

Appendix A – Public Information Pack



20th September 2021

Re: Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme – Opening Public Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme is being progressed by Donegal County Council in partnership with the Office of Public Works. Engineering consultants, Byrne Looby - Arcadis have been appointed to design a flood relief scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable. The project is currently in Stage 1 "Scheme Analysis and Development". This involves data collection / surveys, detailed river modelling, and early community engagement to inform the design and identify the preferred Scheme. Our aim is to ensure that design is based on the most up to date information and analysis, and that stakeholder and public input regarding flooding, design and environmental constraints are considered as early as possible in the process.

To this end we are launching an Opening Public Consultation period which will run from 27th September 2021 to 22nd October 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an Opening Public Consultation Day will not be held in person. Instead, we hope to engage with you via online consultation or through correspondence with the project team. Please find enclosed:

1. An information leaflet providing you with more detail on the scheme, links to the project website, the public consultation process, the information we are looking for, and how you can make a submission online, by email, post or telephone.
2. A questionnaire form. We would be grateful if you could fill it out and return to us by 22nd October 2021. The information leaflet provides the contact details and an option to download the form online if you wish.

Our first Scheme Newsletter will be published soon. It will include the background to the Scheme, updates on the stages in the project and what the team are working on. These newsletters will be prepared every three months and will keep you up to date with progress. You can download them from the project website www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home.

At the end of Stage 1, a second public consultation will be held to let you know how your submission has been considered in arriving at the preferred Scheme to be taken forward to the statutory planning process.

We also advise that surveying teams will be in Buncrana over the coming months to gather data for the project. This includes ecologists gathering environmental data, and engineers gathering topographical data and reviewing existing infrastructure. The surveyors may require access to private lands to complete their assessments. All teams will carry identification and follow HSE Guidelines in relation to safe practices and COVID 19.

We thank you in advance for your input to the public consultation which will greatly assist in the development of the flood relief scheme.

Yours faithfully,

Shane Mc Monagle and Lorraine Arbuckle,

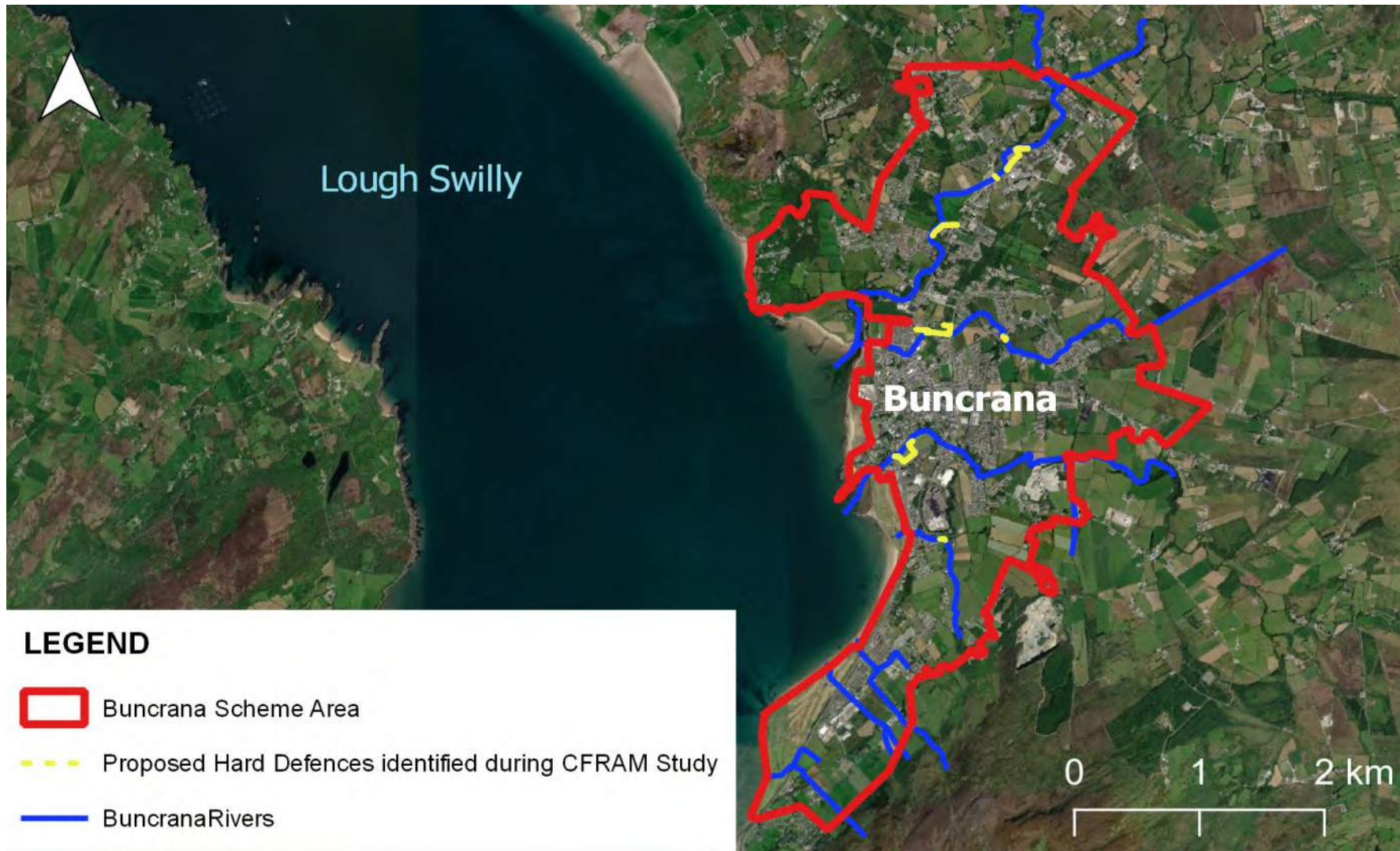
Flood Relief Schemes Unit, floodreliefschemes@donegalcoco.ie

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT

BUNCRANA FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

-  **From:** Mon, 27th September to Fri, 22nd October 2021
-  **Log onto:** www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/project-info/public-engagement/
-  **Updates:** <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home/>

Read about the project and submit your comments



THE STUDY AREA

SCHEME PURPOSE: The scheme purpose is to alleviate the risk of flooding to the community of **Buncrana** delivering a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable.

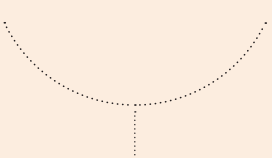
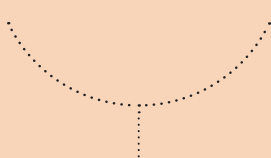
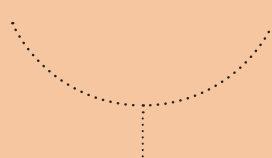

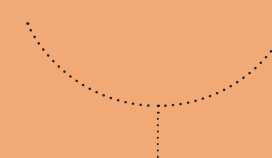
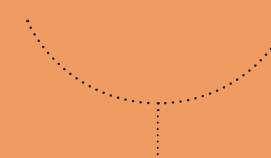

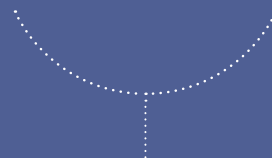

Donegal County Council has appointed Engineering and Environmental Consultants **ByrneLooby** to design and implement a Flood Relief Scheme for **Buncrana**. Donegal County Council is working with the Office of Public Works to deliver the project.

This is the first public consultation event. From **Monday 27th September to Friday 22nd October 2021**, we are gathering feedback from the public about their experiences of flooding in the scheme area, along with thoughts and preferences on possible flood relief measures. **Your opinions are important to us;** they help us build a picture of your experiences, local knowledge and insight, which will help deliver a **Successful Flood Relief Scheme.**

Please **share your comments**, experiences and concerns on potential **environmental issues**, **constraints**, **risks** and the implementation of solutions within **the Study Area.**

What actions can we take to **lessen the effects of flood events** and to prevent flooding?

