

"The construction of a path c.4.2kms in length, approximately 3m wide to enhance existing Heritage & Amenity Trail, including three bridges, fencing, passing bays @ 500m intervals along L-10431-0 and ancillary site works in the village of Aughnacliffe"

#### The development will consist of:

The construction of a path c.4.2kms in length, approximately 3m wide to enhance existing Heritage & Amenity Trail, including three bridges, fencing, passing bays @ 500m intervals along L-10431-0 and ancillary site works to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, through the townlands of Aghakine, Aghnacliff, Rathmore (Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah. Linking two National Monuments.

Documents:

Overview Map

Site Location Maps 1, 2 & 3

Site Layout Plan 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Section Trough Path

**Fence Elevation** 

**Bridge Elevation** 

Bridge Plan

**Bridge Elevation & Section** 

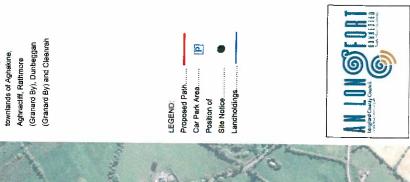
Landholding Map

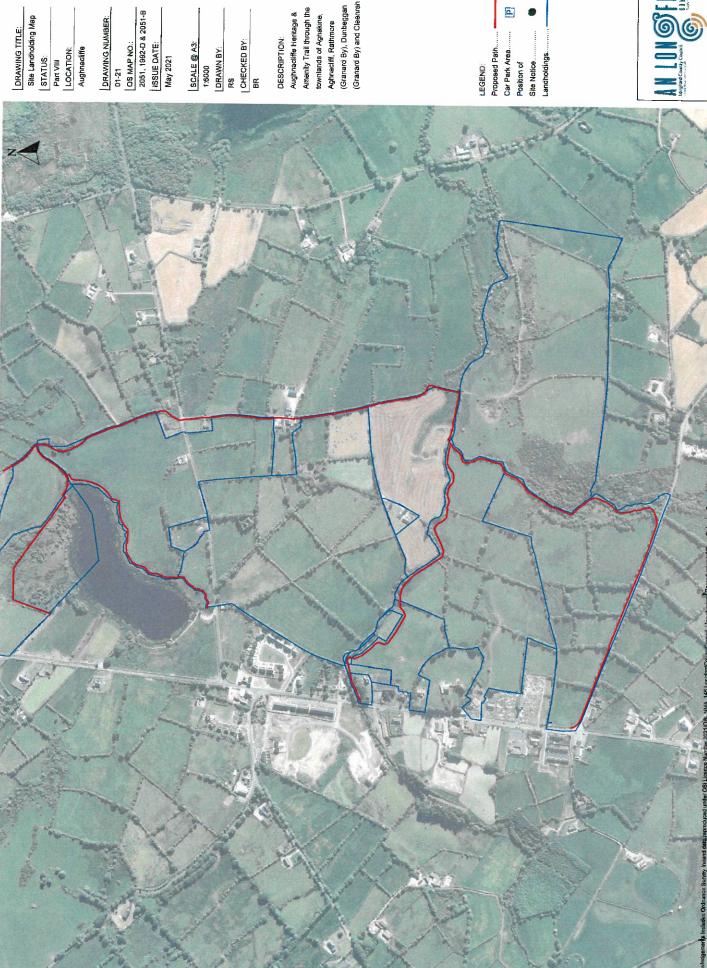
Position of Site Notice

**AA Screening** 

**Newspaper Notice** 

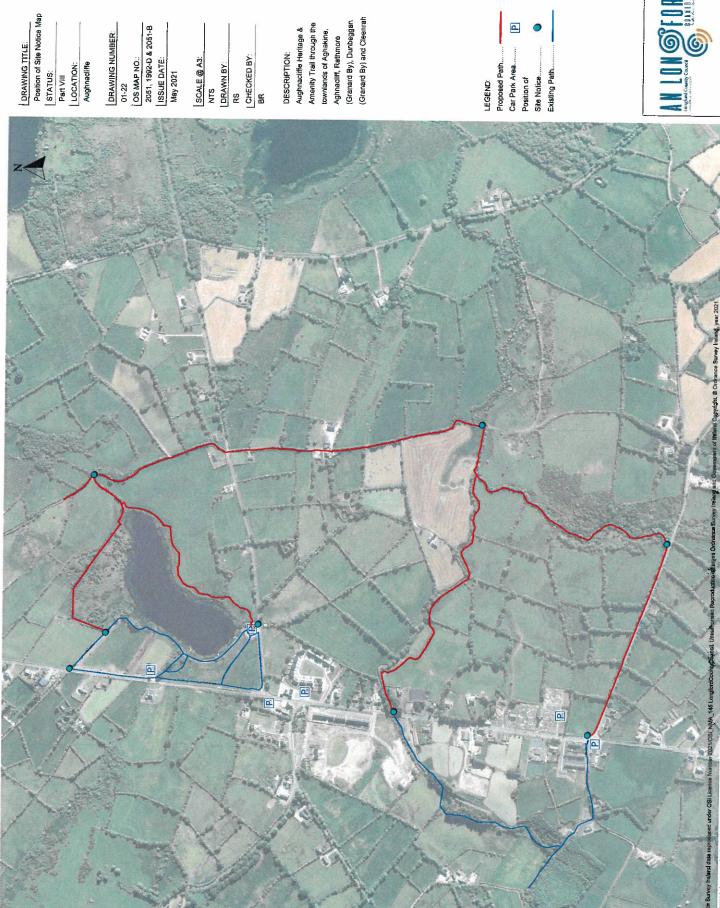
Site Notice

















Amenty Trail through the townlands of Aghakine.
Aghnactiff, Rathmore (Granard Ay), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Aughnacliffe Heritage &















dimensions to be verified by contractor on site prior to any works

Proposed Path... Car Park Area.

DRAWING TELE:
Site Layout Plan 4
STATUS:
Part VIII
LOCATION:
Aughnaciffe

| DRAWING NUMBER: 01-08 | OS MAP NO., 2051, 1992-D & 2051-B | ISSUE DATE: | May 2021

1:1000 LDRAWN BY: RS CHECKED BY: BR SCALE @ A3:

DESCRIPTION:

(Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Aughnacliffe Heritage & Amenity Trail through the townlands of Aghakine, Aghnacliff, Rathmore



DRAWING TITLE:
Site Leyout Plan 5
STATUS:
Part VIII
LOCATION:
Aughnacilife

OS MAP NO.: 2051, 1992-D & 2051-B ISSUE DATE: May 2021 DRAWING NUMBER: 01-09

RS CHECKED BY: BR DRAWN BY: 1:1000

Amenity Trail through the Aughnaciffe Heritage & townlands of Aghakine, DESCRIPTION:

(Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Aghnacliff, Rathmore





Notes: Do not scale from drawings. All discrepancies to be reported to the architect immediately. All dimensions to be vyrilled by contactor on sile prior to any works

CHECKED BY: BR Proposed Path... Aughnachiffe Car Park Area.. May 2021 (EGEND: Position of R. Copyright Acknowledgements includes Ordnance Survey Instant data repoduced under OBI Lipsons Number 2021/OSI\_MAA\_146 LonglonCountyCouncy Unsuted

DRAWING TITLE: Site Layout Plan 6 STATUS: Part VIII LOCATION:

OS MAP NO.. 2051, 1992-D & 2051-B ISSUE DATE: DRAWING NUMBER: 01-10

SCALE @ A3: DRAWN BY: 1:1000

DESCRIPTION:

Amenity Trail through the Aughnecliffe Heritage & townlands of Aghakine,

(Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Aghnacliff, Rathmore



DRAWING NUMBER: 01-11 OS MAP NO. 2061, 1992-D & 2081-B [ISSUE DATE: May 2021 Aughnadiffe Heritage & Site Layout Plan 7
STATUS:
Part VIII
LOCATION:
Aughnacilife DESCRIPTION: RS CHECKED BY: BR SCALE @ A3: 1:1000 DRAWN BY:

(Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Amenity Trail through the townlands of Aghakine, Aghnacilff, Rathmore

Proposed Path... Car Park Area.... Position of Existing Path. Site Notice.













