



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

HISTORIC LANDFILL AT NEW INN, CO. GALWAY

STAGE 1 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR THE REMEDIATION OF HISTORIC LANDFILL SITE, NEW INN, COUNTY GALWAY

Prepared for: Galway County Council

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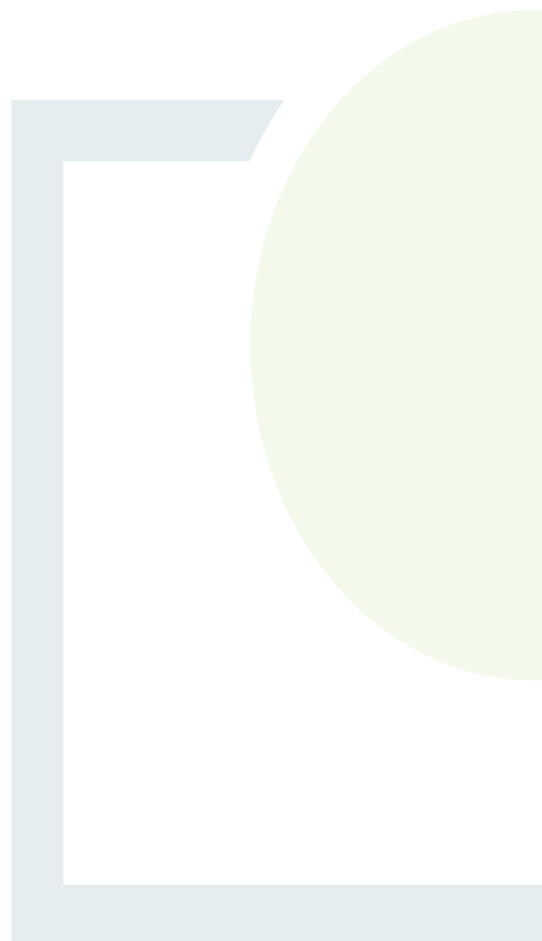
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STAGE 1 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR HISTORIC LANDFILL SITE, NEW INN, COUNTY GALWAY

Historic Landfill at New Inn, Co. Galway

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Abstract: This document comprises the Stage One: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Historic Landfill at New Inn, Co. Galway. Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive for any project or plan that may give rise to significant effects on a European (Natura 2000) site.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) was commissioned by Galway County Council to prepare a report to inform the Screening for Appropriate Assessment for proposed remediation works to the Historic Landfill at New Inn, Co. Galway (see Figure 1-1 for location).

Engineered works are proposed to upgrade the existing shallow cap. The remediation works will consist of the installation of an upgraded capping layer, surface water drainage amendments and gas venting trench on the historic landfill to mitigate leachate generation from the landfill.

This report presents an assessment of whether the proposed remediation work is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report is to inform the competent authority¹ in completing their statutory obligation to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

1.1 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have 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.

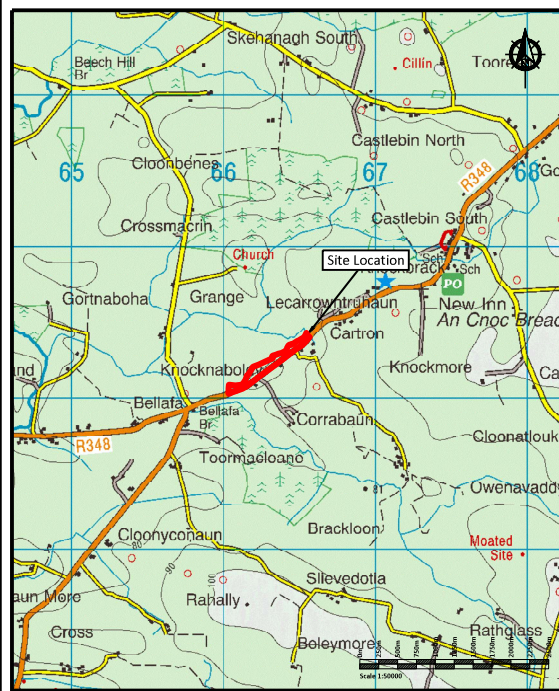
6(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

¹ In this case, the Environmental Protection Agency in carrying out their functions under SI 524/2008 (as amended), and in accordance with Regulation 42 of SI 477/2011 (as amended), and An Bord Pleanála in accordance with Article 177U of SI 30/2000 (as amended).