EXAMPLES OF FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES

DO NOTHING	NON STRUCTURAL MEASURES	RELOCATION OF PROPERTIES AND/OR INFRASTRUCTURE	FLOW DIVERSION	FLOW REDUCTION	FLOW CONTAINMENT	INCREASE CONVEYANCE OF CHANNEL	SEDIMENT DEPOSITION	STORM WATER PUMPING
								
Example Implement no new flood alleviation measures	Example Install a flood warning system or individual property protection	Example Reconstruct properties and/or infrastructure to a higher elevation/level	Example: Creation of river diversions or flow bypass channel)	Example Upstream catchment management or flood storage	Example through the construction of flood defences	Example increase the conveyance of the town's channel flows upstream and/or through and/or downstream	Action Sediment deposition and possible sediment traps	Action Pump storm water from behind flood defences

Please **share your comments** with us

BUNCRANA FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Online Stakeholder and Public Consultation from Monday 27th September 2021 to Friday 22nd October 2021



Your Experiences

We want to hear about **your past experiences** of flooding and your local knowledge



Your Concerns

We welcome **your concerns** on important issues including environmental and ecological impacts and risks



Your Ideas

You may have **some ideas**, please share them with us



Your Opinions

By listening to all stakeholders, we can build a successful flood relief scheme **together**.

Please read about the scheme and submit your comments online from: 27/9/2021 - 22/10/2021



LEARN

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home/>



COMMENT

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/project-info/public-engagement/>

Why a flood relief scheme?

The purpose of a **Flood Relief Scheme** is to lessen the effects of flooding and to protect the community of Buncrana against future flood events. The aim is to provide a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable.

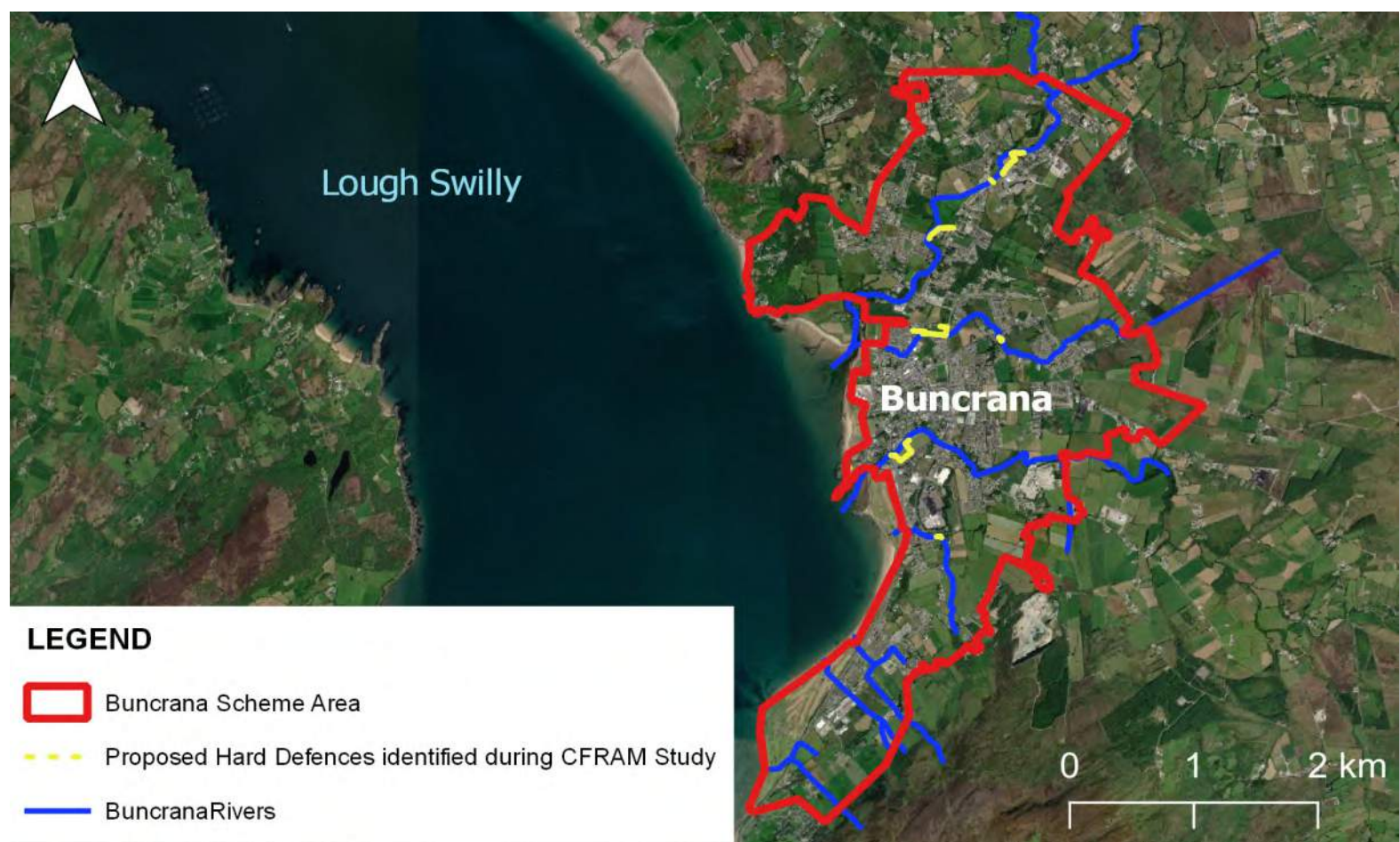
Donegal County Council has appointed Engineering and Environmental Consultants ByrneLooby to design and implement the proposed Flood Relief Scheme.

Donegal County Council will be working with the Office of Public Works to deliver the project.

From **Monday 27th September to Friday 22nd October 2021**, we are gathering feedback from the public online, about your experiences of flooding in the scheme area, along with thoughts and preferences on potential flood relief measures.

We welcome **your comments** on potential environmental risks, constraints and issues within the Study Area. Your views on the implementation of solutions are appreciated.

Your opinions are important to us; they help us build a picture of your experiences, local knowledge and insight, which will help deliver *a Successful Flood Relief Scheme*.



THE STUDY AREA

Play your part

Your Feedback is Important

We invite the general public and all interested parties to give their opinions on the study area online. Please take the opportunity to **play your part** in the early stages of the planning for the Flood Relief Scheme for Buncrana.

All comments received in response to the public consultation event will be considered by the Donegal County Council and the Office of Public Works.

Your comments form part of our engineering and environmental studies during Stage 1 of the **Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme**.

We appreciate your time and thank you for your input.

What Happens Next?

Please examine the **Study Area** above and let your views be known by completing and returning the questionnaire **by Friday 22nd October 2021**.

All completed questionnaires, queries and comments in relation to this project can sent to either of the following:

EMAIL: BuncranaFRS@ByrneLooby.com

POST: Project Manager Buncrana FRS
ByrneLooby
Building 2100
Cork Airport Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

CALL: +353 (0) 21 240 7988



LOG ONTO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION: From Mon 27/09/21 to Fri 22/10/21
<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/project-info/public-engagement/>



VISIT FOR UPDATES:
<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home/>

Freedom of Information

Any information provided will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.
Personal information will be subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Acts and will not be disclosed.

Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme
Stakeholder and Public Consultation Event
Questionnaire

(Please complete this questionnaire and return to ByrneLooby, Attention: Project Manager,
Building 2100, Cork Airport Business Park, Kinsale Road, Cork,
Email: BuncranaFRS@ByrneLooby.com by **Friday 22nd October 2021**.
Kindly sign GDPR Compliance on Pg 3 of 3 of this questionnaire.

1 Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Optional): _____ Email: (Optional): _____

2 Are you aware of the North-Western - Neagh Bann (NWNB) Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study and its findings or recommendations?

Yes No

3 Do you own, rent or occupy a property within the study area being considered?

Yes No

4 Address of Property (if different from home address) _____

5 Have you had any personal experience of flooding? Yes No

6 If yes, do you have information which can be used to inform the scheme? Please describe information available? Can Donegal Co. Co. contact you to collect this information?

7 Do you have photographs or videos of flooding? Yes No

8 If yes, may Donegal County Council have permission to use them? Yes No

Note: Photographs / videos can be collected at a later date.