DRAWING TITLE:
Site Layout Plan 10
STATUS:
Pari VIII
LOCATION:
Aughnaciiffa

01-14 OS MAP NO. 2061, 1992-D & 2061-B ISSUE DATE: May 2021 DRAWING NUMBER:

SCALE @ A3: 1:1000

DRAWN BY:
RS
CHECKED BY:
BR

DESCRIPTION:

Aughnacliffe Heritage & Amenity Trail through the towniands of Aghakine, Aghnacilif, Rathmore

(Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah

Proposed Path,

Car Perk Area.. Position of

Existing Path.... Passing Bay.... Site Notice,





Site Layout Plan 11
STATUS:
Part VIII
LOCATION:
Aughnacilife

DRAWING NUMBER: 01-15 OS MAP NO.; 2051, 1992-D & 2051-B ISSUE DATE: May 2021

RS CHECKED BY: BR SCALE @ A3: 1:1000 DRAWN BY:

Aughnacliffe Heritage & DESCRIPTION:

townlands of Aghakine, Aghnacliff, Rethmore (Granard By), Durbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Amenity Trail through the

Proposed Path... Car Park Area.... Position of

Site Notice...... Existing Path.... Passing Bay....













| DRAWING NUMBER: 01-04 | DS MAP NO.: 2051, 1992-D. & 2051-B | ISSUE DATE: May 2021 DRAWING TITLE:
Site Location Map 3
STATUS:
Part VIII
LOCATION:
Aughnactiffe SCALE @ A3: 1:2600 DRAWN BY: RS CHECKED BY: BR DESCRIPTION:

(Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah Amenity Trail through the townlands of Aghakine, Aghnacilif, Rathmore Aughnacliffe Heritage &



LING SHILLS

| DRAWING TITLE:
| Path Section |
| PROJECT:
| Part VIII |
| Construction of a c.4.2km path @ Aughnacilife |
| DRAWING NUMBER: 01-16 |
| ISSUE DATE: May 2021 |
| SCALE @ A3: 1:20 |
| CHECKED BY: RS

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More: ell material depths are compacted depths

6 for Turnerigies dentile layer

AUTHORITY:

Part VIII -Planning Purposes Only Checked By: BR Drawn By: RS Scale @ A4: Drawing No.: Bridge Elevation May 2021 Date: 01-18 1:50 MASS CONCRETE PAD

FOUNDATION STANDARD
PRESCRIBED MIX ST1 TO NA 2015
TO IS EN 206.2015. SIZE OF
FOUNDATION TBC FOLLOWING
GROUND INVESTIGATION. COMPACTED TYPE A FILL MATERIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATION. WATERCOURSE PROFILE INDICATIVE ONLY, BRIDGE LEVEL TO BE AGREED ON SITE. TIMBER FASCIA TO CONCEAL ALL STEELWORK. 75mm THK TIMBER BALLAST BOARDS. Span Determined at Construction Stage FOOTBRIDGE ELEVATION 

Aughnacliffe Path

Description:

Drawing Title:

Authority:

Authority:

Aughnacliffe
Path

Drawing Title:
Bridge
Plan
Part VIII Planning Purposes Only
| Scale @ A4:
| 1:50
| Date:
| May 2021
| Drawing No.:
01-19
| Drawn By: RS
Checked By: GS

< d 4 UB406\*178\*54 815 

CLEAR SPAN PLAN

Authority:

Description:

Aughnacliffe Path

Drawing Title:

Bridge Elevation & Section

Part VIII -Planning Purposes Only

Scale @ A4:

1:50

TYPICAL SECTION

100x150 TIMBER JOISTS C16 GRADE TIMBER DECKING WITH ANTISLIP

1000 TIMBER RAILS C16 GRADE M12 BOLTS, COUNTERSUNK FLUSH TO RAIL - 1502 TIMBER POSTS C16 GRADE

15mm CHAMFER TO TOP OF ALL POSTS

Date:

