



**Proposed Construction of a Footpath for an Active Travel
Scheme in Fenagh, Co. Leitrim**

**Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate
Assessment**

Produced by
AQUAFACT International Services Ltd

On behalf of
Leitrim County Council

June 2022

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Document Control/ Approval Sheet

Client	Leitrim County Council
Report Title	Proposed Construction of a Footpath for an Active Travel Scheme in Fenagh, Co. Leitrim - Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment
Job Number	JN1715
Report Status	Draft
Issue Date	26/06/2022

Rev	Status	Issue Date	File Name	Author(s)	Approved By
1	Draft	31/05/2022	JN1715 Construction of a Footpath SISAA	Aisha O'Connor	Brendan O'Connor
2	Draft	02/06/2022	JN1715 Construction of a Footpath SISAA	Aisha O'Connor	Brendan O'Connor
3	Draft	08/06/2022	JN1715 Construction of a Footpath SISAA	Aisha O'Connor	Brendan O'Connor
4	Draft	26/06/2022	JN1715 Construction of a Footpath SISAA	Aisha O'Connor	Brendan O'Connor



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1. Introduction

1.1. *Background*

This report has been prepared by AQUAFAC International Services Ltd. (AQUAFAC) to provide the relevant information to the competent authorities to inform the Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the proposed construction of a footpath for an Active Travel Scheme in Fenagh, Co. Leitrim (the 'Project'). The objective of the Project is to establish an 800 m safe footpath and increase connectivity to Fenagh village. The location of the route is shown in **Figure 1.1**.

For the construction of the footpath a minidigger, concrete wagons and a concrete kerbing machine will be used, as well as road marking vehicles. Traffic lights and signage will be implemented to facilitate the works.

The aims of the Project can be summarised as follows:

- Construct a footpath from Fenagh village to nearby amenities along Regional Road R202

The benefits resulting from the completion of the Project would include:

- Provide connections to and from Fenagh village that is safe and user-friendly

The works proposed includes:

- Use of recycled road material for subbase to footpath, a DBM footpath surface and tactile paving where required
- *In situ* concrete kerbing
- Installation of public lighting columns and public lighting ducting
- Installation of recycled seating along proposed footpath
- Installation of 300 mm dia pipes, gully grates and pots



Figure 1.1: Proposed location of Fenagh footpath in Co. Leitrim.

1.2. Purpose of this report

This report has been prepared to address Article 6(3) obligations under the European Community (EC) Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (commonly known as the Habitats Directive), which is transposed into Irish legislation under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

1.3. Guidance

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- EC (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Commission Notice (2018)
- OPR (2021). Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management

- DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (Revised 2010)
- EC (2001) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – National Parks and Wildlife Service DAHG - NPWS (2012) Marine Natura Impact Statements in Ireland Special Areas of Conservation, A Working Document

This assessment includes a desk-based review of available records of protected QIs and SCIs including the following sources:

- Conservation Status Assessment Reports, Backing Documents and Maps prepared to inform national reporting¹ required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
- Site Synopsis, Conservation Objective Reports and Natura 2000 Forms available from NPWS
- Published and unpublished NPWS reports on protected habitats and species including Irish Wildlife Manual reports, Species Action Plans and Conservation Management Plans
- Existing relevant mapping and databases *e.g.* waterbody status, species and habitat distribution *etc.* (sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency - <http://gis.epa.ie/> and the NPWS - <http://www.npws.ie/mapsanddata/>)

1.4. Structure of this Report

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2. Legislation**
- **Section 3. Assessment Methodology**
- **Section 4. Receiving Environment**
- **Section 5. Potential Environmental Impacts**
- **Section 6. Screening For Appropriate Assessment**
- **Section 7. Conclusion**

¹ The most recent Article 17 report (2019) is available at <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019>

2. Legislation

2.1. *Legislative Background*

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (commonly known as the Habitats Directive) is European Community legislation regarding nature conservation established to ensure biodiversity is conserved through the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in Europe.

The Habitats Directive was originally transposed into Irish law by the *European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997* (S.I. No. 94 of 1997). The 1997 Regulations were subsequently revoked and replaced by the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*, as amended (herein referred to as the 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations).