9 Also if yes, could you please describe the photograph?

10 Type of property flooded?

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retail | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Office | <input type="checkbox"/> | Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If other, please describe: _____

11 Approximate maximum depth of flooding? (Please state whether the depth is in meters or feet): _____

- 12 Source of Flooding:**
- Directly from river/ Stream
- From Drains/ Sewer
- Overground flow (surface water)

13 How do you think the issue of flooding can be resolved?

14 In your opinion, how important are the following environmental constraints to the proposed Flood Relief Scheme?
(Please tick appropriate boxes)

Environmental Constraints	Rating				
	Not Important	Less Important	Moderately Important	Important	Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5
Socio-Economic and Social Issues					
Biodiversity (Flora, Fauna, Habitats, etc)					
Water Quality & River Flows					
Soil/Geology/ Groundwater					
Air Quality and Odours					
Climate					
Traffic					
Noise and Vibration					
Architectural and Cultural Heritage					
Landscape and Visual Amenity					
Angling, Tourism and Recreation					
Local Fisheries					
Others, Please Specify:					

15 Please provide below any other comments or observations you wish to make with respect to flooding on the Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme?

GDPR COMPLIANCE

Your contact details have been collected to aid the development of the flood relief scheme for Buncrana. The details will only be used for the purposes of contacting you in relation to the scheme, which may include some or all of the following:

- Notifying you of future consultation opportunities
- Arranging access to your lands for the purposes of data collection by project staff and approved third party surveyors
- Clarifying information, you have already provided to the project team and obtaining further inputs

Your details will be securely kept on file for the duration of the project

Signature:	I agree to the above use and retention of my contact details
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Donegal County Council is committed to protecting your privacy. Any personal information which you provide will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality, in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018. For further information <https://countydonegalfrs.ie/index.php/cookie-policy/>

Freedom of Information: Any information provided will be used to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Personal information will be subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Acts and will not be disclosed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

Appendix B – Responses to project level initial environmental
consultation

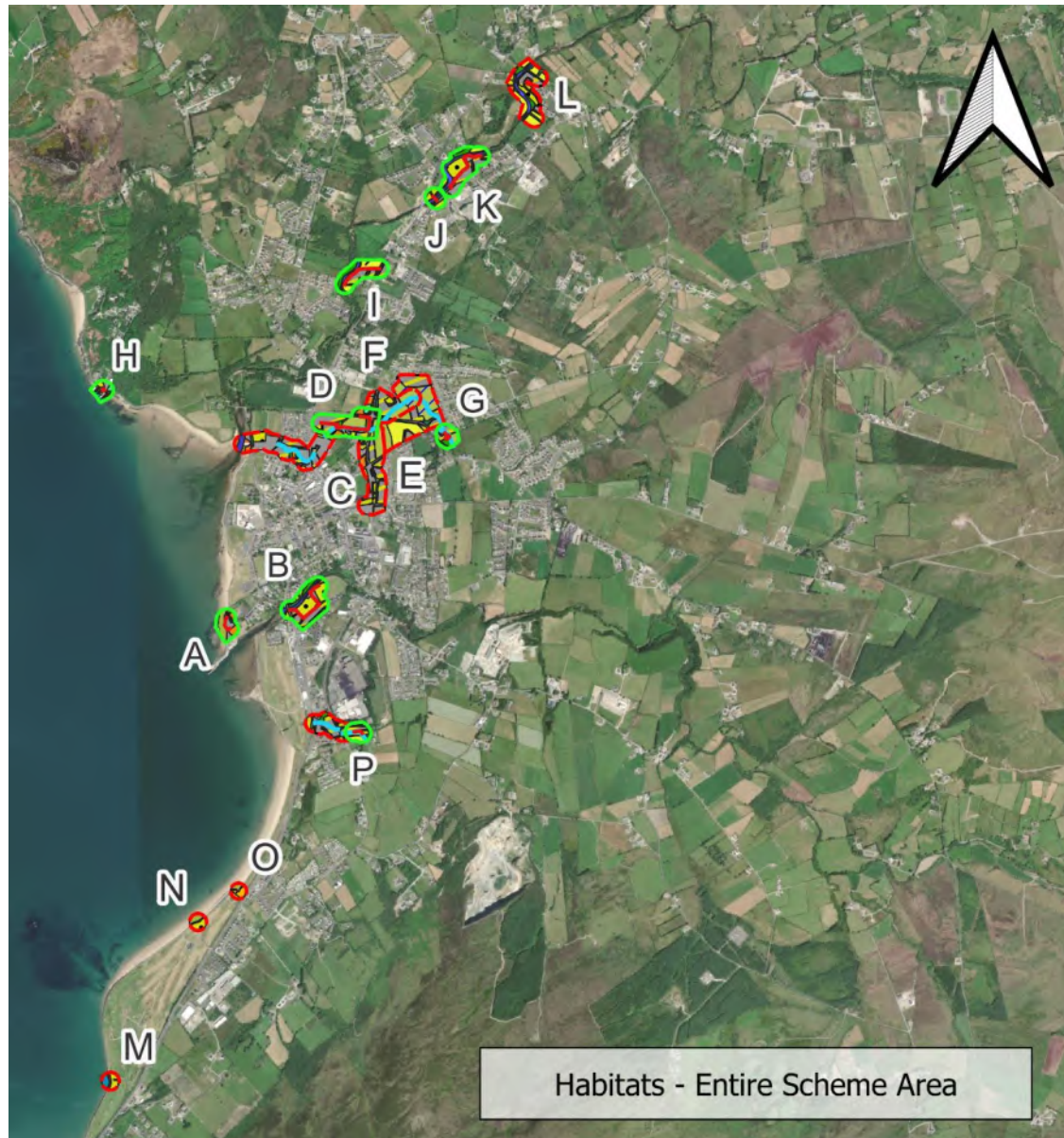
A summary of responses received up to and on 1st December 2021 is provided below.

Organisation	Feedback to initial stakeholder engagement/environmental consultation
<p>Development Applications Unit (DAU)</p> <p>National Monuments Services of the DAU</p>	<p>Email received 04/11/2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise OPW to appoint dedicated FRS Project Archaeologist(s). • Advised that the methodologies and processes outlined in the ‘Guidelines for the Archaeological Assessment of Flood Relief Schemes’ (DHLGH 2021) are consulted and adhered to in undertaking the archaeological assessments for these projects. • Draw the applicant’s attention to the Department’s published policy in relation to the archaeological assessment, including ‘Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage – Published by Dúchas The Heritage Service’ the ‘Guidelines for the Archaeological Assessment of Flood Relief Schemes’ (DHLGH 2021). • Highlight available datasets to be used in the archaeological impact assessment. • Comments on the requirements of the assessment of the FRS project is included.
<p>Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Transport</p>	<p>Letter attached to email received 20/10/2021.</p> <p>Observations provided comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the hard measures identified and assessed in 2018 scored quite high negative environmental consequences. The planners are advised to weigh nature-based criteria compared to hard defences when designing these flood relief schemes and when going to tender. • The designer of the scheme should ensure that the threat of flooding along the public road network (where it exists) is reduced by the proposed design and that the drainage of the public road network is improved where possible and not impaired by the proposed development.

Organisation	Feedback to initial stakeholder engagement/environmental consultation
Geological Survey Ireland	<p>Letter and reference sheet attached to email received 18/10/2021.</p> <p>Observations provided comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on online data sources to use for the environmental assessment for Geoheritage, Groundwater, Geotechnical database, Geohazards, and Marine and Coastal. • Recommended that the following guidelines are consulted: Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements. • Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland’s national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to Beatriz Mozo, Geological Mapping Unit, atBeatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie, 01-6782795.