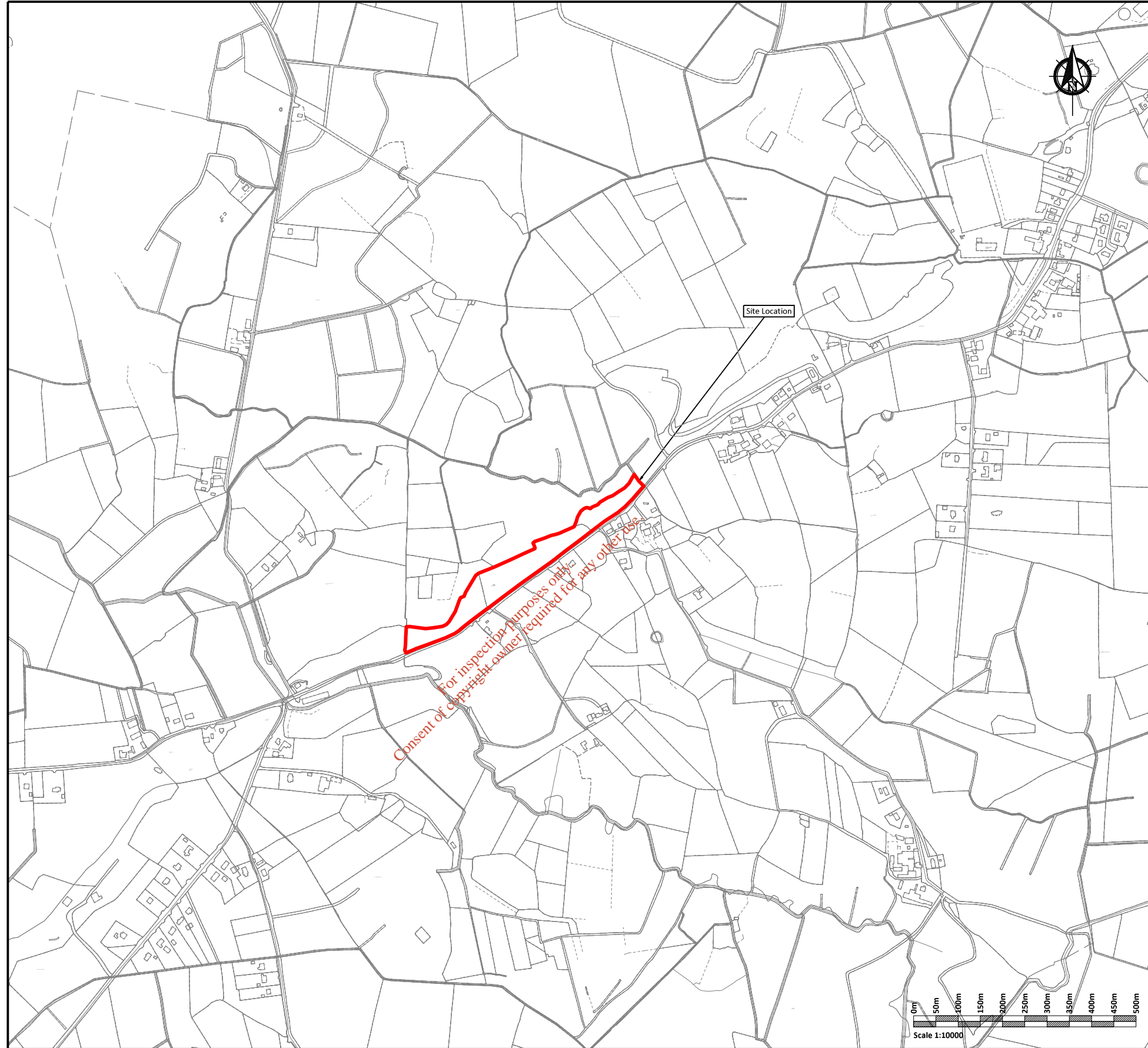
The provisions of Article 6 do not apply where the proposed plan or project is '*connected with or necessary to the management of the site*'. In this case, the proposed landfill remediation works are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s) and as such as assessment as to whether the project would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites must be carried out. This assessment has been termed a 'Screening for Appropriate Assessment' in the transposing national legislation: Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 - 2020 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) as amended.