Under Regulation 42 of the 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations all competent authorities are required to conduct a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and, if necessary, an AA on any plan or project on the foreshore for which it receives an application for consent, or which the authority itself wishes to undertake or adopt. This obligation derives from Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

The AA provision of the Habitats Directive is transposed in Ireland by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of land use plans and proposed developments requiring development consent. The Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) is the basis for the Irish planning code, setting out the detail of regional planning guidelines, development plans and local area plans as well as the basic framework of the development management and consent system.

A network of sites of conservation importance hosting habitats and species as needing to be either maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status have been identified by each Member State. These sites are known as European sites within the Natura 2000 network.

European sites in Ireland that form part of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) sites designated due to their significant ecological importance for habitats and species protected under Annex I and Annex II respectively of the Habitats Directive, and Special Protection Area (SPA) sites designated for the protection of populations and habitats of bird species protected under the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/409/EEC). The sites are formally designated by the relevant minister under a statutory instrument. Candidate SAC and candidate SPA

sites (*i.e.* cSAC or cSPA) have the same level of protection as fully designated sites under Irish Law². The specific named habitats and/or (non-bird) species for which an SAC or SPA are selected are called the 'Qualifying Interests' (QIs) of the site. The specific named bird species for which an SPA is selected is called the 'Special Conservation Interest' (SCI) (OPR 2021).

Following the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, under Regulation 42 of the 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, if a plan or project is not connected with, or necessary for the management of a European site and is likely to have a significant effect on the QIs or SCIs for which a site is designated either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, an AA is required to assess whether a plan or project will have any adverse effect on the integrity of a European site(s) in view of the Conservation Objectives set for the designated QIs or SCIs.

2.2. Appropriate Assessment (AA) Process

The **first stage of the AA process is Screening**; where the risk of a significant effect to a conservation feature (*i.e.* QI or SCI) from an impact mechanism can be **excluded** on the basis of objective evidence, the designated feature and impact mechanism combination is **screened out** of further assessment. The assessments undertaken as part of the first stage of the AA process are documented in a Screening Statement for AA.

Where the Screening for AA identifies that a significant effect to a conservation feature from an impact mechanism is likely to occur, the conservation feature and the impact mechanism combination is brought forward for a detailed consideration of the potential for adverse effects. This detailed assessment of the potential for adverse effects is the second stage of the AA process. The assessments undertaken as part of the **second stage of the AA process are documented in a Natura Impact Statement (NIS)**.

This report has been prepared to provide the relevant information to inform the assessments to be undertaken for the Screening Statement for AA for the Project and has been prepared to address Article 6(3) obligations under the Habitats Directive and to inform the AA determination of the competent authorities. Specifically, this report focuses on the potential effects of the proposed development to European sites.

² Candidate sites are those that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted under Ministerial Statutory Instrument (S.I.). Legal protection, and therefore, the requirement for AA, arises from the date that the Minister gives notice of his/her intention to designate the site.

3. Assessment Methodology

3.1. *Source-Pathway-Receptor and Impact Assessment*

3.2. *Overview*

A key factor in the consideration as to whether a QI or an SCI (collectively referred to herein as conservation features) is likely to be affected by a proposed project is the existence of connectivity (or interaction or impact pathway) between the feature and the impact mechanisms associated with the Project. National guidance (DEHLG, 2009) outlines that screening for AA should be carried out for any European Site within the likely Zone of Impact (Zol) of a plan or project.

For projects, the guidance outlines that the Zol 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. **Section 6.1** considers the potential effects due to the proposed Project, while **Section 6.2** considers potential in-combination effects with other plans and projects.

3.3. *Methodology*

This report has been prepared to assist authorities in addressing Article 6(3) obligations under the Habitats Directive and focuses on the potential effects of projects to European sites.

In order to establish the Zol of the proposed Project, the assessment of connectivity between project impact mechanisms (or source) and a conservation feature (*i.e.* QIs and SCIs) considers the location of the Project relative to:

- habitats and non-mobile species
- species foraging distances and migration routes
- the proximity of the Project to foraging and breeding areas
- potential changes in species behaviour
- effects on prey species resulting in alteration in interactions and associated impacts

To inform the assessment, nationally available data on protected habitats and species was mapped using a Geographic Information System (GIS) and interrogated to identify for source-pathway-receptor connectivity. The source (potential project impact mechanisms), pathways (hydrological, physical or ecological connectivity) and receptors (conservation features) were identified using GIS software and

through the examination of aerial photography and a review of ecological surveys undertaken in the area. Any conservation feature identified to have a viable source-pathway-receptor link to the proposed Project was then examined further to determine the potential for significant effects.