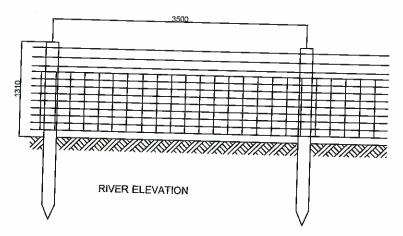
May 2021

Drawing No.: 01-29

Drawn By: RS

Checked By: GS

SECTION A-A

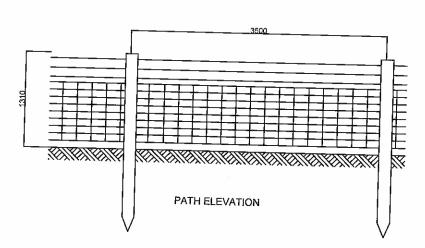


3 ROWS GALVANISED BULL WIRE STOWS GALVANISED BULL WIRE
FIXED TO 150MM DIA. TREATED OCTOPOSTS WITH 38MM
STAPLES,
STAPLES TO BE ANGLED AND NOT HAMMERED FULLY HOME
TO ALLOW WIRES TO MOVE

WIRES TO BE 12 GAUGE HIGH TENSILE WIRE FIXED TO POST WITH 38MM STAPLES. STAPLES TO BE ANGLED AND NOT HAMMERED FULLY HOME TO ALLOW WIRE TO MOVE

WOVEN WIRE MESH MEDIUM GRADE C8/90/30 TO BE CLIPPED TO UPPER AND MID-LINE SUPPORT WIRES AND STAPLED TO POST WITH 38MM ANGLED STAPLES BS4102: 1998

GROUND LEVEL



STRAINING POSTS

END STRAINERS: POST: 175 DIA X 2440 LONG

INTERMEDIATE STRAINERS: POST: 150 DIA X 2440 LONG (MIN) 1. CORNERS/CHANGES IN DIRECTION
2. ACUTE VARIATIONS IN LEVEL
3. 50M INTERVALS ON STRAIGHT LENGTH

ALL STRAINERS: TO BE NOTCHED TO RECEIVE STRUTS AS DETAILED TO BE LONG MAILED WITH SUITABLE GALVANISED NAILS

# 

NOTES:
ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL
MATERIAL STRENGHTS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:
CONCRETE: GRADE C40N/mm2

CONCRETE: GRADE C40N/mm2
STEEL FY:460M/mm
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
DO NOT SCALE OFF THIS DRAWING, USE DIMENSIONS GIVEN THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CHECK ALL.
DIMENSIONS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
ALL TIMBER TO BE PRESSURE TREATED AND TANALISED
STRAINING POSTS SHOULD BE BRACED BY ANGLED STRUT IS OFF TOP DIMAMETER 150MM ROUND TIMBER,
1.9M LONG AND SECURED IN THE TOP THIRD OF THE STRAING POST WITH A NOTCH AND NAIL JOINT 25MM
DEEP, AT AN ANGLE OF NO GREATER THAN 45 DEGREES AND RESTING ON A FIRM BASE PLATE.
ALL STAPLES TO BE GALVANISED AND TO APPROPRIATE DIMENSIONS AND SPECIFICATION
ALL ITEMS TO BS1722

May 2021

Description:

Authority:

Scale @ A4 Drawing No.: Drawing Title:

01-17

Fencing Elevation

Drawn By: RS Checked By: BR Construction of Aughnacliffe Path

Part VIII - Planning Purposes Only



## APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT AND CONCLUSION STATEMENT

(/	A) Project Details		
P	lanning File Ref	Part 8 preparation – Aughnacliff	e Amenity Trail
A	pplicant name	Longford County Council	
Development Location Aughnacliffe, Co. Long		Aughnacliffe, Co. Longford.	
Si	ite size	4.2km long trail, 3m wide	
ac	pplication ccompanied by an EIS (es/NO)	No	
	stance from nearest atura 2000 site(s) in km	Approximately 13km	
(B	e village of Aughnacliffe.  ) Identification of Noposed development	atura 2000 sites which may	Yes/No  If answer is yes, identify list name of Natura 2000 site likely
1	Impacts on designated for fresh habitats or species.  Sites to consider (bu limited to): Ardgullion SAC; Lough Oughter associated Loughs SAC	Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater Bog habitats and/or species, and or in the catchment (upstream or downstream) of same?	to be impacted.  The project site is not located within a SAC or in the catchment of same. The project site is approximately 13km from Lough Kinale and
2	Impacts on	sites Is the development within tland a Special Area of	<del></del>