Organisation	Feedback to initial stakeholder engagement/environmental consultation
LAWPRO, Catchments Assessment Team	<p>Emails dated 04/05/2022.</p> <p>Confirmation was received with regards to the Mill River’s status under the Blue Dot Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headwaters of the Mill River (Mill (Donegal)_010 - code IE_NW_39M020050) is a High Status Objective waterbody and is included in the Blue Dot Programme. This waterbody has regularly attained a high-status Q-score under the EPA biological monitoring programme, with the concern seeming to arise downstream in the Mill (Donegal)_020 waterbody (code IE_NW_39M020300) where the biology drops to a Q3, indicative of Poor status. • These two waterbodies have been proposed together as an Area for Action in the 3rd Cycle, and the reason the Blue Dot label is being added is essentially because of the upper reaches. LAWPRO had to devise a rule of thumb for the AFAC naming convention to be consistent throughout the country and agreed that if 50% or more of waterbodies within any proposed AFAC were Blue Dot WBs with a high-status objective, ‘_Blue Dot’ would be tagged on to the AFAC name. • Hydromorphology impacts from the old mill race are a pressure on the status of the Mill (Donegal)_020 waterbody where it drops to Poor status d/s of the old railway bridge in the town. The 2nd Cycle Characterisation report for the Burnfoot_SC_010 sub-catchment also states, “<i>Siltation due to the impact of a weir was highlighted as contributing to the Moderate ecological status of Mill (Donegal)_020</i>”. • The IFI have recently completed a Barrier Survey on the Lower Mill. • A local group, the Mill River Conservation Group, recently employed the Wild Trout Trust to undertake surveys of the weirs in the area from a fish habitat perspective.

Appendix C – Habitat Mapping



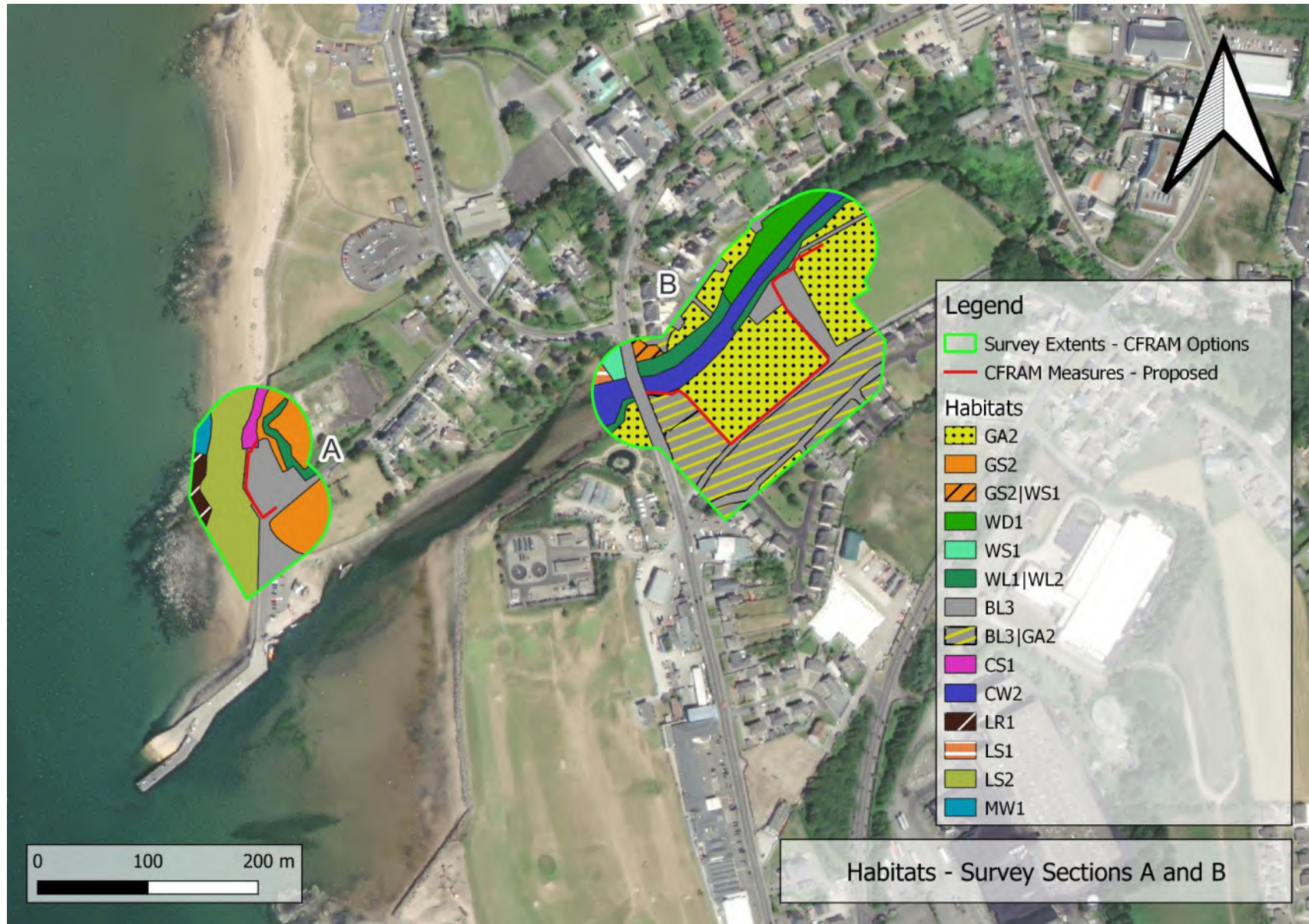
Legend

- Survey Extents - CFRAM Options
- Survey Extents - Additional Areas
- CFRAM Measures - Proposed