The assessment of project impact sources (or mechanisms) considers all relevant aspects of the proposed Project that have the potential to directly or indirectly effect conservation features.

The assessment of potential effects of the Project on conservation features of SACs and SPAs are presented in **Section 6.1** while the assessment of in-combination effects is outlined in **Section 6.2**.

4. Receiving Environment

4.1. Roadside verges and foliage

The environment in which the footpath will be constructed is predominately comprised of garden frontages and bare ground. The foliage, specifically, is comprised of ferns (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus* spp.), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Nettle, (*Urtica dioica*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

4.2. Natura 2000 Sites

4.2.1. Special Conservation Interests (SCI) Birds

The source-pathway-receptor model was used to identify any SCIs with potential links to the Project. One SPA was investigated for a link:

- Lough Oughter Complex SPA (site code: 004049)

Brief description of the SPA:

Lough Oughter Complex SPA (site code: 004049)

Lough Oughter and its associated loughs occupy much of the lowland drumlin belt in north and central Co. Cavan, comprising a maze of waterways, islands, small lakes and peninsulas. This site is of ornithological importance for its wintering waterfowl populations and is at the centre of the Irish breeding range of Great Crested Grebe, with the site supporting in excess of 10% of the estimated national breeding total of this species. This site has been selected as an SPA for the following Annex I bird species listed under the E.U. Birds Directive: Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005], Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038], Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050] and Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].

Determination of links to the proposed Project site:

In summary, there is no overlap between the Project site and any SPAs. Additionally, the environment of the Project does not coincide with the environmental requirements of the SCIs of Lough Oughter Complex SPA, therefore **no SCIs were identified as having a viable source-pathway-receptor link** in

terms of ecological or functional pathways to the proposed Project site (see **Figure 4.1**). These SCIs are not considered further in this Screening and can be **screened out** of further assessment.