	Sites to consider (but not limited to): Ardagullion Bog	heath), or within 1 km of same?	
	SAC; Derragh Bog SAC;		
3	Impacts on designated terrestrial habitats.	Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose	
	Sites to consider (but not limited to): Lough Kinale and Deragh Lough SPA; Clooneen Bog SAC; Derragh Bog SAC; Lough Forbes Complex SAC; Lough Ree SAC; Mount Jessop Bog SAC.	qualifying interests include woodlands, dunes or grasslands, or within 100m of same?	The project site is not located within an SAC or 100m of same.
4	Sites to consider (but not limited to): Lough Kinale and Derragh	Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 5 km of same?	The project site is not located within a SPA or 5km of same.
11	Lough SPA; Lough Ree SPA		
(C)	Identification of Potential	mpacts on Habitats and	l Birds
1	Impacts on designated r	vers, streams, lakes and t	freshwater dependant
'	m.passe on designated in	habitats and species	
		•	
	If 'Yes' is recorded in ans	wer to question 1 in Table	B, please answer the
		following.	
	Does the dev	elopment involve any of the	following:
1.1	Works within the boundary	of a Special Area of Conser	vation (SAC)
4.0	excluding small extensions/		
1.2	Discharge to surface water		
1.3	Abstraction from surface wa		KM OT SAC
1.4	Removal of topsoil within 50		
1.5	Infilling or raising of ground		courses.
1.6	Construction of drainage ditches within 1km of SAC.		
1.7	Installation of wastewater treatment systems; percolation areas; septic tanks within 500m of watercourses.		
1.8	Construction within a floodp		
1.9	Crossing or culverting of rivers or streams within 5km of SAC.		
1.10	a watercourse.		
1.1	Development of a large-scale which involves the production of an EIAR.		
1.12	Development of quarries/mi	nes.	
1.13	Development of windfarms.		
1.14		dro-electric stations.	
1.15		ner infrastructure on peat ha	
2		d wetlands – bogs, fens, r	
		wer to question 2 in Table	

$\Gamma$		
2.1	Does the development involve any of the following:	
	excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings	
2.2	2 Construction of roads or other infrastructure on post habitate with	
2.3	1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site.  Development of a large scale within 1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site which involves the production of an EIS.	
3	Impacts on other designated terrestrial habits (woodland, grasslands)	
	If 'Yes' is recorded in answer to question 3 in Table B, please answer th following.	
3.1	Does the development involve any of the following:	
3.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (CAC)	
	grassland or coastal habitats	
3.3	Development of a large scale within 1km of Natura 2000 site with woodland, grassland or coastal habitats which involves the production of an EIS.	
4	Impacts on birds in SPAs	
ē	If 'Yes' is recorded in answer to question 4 in Table B, please answer the following.	
	Does the development involve any of the following:	
4.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Protection Area (SPA) excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	
1.2	Erection of wind turbines within 5km of a SPA.	
t.4		
1.3	Proposed discharges directly to SPA.	

#### Conclusion:

If the answer to all of the above is  ${f No}$ , significant impacts on habitats within Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

No further assessment is required in relation to habitats.

If the answer is **Yes**, you will require further information, which should be provided in the form of a <u>Natura Impact Statement</u> which should address the particular issues of concern as identified through the above.

### Consideration of potential impacts on protected species within SACs

Currently, one of our Special Areas of Conservation is designated for species as well as for habitats, namely Lough Ree SAC, which includes habitat for otters *Lutra lutra*. Activities could have an impact on this protect species. Please tick if you are concerned that the proposed development could have an impact on these species.

Species	Relevant Site( s)	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identifie d
Otter Conclusion:	Lough Ree	Activities that interfere with river banks.	No Yes/No

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts on species can be ruled out. If the answer is **Yes**, then further information is likely to be required in relation to potential for impact on that particular species.