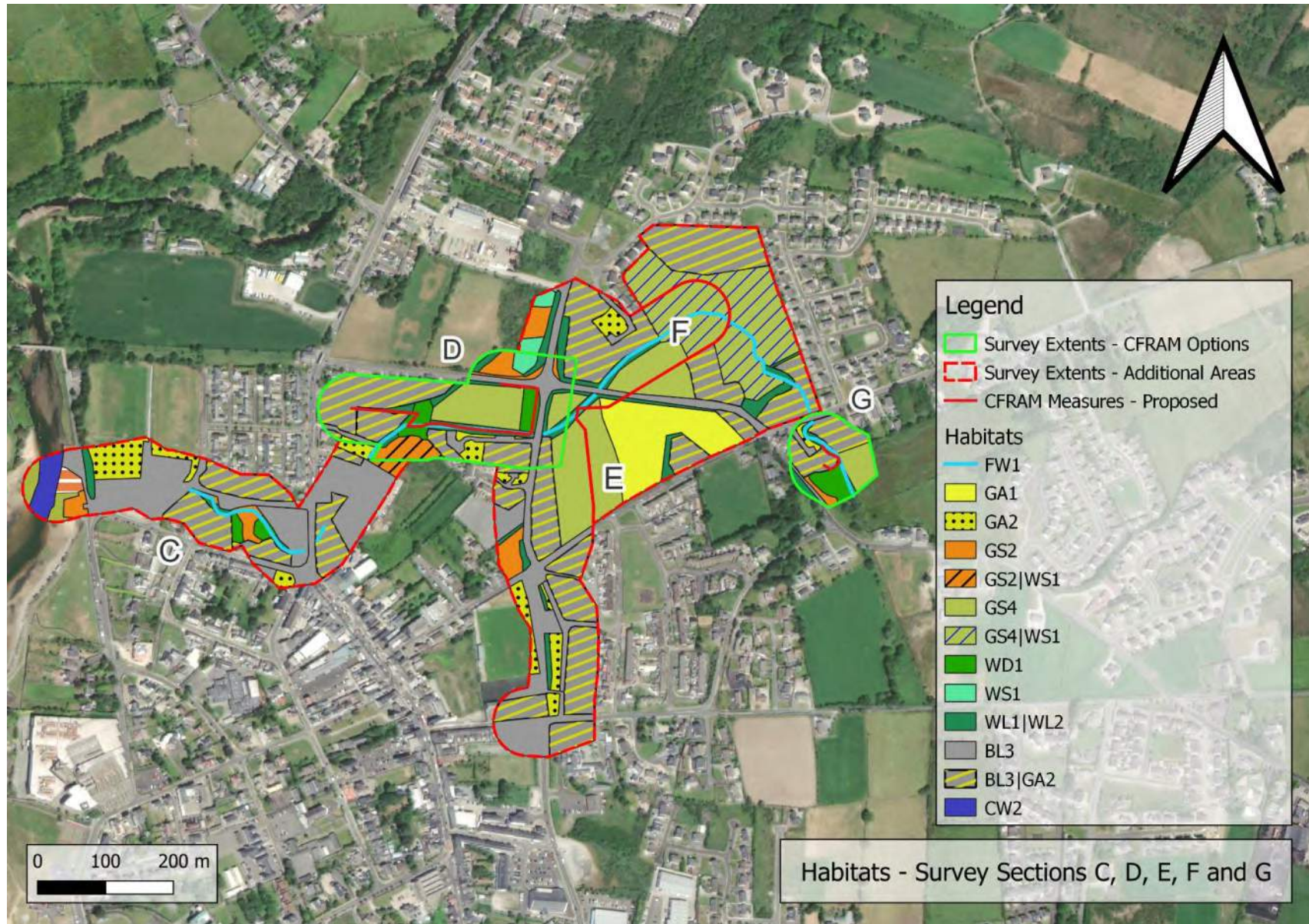
Habitats

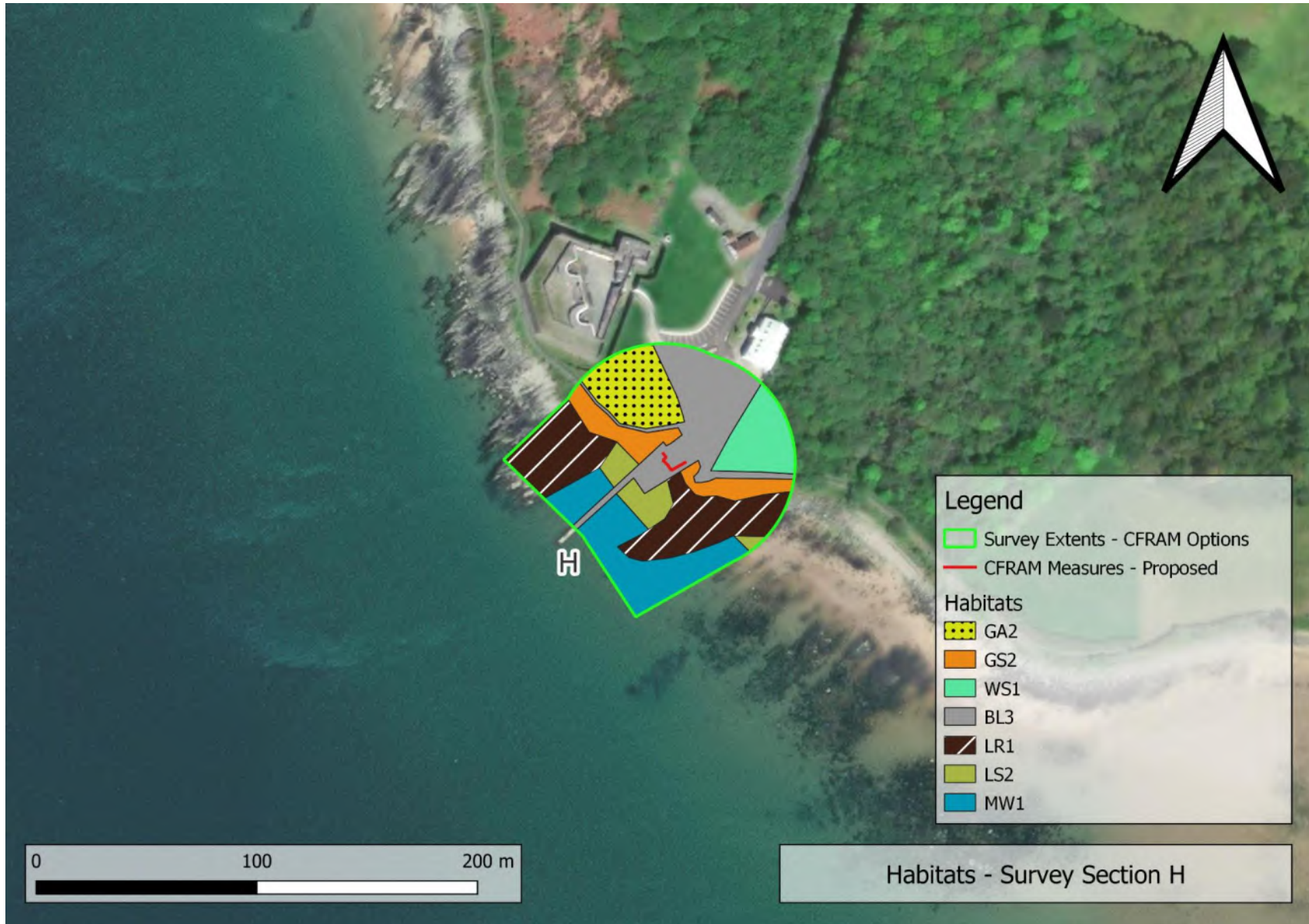
- Eroding/upland rivers FW1
- Depositing/lowland rivers FW2
- Drainage ditches FW4
- Improved agricultural grassland GA1
- Amenity grassland (improved) GA2
- Dry meadows and grassy verges GS2
- Dry meadows and grassy verges GS2 | Scrub WS1
- Wet grassland GS4
- Wet grassland GS4 | Scrub WS1
- (Mixed) broadleaved woodland WD1
- Scrub WS1
- Hedgerows WL1 | Treelines WL2
- Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3
- Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3 | Amenity grassland (improved) GA2
- Rocky sea cliffs CS1
- Tidal rivers CW2
- Fixed dunes CD3
- Sea walls, piers and jetties CC1
- Exposed rocky shores LR1
- Shingle and gravel shores LS1
- Sand shores LS2
- Open marine water MW1