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SITE LOCATION

Scale 1:50000



Legend:
— Site Boundary

SITE LOCATION

Scale 1:10000

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 2282, 2813-04, 2813-05, 2813-09, 2813-10, 2813-14, 2813-15, 2813-19, 2813-20, 2813-A, 2813-B, 2813-C, 2813-D, 2814, 2814-01, 2814-06, 2814-11, 2814-16, 2814-A, 2814-C, 2881, 2881-A, 2881-B, 2881-C, 3354, 3802-22, 3802-A, 3802-B, 3802-C, 3802-D

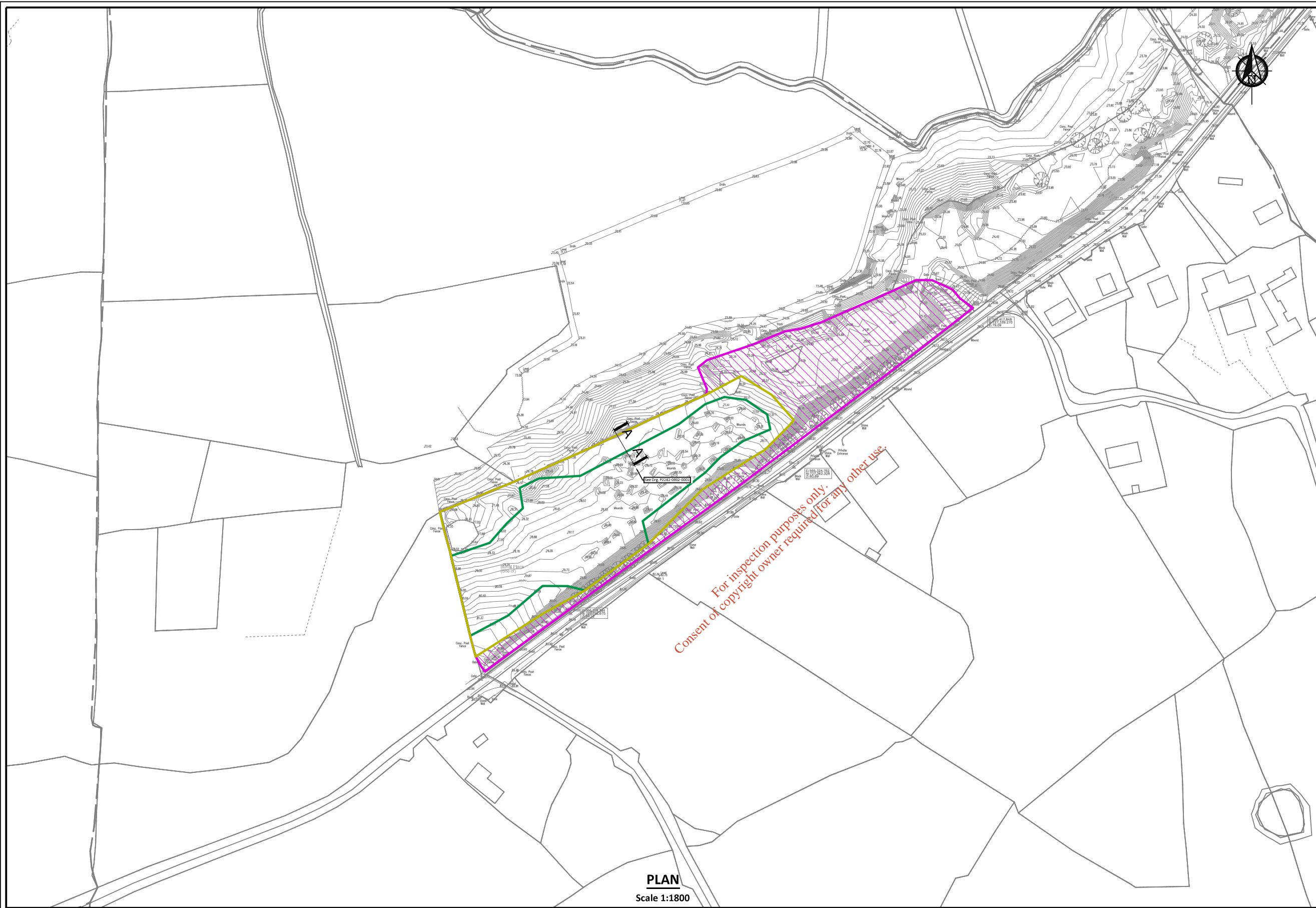


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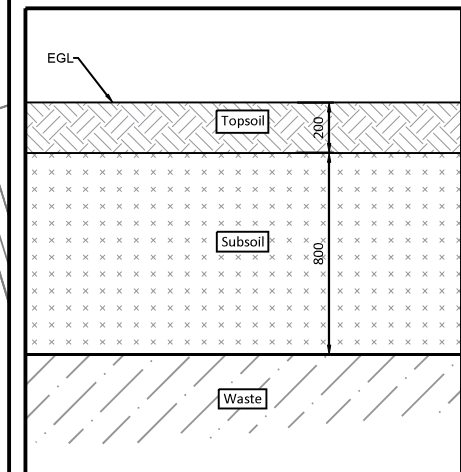
PROJECT	ERA GALWAY HISTORIC LANDFILLS			CLIENT	GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL		
SHEET	SITE LOCATION MAP (NEW INN HISTORIC LANDFILL)			Date	20.01.21	Project number	P2282
				Scale (@ A3)	1:10000		
				Drawn by	POR	Drawing Number	P2282-0102-0001
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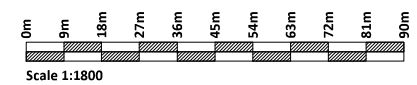
PLAN
Scale 1:1800

- Legend:
- Proposed Landfill Capping Area
 - Local Re-profiling and Landscaping to Return Area to Field
 - Extent of Waste Body



TYPICAL LANDFILL CAPPING DETAIL

Scale 1:30



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A	FOR INFORMATION	JON	20.01.21

PROJECT	ERA GALWAY HISTORIC LANDFILLS			CLIENT	GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL		
SHEET	PROPOSED LANDFILL CAPPING AREA (NEW INN HISTORIC LANDFILL)			Date	20.01.21	Project number	P2282
				Drawn by	POR	Drawing Number	P2282-0102-0003
				Checked by	AB	Scale (@ A3)	1:1800
				Rev	A		

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2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Guidance

In the preparation of this assessment regard has been had to the relevant guidance, in particular:

- *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*, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2002);
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2010);
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. European Commission (2018). Brussels, 21.11.2018 C (2018) 7621 final;
- *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats*. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013.

2.2 Assessment Protocol

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor assessment.

The assessment commences with a description of the project and the associated likely significant environmental effects. All elements of the project are presented including the project location and existing baseline environment. The type of impacts which are likely due to the project are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the project, resource requirements and likely emissions. The zone of influence (ZoI) of the project is therefore defined, and the potential source-pathway-receptor (S-P-R) connectivity to and European Sites and their qualifying interests / special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the project.