(D) Summary of Impacts	
Natura 2000 Sites within impact zone	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA, Ardagullion Bog SAC, Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC and located approximately 13km from project site.
Qualifying features of Natura 2000 Site (attach site synopsis from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS))	See Site Synopsis below
(E) Assessment of Likely Sign	nificant Effects (from Tables above)
Describe how the project or plan	(alone or in combination) could affect the Natura
	, and the tractal a
From the tables above, it is consi affect the Natura 2000 sites.	dered the project (alone or in combination) will not
From the tables above, it is consi affect the Natura 2000 sites.  If there are potential impacts, ex be significant.	dered the project (alone or in combination) will not
From the tables above, it is consi affect the Natura 2000 sites.  If there are potential impacts, ex be significant.  N/A	dered the project (alone or in combination) will not
From the tables above, it is considered the Natura 2000 sites.  If there are potential impacts, expensions be significant.  N/A  (F) Relevant Advice Received	dered the project (alone or in combination) will not
From the tables above, it is considered the Natura 2000 sites.  If there are potential impacts, expession be significant.  N/A  (F) Relevant Advice Received Documentation reviewed for make Appropriate Assessment of Plans Authorities (2010) Assessment of Plans and Projects is sessioned.	dered the project (alone or in combination) will not
From the tables above, it is consisted affect the Natura 2000 sites.  If there are potential impacts, expessions be significant.  N/A  (F) Relevant Advice Received Documentation reviewed for make Appropriate Assessment of Plans Authorities (2010) Assessment of Plans and Projects of Managing Natura 2000 sites: The professions affects the property of the property of the professions and projects of the professions affects the profession affects the profe	dered the project (alone or in combination) will not applicate the project (alone or in combination) will not applicate the project of the statement.  and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites (2001) ovisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive (2018)

Selected relevant category for project assessed by ticking box.

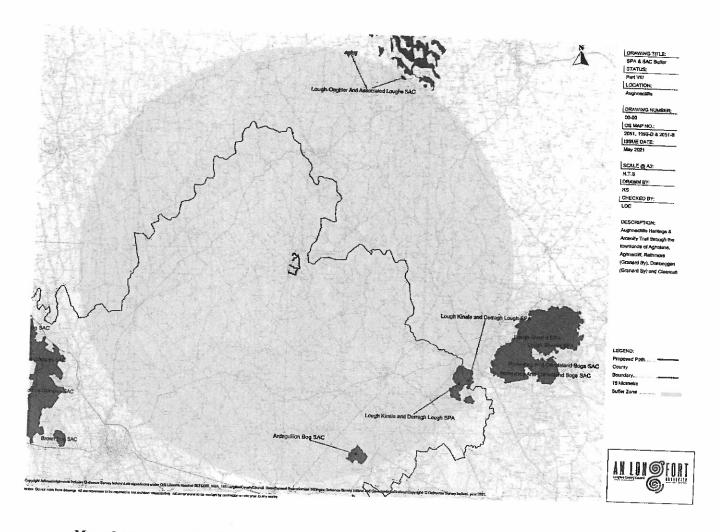
1	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with/necessary to the conservation management of the site	
2	No potential significant affects/AA is not required	X
3	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain.  Seek a Natura Impact Statement  Reject proposal. (Reject if potentially damaging/inappropriate)	

Justify why it falls into relevant category above (based on information in above tables)

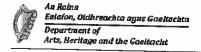
The proposal has no potential significant affects on the Natura 2000 network for the following reasons:

- The project site is not located within a SAC or in the catchment of same to impact on sites designated for freshwater habitats or species.
- 2. The project site is not located within a SAC or within 1km of same to impact on sites designated for wetland habitats bogs, fens, marshes and heath.
- The project site is not located within an SAC or 100m of same to impact on designated terrestrial habitats.
- 4. The project site is not located within a SPA or 5km of same to impact on birds in SPAs.