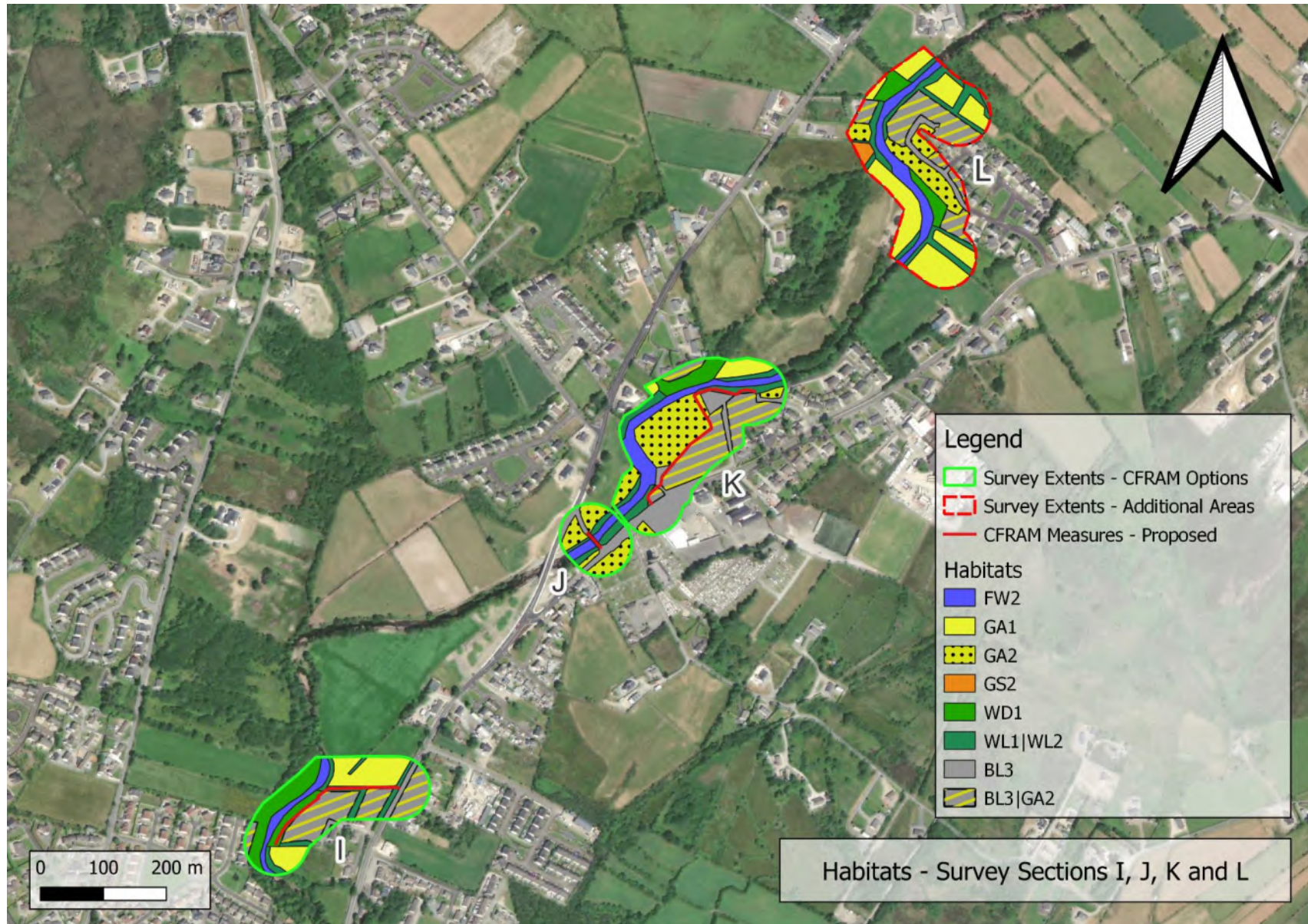
Habitats - Entire Scheme Area



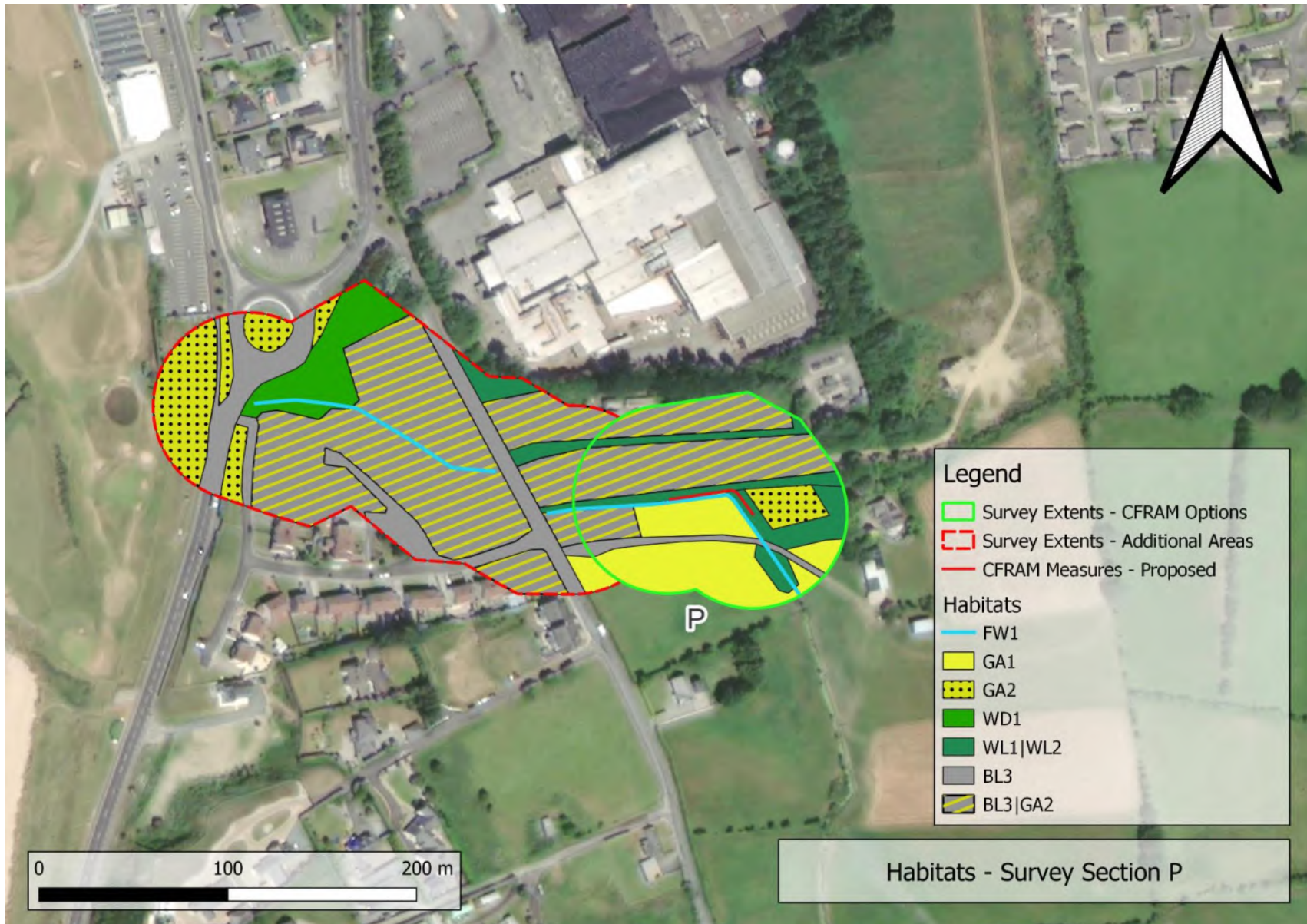
Habitats - Survey Sections A and B











Appendix D – Land Use Zoning Map for Buncrana

The figures overleaf are reproduced from the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 (Donegal County Council, 2021) where they are labelled:

- Map 13.1: Buncrana Land Use Zoning
- Map 13.2: Buncrana Land use Zoning Map Extract
- Map 13.3: Buncrana Area of Special Townscape Character

Appendix E – County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024:
policies associated with landscape

This appendix does not contain a fully comprehensive list of policies stated in the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 related to landscape and the reader is directed to that document should further information be required. Text in italic within this appendix is reproduced from County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024.

Natural Heritage policies outlined in Donegal County Development Plan where landscape is a consideration are as follows:

NH-P-1: It is a policy of the Council to ensure that development proposals do not damage or destroy any sites of international or national importance, designated for their wildlife/habitat significance in accordance with European and National legislation including: SACs, Special SPAs, NHAs, Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.

NH-P-5: It is a policy of the Council to require consideration of the impact of potential development on habitats of natural value that are key features of the County's ecological network and to incorporate appropriate mitigating biodiversity measures into development proposals.

NH-P-6: It is a policy of the Council to protect areas identified as Especially High Scenic Amenity on Map [therein]: 'Scenic Amenity'. Within these areas, only developments assessed to be of strategic importance or developments that are provided for by policy elsewhere in this Plan shall be considered.

NH-P-7: Within areas of 'High Scenic Amenity' (HSC) and 'Moderate Scenic Amenity' (MSC) as identified [in maps therein]: 'Scenic Amenity', and subject to the other objectives and policies of this Plan, it is the policy of the Council to facilitate development of a nature, location and scale that allows the development to integrate within and reflect the character and amenity designation of the landscape.

NH-P-8: It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the scenic context, cultural landscape significance, and recreational and environmental amenities of the County's coastline from inappropriate development.

NH-P-9: It is the policy of the Council to manage the local landscape and natural environment, including the seascape, by ensuring any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of the area.

NH-P-10: It is a policy of the Council to retain and protect significant stands of existing trees/hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees where appropriate in new developments.

NH-P-11: It is a policy of the Council to seek the protection of stone wall boundaries where they are shown to play a significant heritage role. Where the demolition of such stone walls is unavoidable, the reinstatement of stone walls at revised location/set back within the site using agreed local materials and techniques, will be required.

NH-P-12: It is a policy of the Council to protect the integrity of the Shore Walks from Moville to Greencastle, Bundoran to Tullaghan, Bunrana to Stragill and the walkway encircling Trusk Lough

and Ballybofey by the management of development that would intrude upon or inhibit the amenities of those walks and surrounding areas.

NH-P-13: It is a policy of the Council to protect, conserve and manage landscapes having regard to the nature of the proposed development and the degree to which it can be accommodated into the receiving landscape. In this regard the proposal must be considered in the context of the landscape classifications, and views and prospects contained within this Plan and as illustrated on Map [therein]: ‘Scenic Amenity’.

NH-P-14: It is a policy of the Council to protect the character of the following approach roads to Glenveagh National Park:

- *Glendowan to Doochary Road.*
- *Dunlewey to Termon Road.*
- *Churchill to Termon/Dunlewey Road.*
- *Muckish Gap to Cabiber Bridge.*

NH-P-15: It is a policy of the Council to safeguard prominent skylines and ridgelines from inappropriate development.