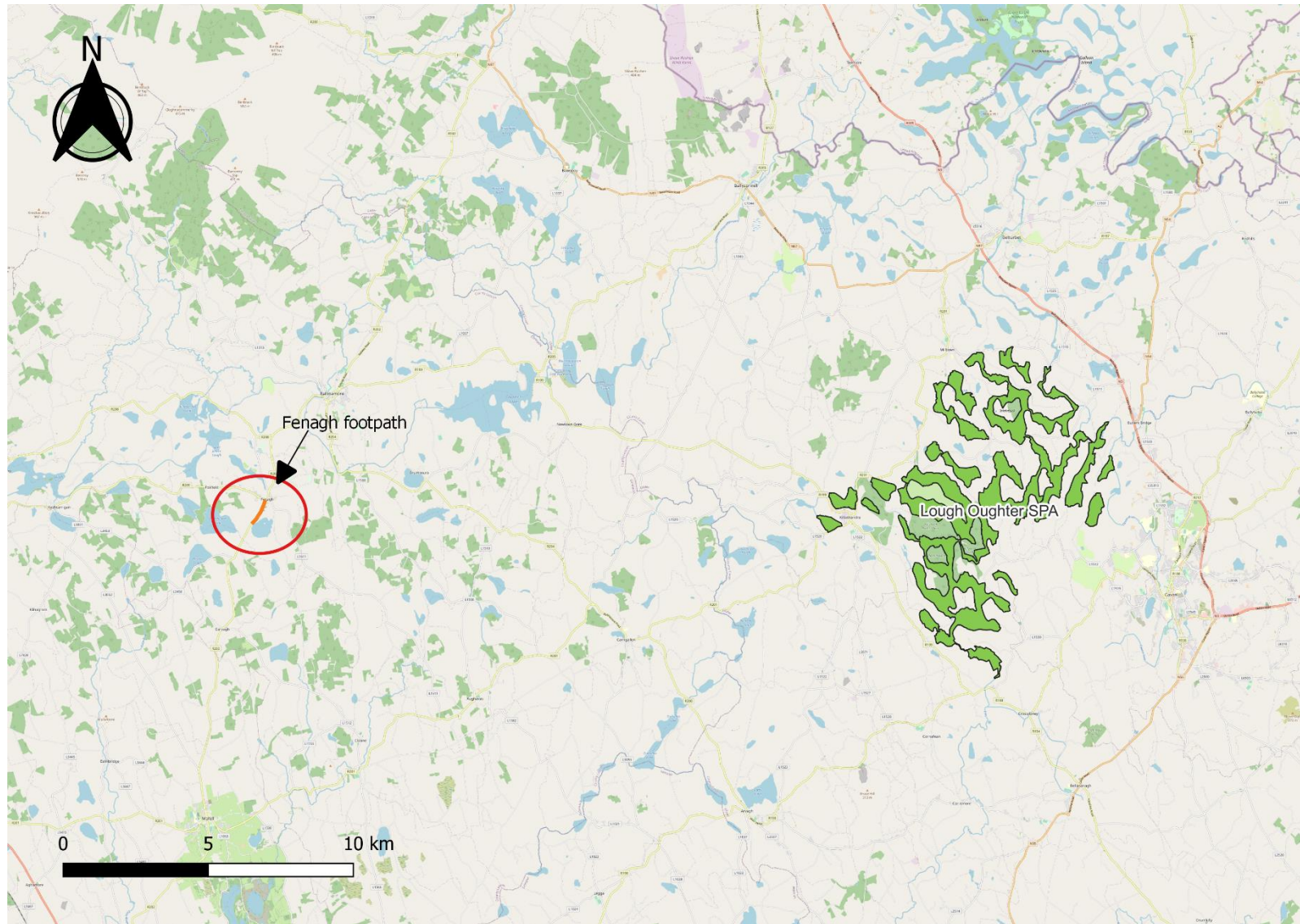


Figure 4.1: Greater Project area for Fenagh footpath, Co. Leitrim showing absence of a viable pathway between the SPA and Project site.

4.2.2. Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species

The source-pathway-receptor model was used to identify any potential SACs with links to the Project. The following two SACs were investigated for a link (see **Figure 4.2**):

- Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC (site code: 000584)
- Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (site code: 000007)

Brief descriptions of the SACs:

Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC (site code: 000584)

This site follows a series of shale uplands in the counties of Cavan and Leitrim and is an area of special interest because of its geology, physiography and upland flora and fauna. The biological interest of the site is associated with the presence of one of the largest expanses of intact mountain blanket bog in Ireland and with upland grasslands on the steepest slopes of the peaks. The presence of many streams (or river sources) adds to the biological interest. This site has been selected as an SAC for the following Annex I/II habitats/species listed under the E.U. Habitats Directive: Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110], Dystrophic Lakes [3160], Wet Heath [4010], Dry Heath [4030], Alpine and Subalpine Heaths [4060], Species-rich *Nardus* Grassland* [6230], Blanket Bogs (Active)* [7130], Transition Mires [7140], Petrifying Springs*[7220], Siliceous Scree [8110], Siliceous Rocky Slopes [8220], Slender Green Feather-moss (*Drepanocladus vernicosus*) [1393].

Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (site code: 000007)

This SAC is a maze of waterways, islands, small lakes and peninsulas including some 90 inter-drumlin lakes and 14 basins in the course of the Erne River. The area lies on Silurian and Ordovician strata with Carboniferous limestone immediately surrounding. The site is the best inland example of a flooded drumlin landscape in Ireland and has many rich and varied biological communities. Many of the species of wetland plants, some considered quite commonplace in Lough Oughter and its associated loughs, are infrequent elsewhere. This site has been selected as an SAC for the following Annex I/II habitats/species listed under the E.U. Habitats Directive: Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation [3150], Bog woodland [91D0] and Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355].

Determination of pathways from SACs to the proposed site:

Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC is located upstream of the proposed Project site and the QIs do not occur at the Project site, therefore there is no likely pathway between the QIs and the Project for an

interaction to occur. This SAC is not considered further in this Screening, Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC can be **screened out** of further assessment.

The QIs of Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC do not occur at the Project site, therefore there is no likely pathway between the QIs and the Project for an interaction to occur. This SAC is not considered further in this Screening and can be **screened out** of further assessment.

