zone of Influence

The potential zone of influence (Zoi) currently recommended for plans is a distance of 15km from the plan boundary and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al. 2006). For projects however, the distance could be more or less than 15km and in some cases less than 100m, but guidance advises that this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects.

A standard source-receptor-pathway conceptual model was used to identify 'relevant' European sites (i.e., those which could be potentially affected). For significant effects to arise, there must be a risk enabled by having all three elements of the Source - Pathway – Receptor model.

- Source(s) – e.g., sediment run-off from construction works at proposed project site
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying habitats and/or species of European Sites
- Pathway(s) – e.g., a watercourse connecting proposed project site to a European site

The identification of a pathway does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g., duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g., water quality status of watercourse receiving run-off from construction) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its qualifying interests).

Having considered the potential ecological impacts through source-receptor-pathway connectivity (e.g., hydrological link) and given the nature of the proposed works, the Zone of Influence for such project was considered as **2km**.

## 5.2 Direct habitat loss

There will be no direct loss of habitat due to distance between the proposed works and the nearest Natura 2000.

## 5.3 Direct impact on species

There will be no direct impact on Qualify Interests of any SAC or SPA, due to the distance between the proposed works and the nearest Natura 2000 site.

## 5.4 Impacts on hydrology / hydrogeology

The proposed works may result in the generation of silt/suspended solids that may enter Attifinlay stream through runoff. This can have negative effects on the habitats downstream, including smothering of macroinvertebrates and fish spawning gravels. Due to the nature and scale of the works and relative distance to nearby Natura 2000 sites, no impacts are predicted for any Natura 2000 sites.

The potential also exists for an accidental hydrocarbon spill from plant and machinery working in the vicinity of Attifinlay stream. Hydrocarbons can have toxic effects on aquatic species. However, impacts are not predicted on Natura 2000 European sites, again due to the small scale of the works, relative distance to nearby Nature 2000 sites, and hydrological dilution.

## 5.5 In-combination effects

The resources referenced in carrying out the assessment on in-combination effect were as listed below:

- The National Planning Application database ([www.myplan.ie](http://www.myplan.ie) - accessed July 2023)
- An Board Pleanála database ([www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) - accessed July 2023)
- EPA Appropriate Assessment Tool Mapping Resource ([www.gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool](http://www.gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool) - accessed July 2023)
- EIA Portal ([www.housinggov.ie/maps.arcgis.com](http://www.housinggov.ie/maps.arcgis.com) - accessed July 2023)

Due to the distance between the proposed works location and the above-mentioned Natura 2000 sites, and the lack of significant interactions with other concurrent projects, there is **no potential for a significant in-combination effect on these sites**.

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (Northern and Western Regional Assembly, 2019) includes a range of policy objectives relevant to the protection of European sites and the protection of water quality in the Irish sea and Dublin Bay,

to which the relevant planning authorities must have regard to in the preparation and adoption of their development plans.

The proposed development is located within the functional area of Leitrim County Council. Plans and developments within Leitrim County must comply with the following policy objectives of the **Leitrim Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029** relevant to the protection of European sites and the protection of water quality in County Leitrim and its coastal areas and waters:

**Policies:**

- **NH POL 1** To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.
- **NH POL 2** To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended as relevant.
- **NH POL 4** To consult with relevant prescribed bodies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoHLGH), and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law.
- **NH POL 5** To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.

**Objectives:**

- **NH OBJ 1** To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)
- **NH OBJ 2** To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this Plan.
- **NH OBJ 3** To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this Plan.

Therefore, and having regard to the policies and objectives referred to under the relevant development plans, it is concluded that the possibility of any other plans or projects acting in combination with the proposed development to give rise to significant effects on any European site in the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the project is unlikely.

## **5.6 Screening Summary and Conclusion**

Based on the above assessment it is concluded that there will not be any significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 site as a result of the proposed works.

