

## Biodiversity

Surveys completed to gain a greater understanding of ecological sensitivity:

### Bat Survey

Specialist surveys undertaken by Ash Ecology

- Six bat species were identified in the survey area.
- Low rate of activity was recorded during surveys near Drumbane Stream (Ballina North).
- High rate of activity recorded during surveys near Grange River (Ballina South).

Table 5 Bat Results Data over two Activity Surveys (August 26<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup> 2022)

Species Name – Common	Species Name – Latin	Number of Passes – 26/08/2022	Number of Passes – 21/09/2022	Peak Frequency (kHz)
<b>Ballina North</b>				
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	7	5	46.5
Leisler's Bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	3	3	25.0
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	3	9	56.0
<b>Ballina South</b>				
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	6	4	46.5
Leisler's Bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	3	2	25.0
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	26	28	56.0
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	3	3	48.0
Brown Long Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1	3	50.0
Myotis Sp. (possibly Natterer's Bat)	<i>Myotis Sp.</i>	15	16	55.0

### Aquatic Survey

Specialists surveys undertaken by APEM ecologists.

Surveys on the Grange River:

- Water quality analysis
- Fish habitat surveys
- Macroinvertebrate samples
- Electrofishing

The Drumbane Stream as shown in the images below was suitable for water quality analysis only as there is very little water flow, the vegetation in the channel, culverts and lack of access, therefore the other surveys could not be undertaken.

The water quality results showed that there was no evidence of pollution at either site. There was no evidence of fish in the Drumbane Stream but their presence cannot be completely ruled out.

The Grange River results show evidence of pollution. There are species, including salmon, brown trout, European eel, lamprey species, present within the river.



Areas surveyed for bats highlighted in yellow



Drumbane stream as captured during aquatic surveys

## Lower River Shannon SAC

The scheme will also consider the Lower River Shannon SAC, a Natura protected site designated to protect the following which are potentially impacted by the scheme:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)
- River Lamprey
- Brook Lamprey
- Sea Lamprey
- Salmon
- Bottlenose Dolphin
- Otter
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel