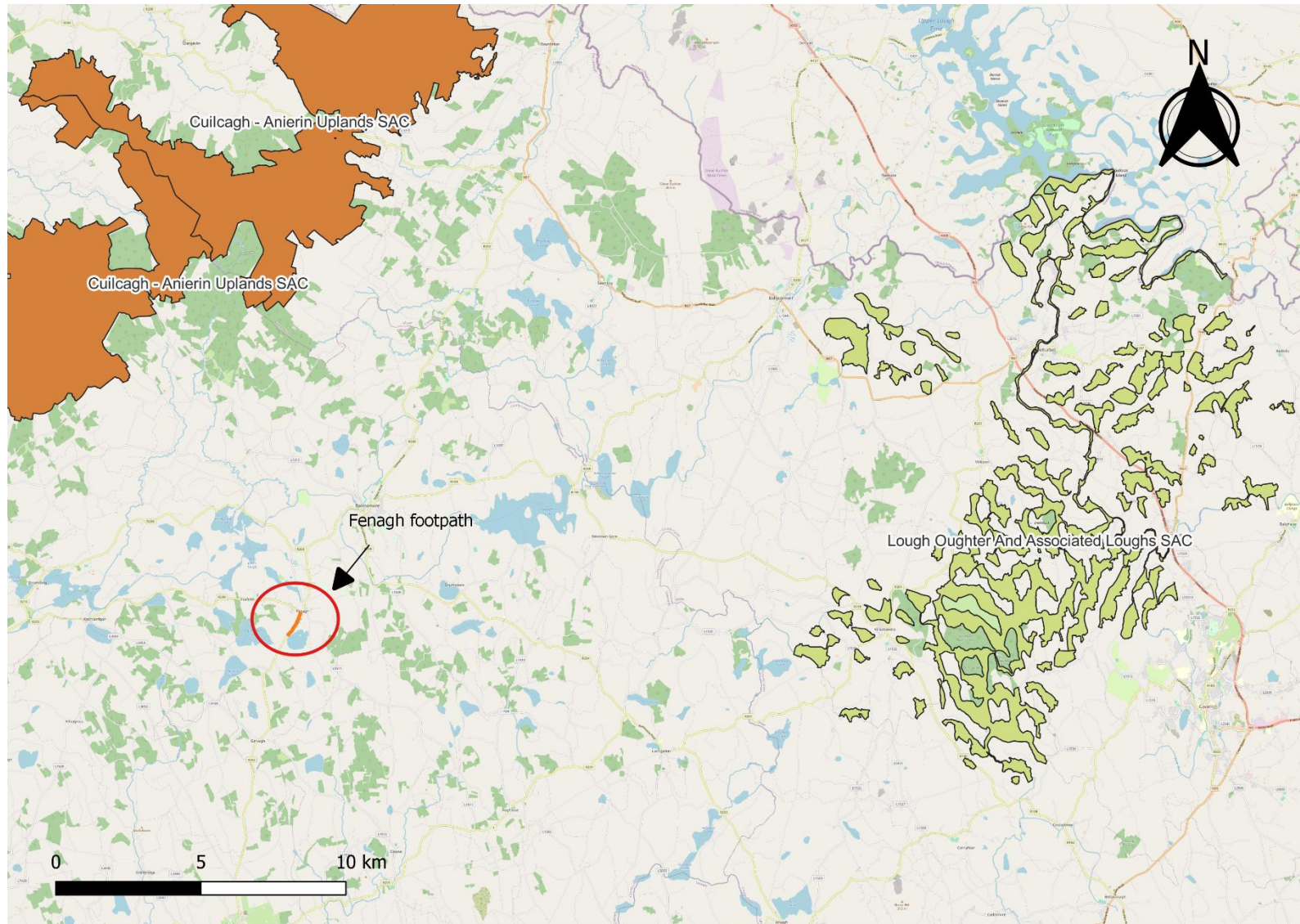


Figure 4.2: Greater Project area for Fenagh footpath, Co. Leitrim showing absence of a viable pathway between SACs and Project site.