NH-P-16: It is a policy of the Council to protect and enhance the landscape character, culture and heritage of the Islands whilst facilitating appropriate development. All development must be considered in the context of the landscape classification contained within this Plan and as illustrated on [therein]: Scenic Amenity.

NH-P-17: It is a policy of the Council to seek to preserve the views and prospects of special amenity value and interest, in particular, views between public roads and the sea, lakes and rivers. In this regard, development proposals situated on lands between the road and the sea, lakes or rivers shall be considered on the basis of the following criteria:

- *Importance value of the view in question.*
- *Whether the integrity of the view has been affected to date by existing development.*
- *Whether the development would intrude significantly on the view.*
- *Whether the development would materially alter the view. In operating the policy, a reasonable and balanced approach shall be implemented so as to ensure that the policy does not act as a blanket ban on developments between the road and the sea, lakes and rivers.*

NH-P-19: It is a policy of the Council to protect County Geological Sites (CGS) through a precautionary approach to development proposals with the potential to impact upon a CGS. Proposals should be accompanied by a detailed report from a competent person setting out the potential impact to ensure that an informed decision can be made. Where significant harm to the CGS is deemed likely, planning permission will not be granted unless there are overriding considerations of public importance to the County.

NH-P-20: It is the policy of the Council to ensure the protection of Cró na mBraonáin habitats and Grouse sanctuary given its high concentration of Red Grouse and its importance to the national Red Grouse population, which is a protected species under the EU Birds Directive.

Build heritage policies outlined in Donegal County Development Plan where landscape is either directly or indirectly a consideration are as follows:

BH-P-1: It is a Policy of the Council to conserve and protect all structures (or parts of structures) and sites contained in the Record of Protected Structures that are of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

BH-P-2: It is a policy of the Council to review the RPS on an ongoing basis, and to add structures (or parts of structures) of special interest, including, those recommended by the Minister through the NIAH Survey of Donegal or other buildings which the Council consider to have special interest.

BH-P-3: It is a policy of the Council to ensure retention of vernacular and/or historic structures (and parts of structures), including their functional and decorative details, that are sensitive to traditional construction methods and materials and do not have a detrimental impact on the character or appearance of a structure and are in accordance with current conservation guidelines and best practice.

BH-P-4: It is a policy of the Council to ensure the repair, reuse and appropriate refurbishment of vernacular and/or historic buildings, which make a positive contribution to the built heritage of the area including those as referred to on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

BH-P-5: It is a policy of the Council to protect and preserve vernacular and/or historic industrial and maritime buildings. Proposals for restoration or adaptive re-use should be facilitated subject to a full architectural assessment.

BH-P-6: It is a policy of the Council to ensure, where appropriate, measures to extend, modify or materially alter the fabric of vernacular and/or historic buildings are sensitive to traditional construction methods and materials and craftsmanship and do not have a detrimental impact on the character or appearance of a structure.

BH-P-7: It is a policy of the Council to promote and retain building fabric such as lime mortar, slate, thatch, timber windows, rendering and joinery and the reinstatement of such will be encouraged.

BH-P-8: It is a policy of the Council to facilitate appropriate and high quality design solutions including considerations of scale, proportion, detailing and material specification for development proposals affecting vernacular and/or historic buildings in both urban and rural settings.

BH-P-9: It is a policy of the Council to conserve and enhance the quality, character and distinctiveness of towns and streetscapes in the County, including street layouts, historic structures, building lines, traditional plot widths, signage and historical street furniture as well as the character of the area.

BH-P-10: It is a policy of the Council to ensure the retention of historic shop fronts, pub fronts and traditional (hand-painted) signage as part of the streetscape of towns and villages and roads of both urban and rural Donegal.

BH-P-11: It is a policy of the Council to ensure proposals on the Islands will conserve and/or enhance the intrinsic character, scale and visual amenity of the architectural heritage respecting the character of existing buildings, important views and spaces and the historic settlement pattern in terms of scale, height, grouping, density, design, materials, traditional building techniques and workmanship.

BH-P-12: It is a policy of the Council to ensure the sensitive design, siting and rationalisation of modern street furniture and elements such as lighting, seats and benches, litter boxes, bollards, railings, street signs, post boxes, telephone kiosks, paving, kerbstones, utility boxes, cables, posts, antenna, statues, plaques and other monuments, which will visually integrate with their host locations.

BH-P-13: It is a policy of the Council to identify and promote the re-use of traditional building clusters/groupings in both rural and urban settings which add to the unique and specific value of a given landscape character.

BH-P-14: It is a policy of the Council to continue to protect the built heritage fabric of the County by identifying appropriate Architectural Conservation Area designations.

BH-P-15: It is a policy of the Council to preserve, protect and enhance the special built character and functions of the 'Heritage Towns' of Ardara, Ballyshannon, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe.

BH-P-16: It is a policy of the Council to carry out village design statements for its five 'Heritage towns' to contribute to a greater understanding of these townscapes resources of the County and plan for future appropriate development.

BH-P-17: It is a policy of the Council to require that any historic structures that have to be demolished or significantly altered are photographed and recorded (including scaled drawings) to agreed professional standards.

BH-P-18: It is a policy of the Council to preserve the integrity of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscape sites in County Donegal identified in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (www.buidingsofireland.ie/Surveys/Gardens/).

Community Culture and The Gaeltacht policies outlined in Donegal County Development Plan where landscape is a consideration are as follows:

CCG-07: To promote, protect, harness and sustainably develop the Culture of Donegal by inter alia:

- *Implementing the Capital Programme/Infrastructural Plan of the Cultural services strategy 2016-2020 and any subsequent related capital programme/infrastructural plan.*

- *Supporting the public arts programme of the Council.*
- *Engaging with local communities to harness the cultural and creative resource of the county.*
- *Promoting the cultural and creative sector as an integral part of a sustainable tourism sector including the cultural tourism product associated with the Wild Atlantic Way and cultural tourism products associated with the history, geography, folk traditions and language and musical tradition of Donegal.*
- *Recognising and protecting the landscape and built heritage of Donegal as key elements of our culture.*
- *Nurturing and harnessing the cultural and creative resource of the Donegal Islands.*
- *Engaging with the cultural and creative resource that of the worldwide Donegal Diaspora and Donegal's new communities.*
- *Promoting the artistic sector including: visual arts, performance arts, literature, and contemporary arts including the reuse and redevelopment of vacant and derelict buildings for the arts sector.*