**Table 5.6.1 AA Screening conclusion summary**

European Site	Screening Conclusion / Rationale
Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC [000584]	Screened Out – Due to and distance (15.7km)
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [001626]	Screened Out – Due to distance (16.3km)
Lough Arrow SAC [001673]	Screened Out – Due to distance (16.5km)
Lough Arrow SPA [004050]	Screened Out – Due to distance (16.8km)
Clooneen Bog SAC [002348]	Screened Out – Due to distance (16.8km) and weak hydrological connection (30.0km downstream)

The potential impacts associated with the proposed development do not have any potential to affect the receiving environment and, consequently will not affect the conservation objectives supporting the qualifying interest/special conservation interests of the following European sites:

***Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC, Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC, Lough Arrow SAC, Lough Arrow SPA and Clooneen Bog SAC.***

**Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not required to fully assess the nature of these effects and to propose mitigation to avoid and /reduce those effects on the European sites.**

As the proposed development is not likely to have effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European sites, there is no potential for other plans or projects to act in combination with it to result in significant effects on any European sites.

The potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment, their ZoI, and the European sites at risk of significant effects are summarised in Table 4.4 below. In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a significant effect on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on European sites are not taken into account.

**In view of the best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information, it can be excluded that the Proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have any significant effects on any European site(s) in view of their conservation objectives.**

**Table 5.6.2 Summary of Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on European sites**

Potential Direct, Indirect In Combination Effects and the Zol of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the Zol of the proposed development?
Habitat loss	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>There are no European sites within the proposed development boundary</p>
Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>There are no European sites at risk of hydrological effects associated with the proposed development.</p>
Disturbance and displacement impacts	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>There are no ex-Situ species of nearby European sites at risk of disturbance or displacement effects associated with the proposed development.</p>



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**NPWS (2018)** *Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form. Lough Arrow SAC.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

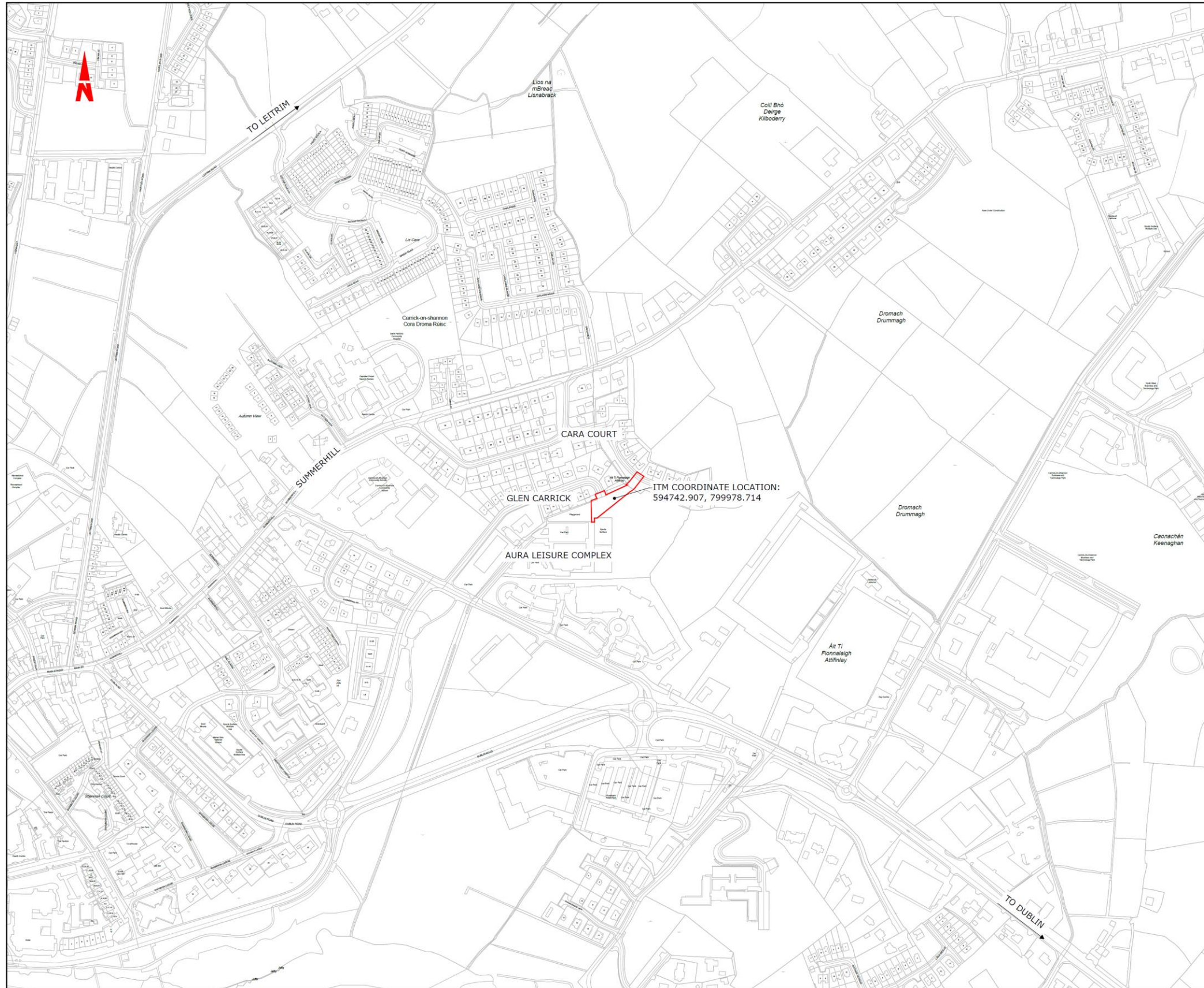
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**NPWS (2022)** Conservation objectives for Lough Arrow SPA [004050]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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**Appendix A Site Location**