5. Potential Environmental Impacts

5.1. *Potential Impact Mechanisms*

A detailed description of the Project is provided above; given the nature of the proposed activities associated with the Project, the potential impact mechanisms (or sources of impact) are:

Physical disturbance associated with use of minidigger, concrete wagons and concrete kerbing machine and road marking vehicles

Physical disturbance associated with light pollution from the public lighting columns

The proposed construction of a footpath will temporarily increase the number of works vehicles in the area by 6 for the duration of the Active Travel Scheme implementation. The proposed Project does not occur in or overlap with an SAC or SPA, therefore the works and any associated disturbances are not of conservation significance. It is not considered likely that the proposed construction of a footpath and associated machinery used to accomplish this will give rise to a pollution event and is therefore not considered further in this report.

6. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake AA under the 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations derives from the Habitats Directive. Regulation 42(1) of the 2011 Regulations requires that:

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

The proposed Project is not associated with the 'management' of European sites within the Natura 2000 Network having regard to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and as such it is appropriate that the proposed Project is subject to a screening for AA. This screening assessment investigates, in view of best scientific knowledge, whether the proposed Project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

As outlined in **Section 1**, this report, which has been prepared to assist competent authorities address Article 6(3) obligations of the Habitats Directive and associated national regulations, focuses on the potential effects to European sites associated with the proposed Project. A description of the Project is outlined in **Section 1.1**, while **Section Error! Reference source not found.** considers the likelihood of significant effects of the Project on European sites both in isolation and in combination with other projects.

6.1. Assessment of Potential Significant Effects to QIs of SACs

The effect to the roadside verges will be laying of concrete surface and kerbs, laying of pipes, gullies and pots and increased lighting however, as the areas to be developed do not overlap with or disrupt a sensitive community or habitat **no effect is likely to occur** as a result of the Project.

Given the nature, duration and spatial extent of the proposed works associated with the Project, and the location of the QIs of SACs and SPAs, it can be concluded that there is **no pathway for significant effects**.

6.2. **Plans or Projects That Might Act In Combination**

As outlined in above the obligation to undertake AA under the 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations derives from the Habitats Directive. Regulation 42(1) of the 2011 Regulations requires that:

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

It is therefore required that the potential impacts of the proposed Project be considered in combination with other relevant plans or projects. Given the nature of the proposed activities associated with the Project, the potential project impact mechanisms (or sources of impact) are:

1. Physical disturbance in the environment due to increased light pollution resulting from public lighting installations
2. Noise emissions from machinery operations

The assessment of potential in-combination effects considers other plans and projects that may result in cumulative significant effects QIs and SCIs of SACs and SPAs.

To inform the assessment of potential in-combination effects a review of consent applications for projects in the vicinity of the proposed Project included on the following websites was completed in May 2022:

- DHPLG - EIA Portal
 - <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/environmental-assessment/environmental-impact-assessment-eia/eia-portal>
- Leitrim County Council - Planning System
 - <https://www.eplanning.ie/LeitrimCC/searchresults/Default/4>

The assessment of potential in-combination effects also considered *negative impacting threats and pressures* and *positive impacting activities/management* affecting the sites as identified in Natura 2000 forms published for the SPA and SAC sites available through the NPWS website (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>).

Screening assessments of potential cumulative or in-combination effects from current and proposed projects listed on above websites are summarised in **Table 6.1**.

In summary, the assessments presented **Table 6.1** conclude that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects caused by cumulative or in-combination effects.

It was concluded that there is **no potential likelihood for significant effects from the proposed Project in combination with other plans or projects**.

Table 6.1: Assessment of potential in-combination effects.

Website	Project Details	File Reference	Date Application Received	Assessment of Potential Cumulative or In-combination Effects	Conclusion
DHPLG - EIA Portal	A search of the DHPLG EIA Portal was undertaken to examine projects with potential for in-combination effects.	-	-	No applications occur close to the site, therefore there is no potential for in-combination effects to occur with the proposed Project.	No potential significant cumulative or in-combination effects
Leitrim County Council - Planning System	A search of the Leitrim planning databases was undertaken to examine projects with potential for in-combination effects.	-	-	Applications made typically to Leitrim County Council and published on the planning database consisted of extensions and renovations to existing houses, and retention of existing developments. These are small-scale terrestrial developments which do not have the potential to result in cumulative effects in combination with the proposed Project.	No potential significant cumulative or in-combination effects

6.3. Screening Outcome

The current assessment investigates the potential for the proposed Project to have significant effects on European Sites within the Natura 2000 network.