The likelihood of significant effects on the European Sites within the ZoI is determined having regard to the sensitivity of the site to the impacts associated with the project on its own and in combination with other plans and projects. Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (EC, 2000), where the likelihood of significant effects cannot be demonstrated on the basis of scientific evidence (e.g., through quantifiable cause and effect relationship), the precautionary principle is adopted and significant effects are assumed.

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the project will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.



2.3 Information Consulted in the Preparation of this Report

A desk study was carried out to collate available information on the site's natural environment. This comprised a review of the following publications, data and datasets:

- Galway County Development Plan 2015- 2021
- Galway County Council Planning Enquiry System (<http://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/online/>)
- BirdWatch Ireland website
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (on-line map-viewer)
- Tier 2 Risk Assessment Report for New Inn Historic Landfill
- Tier 3 Risk Assessment Report for New Inn Historic Landfill
- Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government – online land use mapping www.myplan.ie/en/index.html;
- Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government- EIA Portal <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/environmental-assessment/environmental-impact-assessment-eia/eia-portal>
- Geological Survey of Ireland – Geology, soils and Hydrogeology www.gsi.ie;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European site network information, including site conservation objectives www.npws.ie;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (Article 17 Reports)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre – www.biodiversityireland.ie;
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland – Mapping and Aerial photography www.osi.ie; and



3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT & IDENTIFICATION OF IMPACTS

3.1 Project Overview

The completed Tier 2 and Tier 3 risk assessment recommended the following remediation works. An engineered landfill cap is proposed to replace/upgrade the existing shallow soil cap. The existing shallow cap has the potential to allow rainfall to reach the interred waste and potentially produce leachate that may subsequently contaminate receiving groundwaters locally. The project will also require ongoing, routine environmental monitoring following completion of the remediation works.