**NOTES**

- MAPS ARE PRODUCED UNDER LICENCE FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND © O.S.I. Licence No. 202305L\_NMA\_139.
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**FEATURES KEY**

— SITE BOUNDARY

Issue	Date	Description	Made	Checked
L02	07.07.23	SITE BOUNDARY AMENDED	JN	KS
L01	23.03.23	FIRST ISSUE	JN	ED

Drawing Status: **PLANNING**

**NTA**  
Istáirí Náisiúnta Iompar  
National Transport Authority

**Leitrim County Council**  
Comhairle Chontae Liatroma

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL  
Park Lane House, Priests Lane, Carrick on Shannon Co. Leitrim, N41 RX53  
Tel: 071 9620005  
Website: www.leitrimcoco.ie

Section  
**ROADS DEPARTMENT  
ACTIVE TRAVEL**

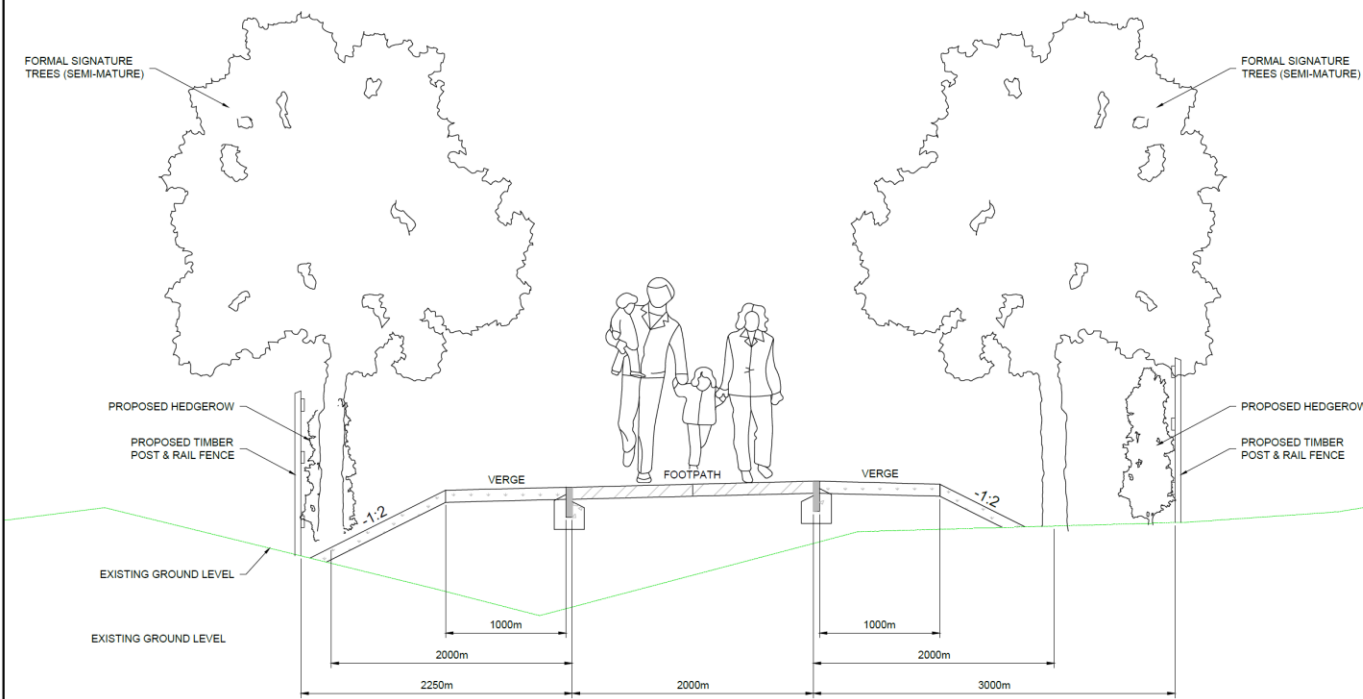
Project  
**PERMEABILITY LINK  
CARA COURT & GLEN CARRICK**

Drawing Title  
**SITE LOCATION MAP**

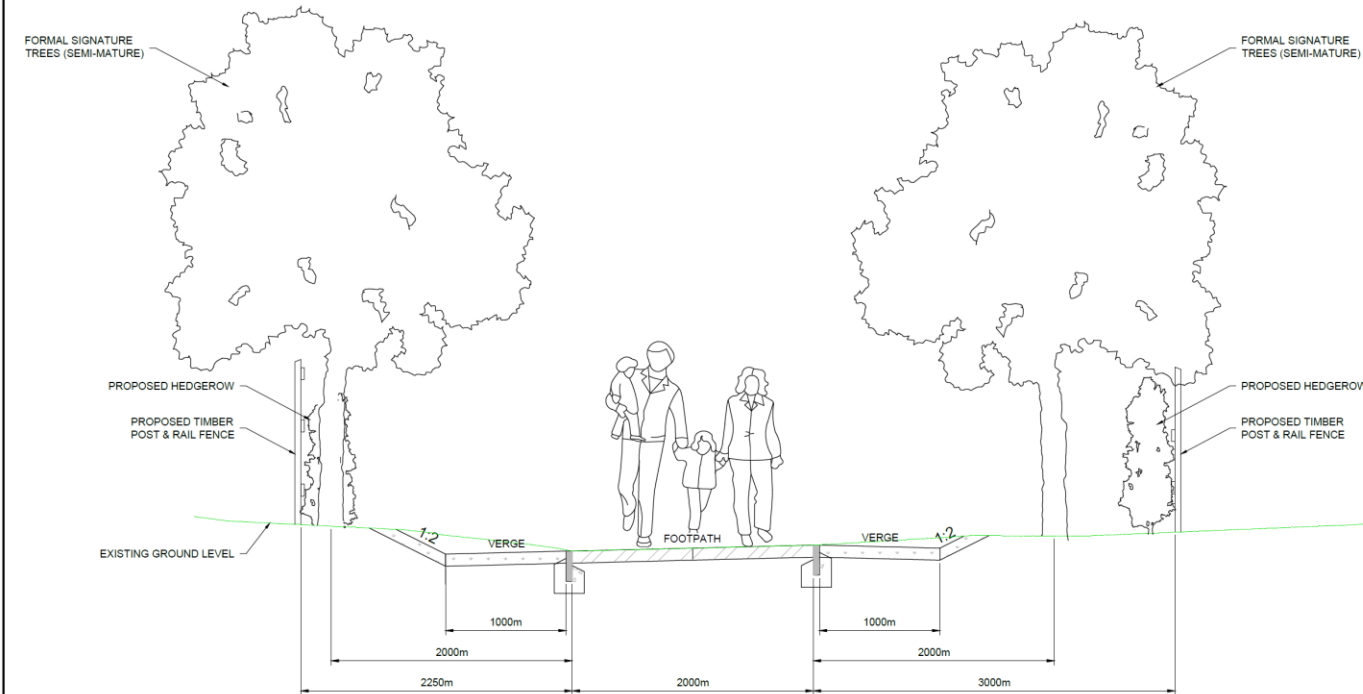
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Checked	KS	Approved	ED		1:10000		of A3

