

## 6 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME ON EUROPEAN SITES AND ASSOCIATED MITIGATION

A search and review in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative and/or in-combination impacts on European Sites was conducted. This assessment focuses on the potential for cumulative in-combination effects on the European Sites where potential for significant effects was identified at the screening stage (Appendix I). This included a review of online Planning Registers, development plans and other available information and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted environmental effects.

### 6.1 ONGOING PROGRAMMES ON THE RIVER DEEL

The following ongoing maintenance operations and plans were considered when undertaking this cumulative impact assessment:

1. OPW drainage maintenance programme, which includes the River Deel up as far as the Jack Garrett Bridge in Crossmolina. OPW complete drainage maintenance operations on the lower reaches of the River Deel as part of their obligation under the Arterial Drainage Act. These works are undertaken following the OPW's Environmental Guidance: Drainage Maintenance & Construction (2019) and are the subject of their own ecological impact assessment and appropriate assessment procedures. Additional works such as vegetation and gravel berm removal are from time to time undertaken. Any such works have been considered in this cumulative impact assessment.
2. OPW/IFI/Mayo County Council, Japanese Knotweed eradication programme. The ongoing management of invasive species has been considered in this cumulative impact assessment.

### 6.2 PROJECTS

The potential for the proposed works to contribute to cumulative or in combination effects on European Sites was considered in combination with other projects in the local area. The online planning systems for Mayo County Council and An Bord Pleanála were consulted on the 12/05/2020. Additional projects identified in the townlands of Cartrongilbert and Mullenmore North, where the proposed scheme is located, include:

- Permission to construct new dwelling house, garage, waste water treatment system and all associated site works (Planning Ref: 15227).
- Permission to retain a dwelling house, domestic shed and retain and upgrade proprietary effluent treatment system (Planning Ref: 1684).
- Permission to construct a new vehicular and pedestrian entrance, roadway and carpark and all ancillary works to the existing cemetery (Planning Ref: 18789).

- Permission to construct a single storey ASD unit extension to existing school building comprising of classrooms and ancillary accommodation together with alterations to existing building and site works (Planning Ref: 17869).
- Permission for the retention of existing dwelling house and shed to the rear including retention of boundaries and all other associated works/services (Planning Ref: 17821).
- Permission to construct dwelling house incorporating a basement with connections to public sewer and public water main including all other ancillary site works and services (Planning Ref: 16324).
- Permission to construct a single storey extension within the school site, the block will include 5 no. classrooms, sanitary facilities, storage and circulation of approx 443 sqm gross floor area in total. the development will also include an extension to existing car park and all associated site works and connections to existing services (Planning Ref: 15670).
- Permission for the extension to existing school building, comprising of 1 no. classroom and 3 no. special education tuition rooms, including all associated development works and services. (Planning Ref: 19814).
- Permission for the extension to the existing school building, comprising 1. no staff room and minor alterations to existing storage room including all associated development works and services (Planning Ref: 19953)
- Permission for the extension to the existing school building, comprising of a new classroom and a new staff room facility, including all associated development works and services (Planning Ref: 19117).
- Permission to construct dwelling house incorporating garage and septic tank with percolation area including all other ancillary site work and services (Planning Ref: 18545).

#### Assessment of plans

The following plans have been reviewed and taken into consideration as part of this assessment:

Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020

National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021

Regional Planning Guidelines for the West 2010 - 2022

The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to designated sites for nature conservation, biodiversity and protected species. An overview of the search results with regard to plans is provided in Table 5.24.

Objective or Policy	Context of Proposed scheme
Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020	

**WQ-01** - It is an objective of the Council to implement the Western River Basin District Management Plan “Water Matters” 2009-2015 to ensure the protection, restoration and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, groundwater, coastal and transitional waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to deterioration in water quality or quantity.

**NH-01** - It is an objective of the Council to protect, enhance, conserve and, where appropriate restore:

a) Candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed National Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites and Biogenetic Reserves, including those listed in the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment of this plan and any modifications or additional areas that may be so designated during the lifetime of the plan.

b) Natural habitats and plant and animal species identified under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order, or any other relevant legislation that may be implemented during the lifetime of the plan.

c) Features of natural interest and amenity, which provide a unique habitat for wildlife including ecological networks (including ecological corridors and stepping stones), riparian zones, hedgerows, stonewalls and shelterbelts.

g) Surface waters, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water-dependent species through the implementation of all appropriate and relevant Directives and transposed legislation.

The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts were identified when considered in conjunction with the current proposal.

#### National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021

**Target 6.2** - Sufficiency, coherence, connectivity, and resilience of the protected areas network substantially enhanced by 2020.

The proposed scheme will not result in adverse effects on habitat and features of ecological importance. The proposed project will not impact on connectivity within the wider area and will maintain the watercourse within the to the development site in good

	condition.
<b>The Regional Planning Guidelines for the West 2010-2022</b>	
<p><b>EAP13:</b> To support the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites (Wetlands), Wildfowl Sanctuaries, National Parks, Nature Reserves and the biodiversity designated under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act, Flora Protection Order and other designated or future designated sites.</p>	<p>The proposed scheme will not result in adverse effects on habitat and features of ecological importance.</p>
<p><b>EA018:</b> Support the achievement of favourable conservation status of Annex I habitats, Annex II species, Annex I bird species and other regularly occurring migratory bird species and their habitats in the region.</p>	

Table 6.1 Assessment of plans

Following the detailed assessment provided in the preceding sections, it is concluded that, the proposed development will not result in any residual adverse effects on any of the European Sites, their integrity or their conservation objectives when considered on its own. There is therefore no potential for the proposed development to contribute to any cumulative adverse effects on any European Site when considered in combination with other plans and projects.

In the review of the projects that was undertaken, no connection, that could potentially result in additional or cumulative impacts was identified. Neither was any potential for different (new) impacts resulting from the combination of the various projects and plans in association with the proposed development.

## 7 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This NIS has provided an assessment of all potential direct or indirect adverse effects on European Sites.

Where the potential for any adverse effect on any European Site has been identified, the pathway by which any such effect may occur has been robustly blocked through the use of avoidance, appropriate design and mitigation measures as set out within this report and its appendices. The measures ensure that the construction and operation of the proposed development does not adversely affect the integrity of European sites.

Therefore, it can be objectively concluded that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site, in light of their site conservation objectives and in view of best scientific knowledge.

## 8 REFERENCES

Bern Convention (1982) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Birds Directive (2009/47/EC) – [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm)

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NPWS Protected Site Synopses and maps available on <http://www.npws.ie/en/ProtectedSites/>.

NPWS Habitat Directive - Article 17 Datasets - <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data> -

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NRA (2009) Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes. National Roads Authority.

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SI 477/2011 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Teagasc - <http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php> [Accessed 12 Sept 2017].

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WFD

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