The proposed engineering capping and monitoring will:

- Facilitate use of land for agricultural grazing or other purposes.
- Reduce percolation inputs into the waste body, decreasing the volume of leachate being produced.
- Facilitate passive management of landfill gas and limit landfill gas migration.
- Monitor potential gas migration using a passive gas collection trench and a series of shallow perimeter boreholes to be installed at the south-eastern of the waste body.
- Monitor leachate, groundwater quality and surface water quality to monitor the environmental impacts of the historical landfill and efficacy of the remediation works.

The site is currently unutilised however following completion of the proposed remediation the site may be suitable for agricultural use (grazing).

3.1.1 Construction Phase

Proposed works for the historic landfill are outlined in the Tier 3 Risk Assessment Report.

The total extent of the cap is approximately 2,600 m². The landfill cap will be designed in accordance with the 'EPA Landfill design manual for non-inert, non-hazardous landfills'. The engineered cap shall comprise (from the surface of the engineered cap down):

- 200mm (520 m³) topsoil, located on,
- 800mm (2,080 m³) subsoil

It is also intended to carry out local re-profiling and landscaping to return the area to field. It is proposed to clear the site of vegetation (an area of approximately 14,500 m²) in preparation of the installation of landfill capping, local re-profiling and landscaping.



Figure 3-1: Vegetation Present at Site

Trees and hedges surrounding the site will not be cleared. Regrading of the existing surface is required in preparation for the installation of the engineered cap and excavation of existing capping material will be required to achieve the formation level of the proposed cap. Any additional excavated soil from regrading works will be reused as part of the topsoil and subsoil layers. It is not proposed to expose the underlying waste as part of the capping works or general clearance works. Capping works will not be undertaken during periods of intense or prolonged rainfall, all capping soils when laid will be continually rolled and compacted to ensure stability.

Subsoil and Topsoil will be sourced typically from local quarries and/or as a by-product from local greenfield developments subject to Article 27 certification.

The sub soil layer will be adequately specified to ensure it is free draining to support future grazing of the site. Topsoil will form the surface of the engineered cap and will be graded to ensure no localised surface depressions and will be seeded with a robust heritage or native grassland mix.

Site access will be via the existing site entrance and local access road.



Figure 3-2: Typical Equipment Landfill Capping: Subsoil movement and placement

A landfill gas interception trench is proposed along the south-eastern site boundary, parallel to the road.

The interception trench will comprise a deep vertical venting barrier installed to prevent gas migration laterally to the nearby residences. The barrier will be installed to a depth of approximately 2 m. (Subject to detailed design and further site investigation)

The trench will also include vertical standpipes venting to atmosphere at c.2m above the final ground level. The interception trench and vertical standpipes will provide a preferential pathway for LFG to escape to atmosphere which will reduce risks associated with migration of LFG to offsite receptors. The ventilation standpipes will include carbon filtration packs to “scrub” any odour and low concentrations of methane from the landfill gas prior to venting. Wind driven rotating cowls will also be used to induce a negative pressure within the standpipe improving potential LFG flow. Existing monitoring wells on site shall be retained within the cap to allow for future monitoring.



Figure 3-3: Typical Landfill Gas Ventilation Stack

To facilitate continued environmental monitoring at the site it is proposed to install 1 no. additional gas monitoring well to the south-east of the waste body, between the waste body and nearby residence and 1 no. offsite groundwater monitoring well to the north and downgradient of the waste body. The installation of the proposed monitoring wells shall be completed as part of the remediation capping works. Wells will be installed utilising a standard rotary boring rig. The monitoring borehole will be drilled to depth and backfilled with monitoring pipes and gravel surround. A standard casing and headworks will finish the installation.