Drawing No. **LM23-0003-PDV\_SB-00\_ML\_00-DR-CR-01** Rev. **L02**

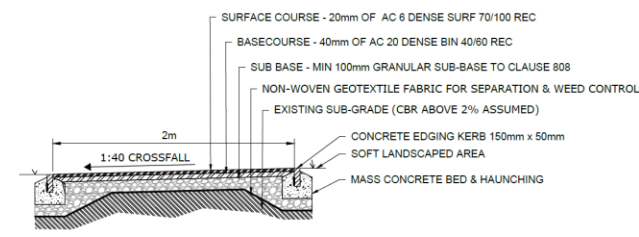
**Appendix B Proposed Construction Details**



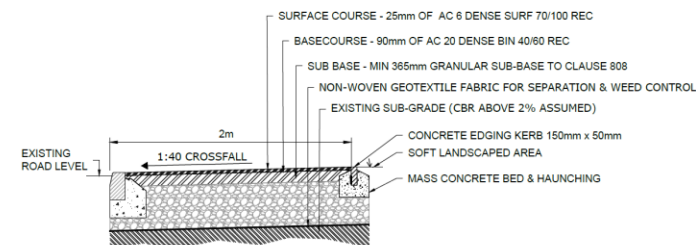
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION IN FILL (CH. 80m)  
SCALE 1:25



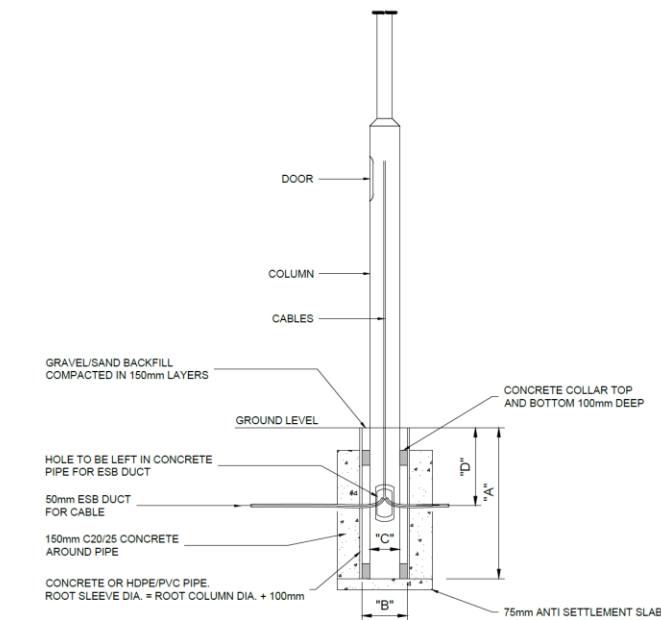
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION IN CUT (CH. 50m)  
SCALE 1:25