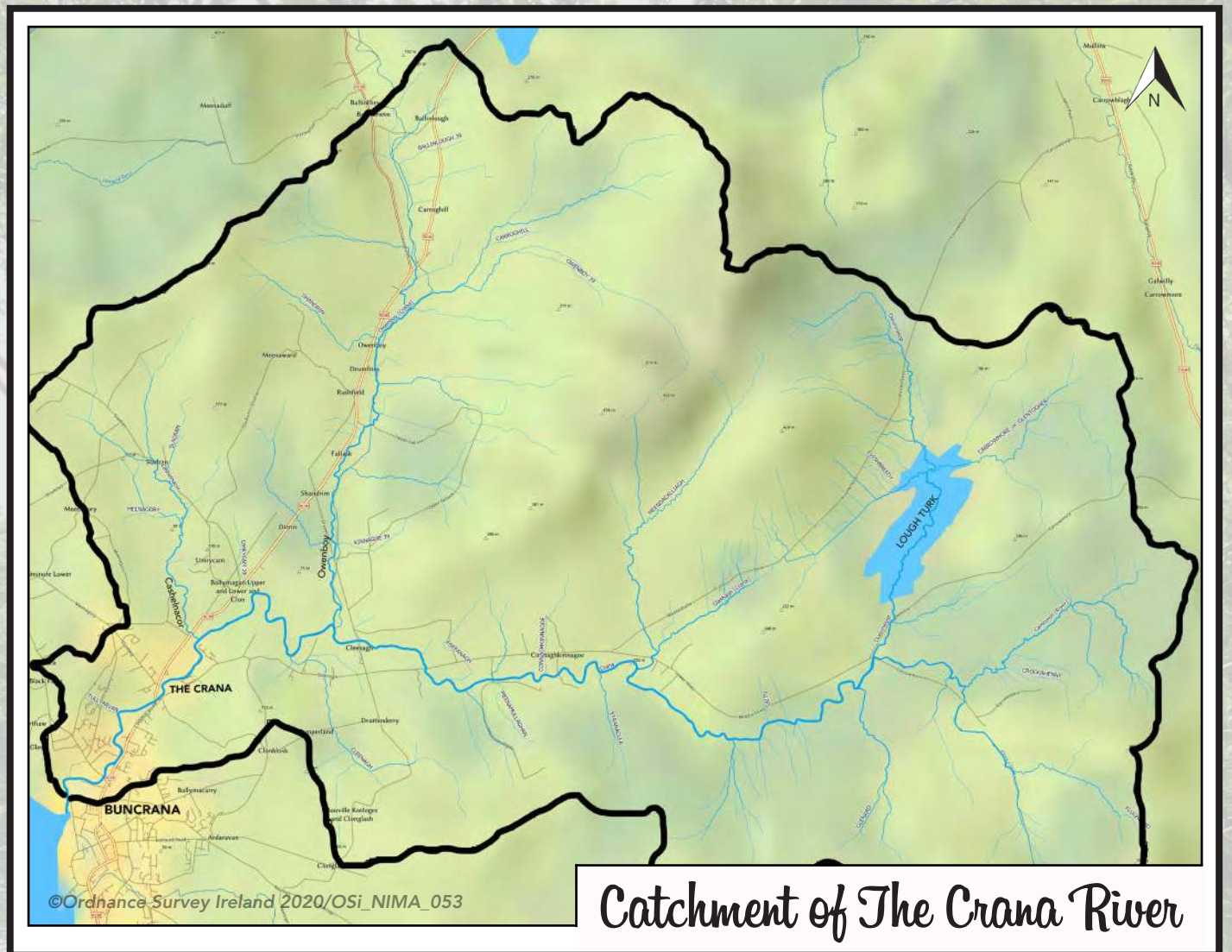
Appendix F – Inishowen River Trust, Crana River Leaflet

The Crana River

Inishowen, Co. Donegal

The Crana River is the largest river in Inishowen and rises from several points in the uplands before winding its way down to the estuary in Lough Swilly, a distance of almost 100km. Sources of the Crana can be traced up to Crockahenny and Camowen bog in the east, Sliabh Sneacht in the north and Sladran to the west. The Crana system joins other river systems such as the Aghawheel, Cashelnacor, Owenboy, Owererk and Lenan to form a large sub-catchment covering 159km².

The town of BunCrana originally developed on the Crana River around O'Doherty's Keep which still stands today beside Castle Bridge. The river hosted a number of mills including Tullyarvan Mill to support the important textile industry and the river is still an important tourist destination attracting many walkers and anglers.



Catchment of The Crana River

River Habitat and Land Use

Rising in the peatlands, the waters of the Crana carry cobbles and pebbly grit which is transported downstream helping the river to function effectively. The gravels provide habitat for fish and support many insects. The dominant soil type for much of the Crana River is peatland which gives the river its orange/brown colour. Low lying land along the banks of the river (the floodplains) benefit from winter floods which deposit rich nutrients onto the land. The upper catchment is primarily used for farming livestock but modifications to the river such as straightening and removing vegetation has led to erosion in places and can cause the river to flood more easily. Scientific tools such as LiDAR allow us to see where the old river channels (paleochannels) ran and how much of the river has changed through the centuries.



Irish Dipper © Mark Daly



Lough Turk © Pat Kane

Lough Turk

In 1997 the upper section of the Crana was dammed to create the Eddie Fullerton Dam. The reservoir is known as Lough Turk, a 400 acre lake which traps approximately 14% of the discharge of the Crana. It provides the public drinking water for many areas in Inishowen and also supplies parts of Letterkenny. The lough is surrounded by peatlands and small streams that run from Evishbreehy in the east and Glentogher to the west, bringing water to the Lough and providing spawning grounds for trout. To the south lies Glenard which provides some of the best habitat for spawning Atlantic Salmon on the Crana. In compensation for loss of part of the fishery, the local angling club, BunCrana Anglers Association, were leased the fishing rights to the reservoir and a trout fishery was created. Fishing in the new lough is excellent and the stocked and wild trout give very satisfying angling.

Did You Know ...?

- BunCrana or 'Bun an Cranncha' means the 'foot of the (River) Crana'.
- The largest salmon caught on the Crana was by Kenny Doyle in the 1980s. This was thought to be a farmed salmon caught at the Middle Beach in Swan Park. The pools in the lower section of the river (see overleaf) provide good opportunities to catch salmon and trout.
- The Crana had many mills built on its banks since the mid 1700s and evidence of these still remain in the form of mill races, ponds and weirs. Tullyarvan Mill was built on the site of an old corn mill and still operates today as a charity providing a community resource with a hostel and educational facilities. The flat fields below the new Cockhill Bridge were once an old bleach green and a mill, kiln and fort can be seen on old maps of the area around Cashelnacor and Elm Park.



The Crana River from Umrycam to Lough Swilly

Please note the banks of the Crana River are primarily privately owned. Access to the banks is with landowner permission only or permission that has been arranged through the angling club. Swan Park is a public park and connects to the Buncrana Shore Path walk to the north west and the Amazing Grace walk to the south.

The Buncrana Anglers Association

The Buncrana Anglers Association (BAA) was formed in Roddens Bar, Main Street Buncrana on Tuesday 17th January 1929 by the following people: Messrs. M. Rodden, Daniel Smith, James Devenney, G. Wiley, James Friel, J. Mc Colgan, J. Ruddel, Dennis Brennan, R.H. Logan and F. Gildea, surnames that are still to be found among the membership today. The association rented the fishery from the Crana Estate until 1988 when the fishery was put up for sale. Through the diligent efforts of the BAA the fishing rights were purchased and the association now manages the fishery with funds raised by selling permits and licenses or grants from Inland Fisheries Ireland. The BAA hold the angling rights to the following fisheries:

- Crana River Salmon Fishery
- Eddie Fullerton Reservoir Brown Trout Fishery
- Lough Doo Rainbow Fishery

The Buncrana Angling Centre was officially opened in 1996 on a site contributed by Buncrana Urban District Council with the assistance of Buncrana Youth Club. Funding was secured from the International Fund for Ireland and LEADER, with members of the BAA contributing their labour. The centre features a tackle shop and facilities for meetings.

Swan Park

Named after Harry Percival Swan, a miller and grain merchant from Buncrana, Swan Park is a picturesque public park nestled between Wilson's Bridge (Westbrook) and Castle Bridge at the estuary. The area is steeped in history and much of it recounted in the books published by Swan such as 'Twixt Foyle and Swilly'.



Riversdale



Erosion control using willow spiling

Historical Flooding on the Crana

In August 2017 a significant flood devastated areas of Buncrana town flooding many properties and causing significant disruption on local roads and extensively damaging Swan Park and sports facilities. There are several records of severe flooding in Buncrana dating back to the 1870s and in 1975 an OPW monitored flow gauge was installed at Tullyarvan Mill. This data shows that flooding on the Crana has occurred on a number of occasions (1985, 1987, 1989, 2011) although the 2017 event was the highest flood on record. Analysis by scientists shows that the system is flashy (water rises and falls quickly) and prone to runoff (water running off the surface of fields). This carries soils, fertilisers and debris downstream reducing water quality and impacting on river habitats. Nature based solutions to slow the flow in the upper catchment could help to alleviate flooding downstream and could be used in combination with measures within the urban area.

Flora & Fauna

The Crana River is well known as a salmon river but sea trout, brown trout, European eel and a selection of smaller fish species can also be found in the river. Otters and a wide range of bird species such as the Irish dipper, grey wagtail, herons and ducks can often be seen on the banks. While the river hosts a wide variety of our native fauna and flora, it is also home to some invasive plants. Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are commonly found and are spreading rapidly along the banks of the river. The presence of these species can cause erosion and release sediment into the stream. Japanese knotweed is difficult to treat but balsam can be pulled easily at the right time of year (May/June). All rivers benefit from a good riparian corridor with plenty of native trees which create good habitats for wildlife, shade for fish, help reduce the amount of erosion and runoff into the water and can slow the flow of flood waters.



Himalayan balsam



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