Figure 3-4: Typical Rotary Rig for Borehole Drilling



All capping and remediation works will take place during daylight hours. The proposed works programme is estimated at 12 - 16 weeks.

3.1.2 Operational Phase

There will be no operational activities associated with this site other than conducting environmental monitoring. Environmental monitoring shall comprise of groundwater, leachate, surface water and gas monitoring. This includes no further ground excavations. Leachate sampling will be via the existing leachate monitoring borehole and will require the sampling of approximately 1250 ml of leachate per event.

Groundwater monitoring shall be carried out at 3 no. existing wells (GW01, GW02, BH01) and 1 no. proposed well (GW03) while leachate monitoring will be conducted at 1 no. existing well (BH02). Surface water quality monitoring will be carried out at existing surface water monitoring locations SW1 and SW2, upstream and downstream of the historical landfill. Monitoring will be undertaken bi-annually in accordance with parameters listed in Table C.2 of the EPA's *Landfill Manuals - Landfill Monitoring, 2nd Edition (2003)*.

Groundwater and surface water monitoring will be undertaken to monitor the performance of the engineered cap.

Landfill gas monitoring will be conducted at existing well BH02 and proposed well/vent LFG1. Gas sampling will be carried out for Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Oxygen, Carbon Monoxide and temperature.

Environmental monitoring should be undertaken on an annual basis up until the recommendations of the Certificate of Authorisation are known and remediation works are complete.

3.2 **Baseline Environment**

The historic landfill comprises open farmland and scrub. The surrounding land is cutover bog/grassland to the north, east and west. There is a regional road (R348) along the southern boundary of the site along with a number of residential dwellings to the south (<20m). The site is located approx. 1.5km south west of the village of New Inn, Co. Galway.

There is a stream running 50m east of the site (EPA name and Code: Grange 29, 29G04). This stream has a WFD status of 'moderate' and flows into the Rahasane Turlough SAC, site code: 000322 (designated for Turloughs [3180]) and Rahasane Turlough SPA, site code: 004089 (designated for Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Greenland White-fronted Goose, and wetland and Waterbirds). The SAC and SPA are located approx. 22 km (instream distance) south west downstream.

The National Biodiversity Centre Online Mapping tool was used to identify any protected species which have historically been recorded here. The site is located within the 2km gride square: M62T. The following protected species were recorded within this grid square (none of which are related to the Rahasane Turlough or SAC):

- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
- Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
- Eurasian Badger (*Meles meles*)



- Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)
- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)
- Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
- Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Common Swift (*Apus apus*)
- Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
- House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

The GSI map viewer indicates that the quaternary sediments at the site are classified as 'Gravels derived from Limestones'. Tier 2 site investigation indicate the presence of made ground, sand, gravel, clay and limestone. Bedrock beneath the site is classified as Lucan Formation: Dark Limestone and Shale. The GSI mapviewer indicates that the underlying bedrock aquifer as 'Locally Important Gravel Aquifer' below the site. Groundwater vulnerability to contamination is classified mainly as 'High'.

The EPA mapviewer indicates that the:

- Site is located within the Galway Bay South East catchment (Hydrometric Area 29), Sub catchment Rafor SC_010 and river sub-basin Ballymabilla_010. The nearest surface water feature to the site is the Grange stream (EPA code: 29G04), located on the eastern border of the site, it flows in a northerly direction.
- The Grange Stream has a Water Framework Directive (WFD) status (2013-2018) of 'Moderate' or Q3-4. and is a tributary of the Rafor River. The Grange Stream enters the Crossmacarin and Ballymabilla Streams before entering the Rafor River approx. 2.2 km (in-stream distance) downstream from the site. The Rafor River flows into the Rahasane Turlough SAC and SPA approx. 22 km downstream (In-stream distance) and eventually into the European Sites in Galway Bay; Inner Galway Bay SPA and Galway Bay Complex SAC.
- The site is located within the Rahasane Turlough ground waterbody and has a WFD status (2013-2018) of 'Good'. The WFD risk projection of the ground waterbody is classified as 'At Risk' by the EPA.

3.3 Identification of Impacts

3.3.1 Source – Pathway Receptor Linkage

The OPR Practice Note PN01 recommends that the zone of influence of a project should be considered using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.