PEDESTRIAN ONLY FOOTPATH DETAIL  
SCALE 1:25



HEAVY VEHICLE FOOTPATH DETAIL  
(ACCESS TO UISCE EIREANN PUMP STATION)  
SCALE 1:25



	"A" Depth Of Pipe	"B" Dia. Of Pipe	"C" Column Root Ø	"D" Depth Of Duct	Column Weight
5m Shaft	1000mm	300mm	168mm	500mm	59kg
6m Shaft	1000mm	300mm	168mm	500mm	67kg
8m Shaft	1200mm	300mm	194mm	500mm	101kg
10m Shaft	1500mm	300mm	194mm	500mm	158kg
12m Shaft	1700mm	375mm	219mm	500mm	257kg

HEAVY DUTY 6-12m TUBULAR STEEL LIGHTING COLUMN SOCKETS

LIGHTING COLUMN ROOT FOUNDATION DETAIL  
N.T.S.

**NOTES**

1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT ENGINEER'S, ARCHITECT'S AND SPECIALIST'S DRAWINGS AND THE SPECIFICATION.
2. DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING MANUALLY OR ELECTRONICALLY.

L01	07.07.23	FIRST ISSUE	JN	KS
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Issue	Date	Description	Made	Checked
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Drawing Status: **PLANNING**

Section  
**ROADS DEPARTMENT  
ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Project  
**PERMEABILITY LINK  
CARA COURT & GLEN CARRICK**

Drawing Title  
**CONSTRUCTION DETAILS**

Drawn/Design	JN/JN	Date	06.07.23	Scale	As Shown @ A1
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Checked	KS	Approved	KS	As Shown @ A3
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Drawing No: **LM23-0001-GEO\_CS-00\_ML\_00-DR-CR-01** Rev: **L01**

Appendix C Footpath Layout Plan



- NOTES**
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  - DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING MANUALLY OR ELECTRONICALLY.
  - SCRUB TO BE REMOVED FROM PROPOSED WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND AREAS AND GROUND PREPARED FOR PLANTING.

**EXISTING FEATURES KEY**

- SITE BOUNDARY
- FOOTPATH/FOOTWAY
- ROAD SURFACE
- MEADOW FIELD
- GPS SURVEY LEVELS
- TREE
- TREE TO BE REMOVED

**PROPOSED FEATURES KEY**

- BITUMINOUS FOOTPATH (2m WIDE)
- FOOTPATH TO CATER FOR VEHICULAR ACCESS
- REGULARLY CUT GRASS
- WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND WITH NATIVE BULBS
- TACTILE PAVING
- FORMAL SIGNATURE TREES (SEMI-MATURE)
- TIMBER POST & RAIL FENCE
- NATIVE HEDGEROW

Issue	Date	Description	Made	Checked
L03	07.07.23	REVISED LAYOUT	JN	KS
L02	03.07.23	REVISED LAYOUT	JN	ED
L01	11.04.23	FIRST ISSUE	JN	ED

Drawing Status: **PLANNING**

**NTA** **Leitrim County Council**  
 Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair **Comhairle Chontae Liatroma**  
 LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL  
 Park Lane House, Priests Lane, Carrick on Shannon Co. Leitrim, N41 RX53  
 Tel: 071 9620005  
 Website: www.leitrimcoco.ie

Section: **ROADS DEPARTMENT ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Project: **PERMEABILITY LINK CARA COURT & GLEN CARRICK**

Drawing Title: **FOOTPATH LAYOUT PLAN**

Drawn/Design	JN/JN	Date	06.04.23	Scale	1:200 @ A1	
Checked	KS	Approved	ED		1:400 @ A3	
Drawing No.	LM23-0003-PAV_PV-00_ML_00-DR-CR-01				Rev	L03