The assessment has determined, in light of best available scientific data, that there is no potential for significant effects on the SACs and any SPAs from the proposed Project *i.e.* the likelihood of significant effects on all European sites has been ruled out.

The assessment also determined that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects from the proposed Project in combination with other plans or projects. The findings of the assessment are summarised in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.2: Screening matrix of the proposed Project

Screening Matrix	
Brief description of the Project or plan	The objective of the Project is to construct a footpath for an Active Travel Scheme in Co. Leitrim (Figure 1.1). The Project comprises the construction of a footpath using a minidigger, concrete wagons and a concrete kerbing machine, as well as use of road marking vehicles. Traffic lights and signage will be implemented to facilitate the works.
European Site(s)	
Brief description of the European site(s)	Adopting a precautionary principle, the following European sites were considered in this screening for AA; the sites are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Oughter Complex SPA • Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC • Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC The QIs and SCIs of the above SACs and SPAs are noted in Section 4.2.1 and Section 4.2.2 , respectively.
Assessment Criteria	
Describe the individual elements of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European site.	Given the nature of the proposed activities associated with the Project as detailed in Section 1.1 , the potential project impact mechanisms (or sources of impact) are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical disturbance 2. Noise emission disturbance
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of Size and scale, Land-take.	It is concluded that there is no pathway between the project impact mechanisms and the QIs and SCIs of SACs and SPAs. The assessments are presented in full in Section 6.1 . The assessment of potential in-combination effects considers other plans and projects, which may result in cumulative significant effects QIs and SCIs of SACs and SPAs. In summary, the assessments

	presented Table 6.1 conclude that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects caused by cumulative or in-combination effects.
Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key interests of the site;	The proposed Project area lies outside of any SACs and SPAs. Only SACs and SPAs with a potential link to the Project using the source-pathway-receptor model were considered for this assessment. Using this approach no SACs or SPAs were identified as having a link to the Project.
Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);	Minidiggers, concrete wagons and kerbing machines and road marking vehicles will be refuelled offsite to avoid any pollution incidences near the proposed Project.
Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);	Noise emissions from operation of machinery Fumes from machinery, materials (i.e. tarmac) and transportation vehicles
Excavation requirements, Transportation requirements;	Excavation requirements No excavation will be required Transportation requirements Transportation of machinery by low loaders and transportation of works personnel to sites
Duration of construction, operation, Decommissioning, Other;	The proposed Project will operate for 12 weeks at Fenagh after which all machinery will be removed from the Project area. It is anticipated that works on the three sites will commence in 2022.
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of: Reduction in habitat area; Disturbance to key species; Habitat or species fragmentation; Reduction in species density; Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.). Climate change	It is concluded that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects caused by the Project in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects regarding the following aspects of SACs and SPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in habitat area • Disturbance to key species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction in species density • Water quality <p>With regard effect to climate change, the main source of atmospheric emissions from the proposed Project will result from engine exhaust gases from engines associated with the machinery for laying concrete, concrete kerbs, footpath surface and the road marking vehicles and vehicles used to transport machinery and works people to site. Given the roads along which the Project sites are located are frequently used by local traffic between Fenagh village and local amenities, the additional traffic due to the Project is not considered significant, therefore significant effects on climate from atmospheric emissions can be discounted.</p>
Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site in terms of: Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;	It is concluded that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects caused by the Project in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.

Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site.	
<p>Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</p> <p>Loss; Fragmentation; Disruption; Disturbance; Change to key elements of the site.</p>	<p>Indicators of significance are loss of SCI and QI species and habitats.</p> <p>Indicators of significance are behavioural changes in SCI and QI species.</p> <p>It is concluded that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects caused by the Project in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>
Describe from the above those elements of the Project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.	It is concluded that there is no potential likelihood for significant effects caused by the Project in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.

7. Conclusion

Following a comprehensive evaluation of the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the SCIs considering their Conservation Objectives, it has been concluded that the proposed development will not have a significant effect on any European site.

It has been objectively concluded by AQUAFAC, following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including the nature of the proposed Project, that the proposed Project does not pose a risk of significantly affecting (either directly or indirectly) any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

8. References

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