European sites which may potentially be significantly affected by the proposed remediation works are identified using the ‘source-pathway-receptor’ (S-P-R) conceptual model. The S-P-R model is a standard tool in environmental assessment to determine links between sensitive features and sources of impacts. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur e.g., if there is no ecological pathway or functional link between the proposed development and the European site, there is no potential for impact and as such no potential for significant effects.

It is important to note that an impact may occur without having a significant effect. An impact is essentially the ‘source’ in the S-P-R assessment. It is the biophysical change caused to the environment by the project e.g., increase in sediment runoff due to ground disturbance. For the effect to be significant, the Qualifying Interests / Special Conservation Interests of the European site must be sensitive to the biophysical change.

Having regard to the ‘Habitats directive assessment review package’ set out in the guidance document ‘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), the likely impacts of proposed works are set out relative to the following project features:

- Size and scale;
- Land-take;
- Physical changes to the environment;
- Resource requirements;
- Emissions, wastes and residues;
- Transportation requirements;
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning.

The source-pathway-receptor connectivity between these impacts and European sites is set out for the proposed remediation works in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Source -Pathway – Receptor linkages

Source		Pathway	Receptor	Potential for Significant Effects
Land-take & Scale of Development & physical change to the environment	The works will be carried out entirely within the site boundary. There will be no works carried out within any European Site.	None	None	No S-P-R connectivity therefore No Potential for significant effects.



Source		Pathway	Receptor	Potential for Significant Effects
Resource Requirements	There will be no resources required from European Sites.	None	None	No S-P-R connectivity therefore No Potential for significant effects.
Emissions	<p>Noise Emissions</p> <p>There will be some short term construction noise produced during the works. The proposed works are expected to last 12 - 16 weeks.</p> <p>There will be an increase in human presence and machinery on site during this time.</p>	None – there are no European sites in proximity to the landfill site (the closest being Lough Corrib SAC, located c. 9.6km north west).		No S-P-R connectivity therefore No Potential for significant effects.
	<p>Leachate to groundwater</p> <p>Leachate is currently produced at the landfill site and will continue to do so throughout construction. The works proposed will prevent further leachate from entering ground water once complete.</p>	No, the works will not disturb the interred waste and there will be no increase in leachate during construction. The works proposed will prevent further leachate once completed.	None	No S-P-R connectivity therefore No Potential for significant effects.
	<p>Water Emissions</p> <p>The proposed construction works could result in some sediment runoff.</p> <p>The following works have potential to produce silt: installation of drainage and gas collection system and reprofiling and regrading of the landfill site.</p>	The landfill is located 50m from the Grange stream. As such there is no potential for sediment runoff to enter the stream.	None	No S-P-R connectivity therefore No Potential for significant effects.



3.4 Potential Cumulative Impacts

In considering whether the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other plans and projects, has the potential to affect the conservation objectives of the designated sites with an S-P-R linkage to the proposed development, the following were considered:

- Galway County Council Planning Enquiry System
- Permitted plans and projects in the vicinity of the development
- Proposed plans and projects in the vicinity of the development.

A planning search limited to applications submitted within the townlands overlapping and immediately adjacent to the historic landfill site (Larragan, Corrabane) during the previous 5 years was conducted on 21st May 2021 date.

Given the rural location of the site there is minimal development in the surrounding area and the vast majority of the proposed and permitted developments are mainly made up of residential and farming related developments. Due to the scale and/or type of these developments they are unlikely to act cumulatively with the proposed remediation works at the historic landfill site.

The planning search indicated that there is an application for the construction of an astro pitch, other sports amenities and all associated site works approx. 750m east of the proposed development. This application (ref. 201823) was submitted on 2/12/20 and is on hold for a request for further information, a decision has yet to be made by the council.

Planning application ref. 20280 adjacent to the proposed astro pitch was submitted in March 2020 and granted permission in July 2020 for the construction of a car park to service adjacent existing and proposed community amenities.

Given the minor nature of the works proposed at the landfill site, and the absence of S-P-R connectivity, cumulative effects with the above development are not predicted.



4. CONCLUSION

No pathways for significant effect on any European sites were identified. Thus, it can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed project individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would not be likely to have significant effect on any European sites.

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5. REFERENCES

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NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Inner Galway Bay SPA 004031. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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