Name:	Lorraine O'Connor
Position:	Regeneration Officer (Executive Planner)
Date:	24/05/2021



Map of proposed trail with 15km buffer zone



Site Name: Ardagullion Bog SAC

Site Code: 002341

Ardaguillion Bog is located 5 km north-east of Edgeworthstown, mainly in the townlands of Cloonshannagh (Coolamber Manor Demesne) and Ardaguillon in Co. Longford. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded in the north-east by the local road running to Coolagherty.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[7110] Raised Bog (Active)\*

[7120] Degraded Raised Bog

[7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation

Active raised bog comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peatforming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (Sphagnum spp.) is high, and
where some or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats,
Sphagnum lawns, flushes and soaks. Degraded raised bog corresponds to those areas
of high bog whose hydrology has been adversely affected by peat cutting, drainage
and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration. The
Rhynchosporion habitat occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels
where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge (Rhynchospora alba) and/or Brown
Beak-sedge (R. fusca), and at least some of the following associated species, Bog
Asphodel (Narthecium ossifragum), sundews (Drosera spp.), Deergrass (Scirpus
cespitosus) and Carnation Sedge (Carex panicea).

This site is the remnant of a much larger bog that is now cutover and afforested. There are areas of hummocks and pools in the centre of the high bog and the ground is wet and quaking. There is one flush in the centre of the high bog. There is a small area of coniferous forestry on a section of high bog and cutover in the south-west of the site. Cutover bog is found all around this site.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of a Midland Raised Bog, consisting of Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos), Hare's-tail Cottongrass (Eriophorum vaginatum), White Beak-sedge, Bog Asphodel and Bog-rosemary (Andromeda polifolia). The bog mosses Sphagnum papillosum, S. capillifolium and S. magellanicum are common on the high bog, and S. imbricatum is found at the centre of the site. At the centre of the high bog there are frequent pools that all contain the bog moss S. cuspidatum. Great Sundew (Drosera anglica) is found in all the pools in the

centre of the bog and Bogbean (Menyanthes trifoliata) is present in some. The interpool areas have a high bog moss cover. Many hummocks have good clumps of the lichens Cladonia portentosa and C. uncialis. On the south-west margins of the high bog there are some young Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta) but none are thriving. There is one very wet flush in the centre of the high bog with Common Cottongrass (E. angustifolium), extensive lawns of the bog moss S. cuspidatum and some Purple Moorgrass (Molinia caerulea). The cutover in the north-west, east and south-east is dominated by Purple Moor Grass, Soft Rush (Juncus effusus) and Common Cottongrass. There is some Gorse (Ulex europaeus) scrub in the east of the site and extensive Downy Birch (Betula pubescens) scrub in the south-east.

Current land uses on the site include forestry, peat-cutting and agriculture. The forestry is found on a small section of high bog and adjoining cutover in the southwest of the site. Areas of cutover in the south and west of the site that were previously forested have only recently been clear-felled. Active peat-cutting is taking place in the north-west, east and south-east of the site. Two fields in the north of the site have been reclaimed for agriculture. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site and burning of the high bog. There is also evidence of old burning in the northern part of the high bog. All these activities have resulted in the loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Ardagullion Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance as it comprises a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. The site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummocks and pools. Active raised bog is listed as a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Priority status is given to habitats and species that are threatened throughout the E.U. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 60%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.

#### SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH KINALE AND DERRAGH LOUGH SPA

SITE CODE: 0004061

Lough Kinale is a relatively small lake that is situated immediately downstream of Lough Sheelin, both lakes being near the top of the catchment of the Inny River, a main tributary of the River Shannon. Derragh Lough, a much smaller system, is connected to Lough Kinale and the Inny River. This is a typical limestone system and is very shallow (maximum depth of Lough Kinale is c. 4 m). As with Lough Sheelin, the trophic status of the lake has varied greatly since the 1970s due to pollution. It was recently (1998-2000) classified as a highly eutrophic system. The lake was formerly an important Trout fishery.

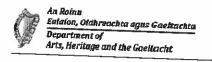
Lough Kinale has two main basins, almost separated by swamp formations. Reed swamp is frequent around the lakes, with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Tufted-sedge (*Carex elata*) occurring commonly. A calcium-rich small sedge marsh occurs along parts of the shoreline. This is characterised by species such as Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*Carex lepidocarpa*), Marsh Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), Knotted Pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa*), Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Areas of bog occur around the margins of the lakes in places but some of these have been planted with conifers.

Despite the very variable water quality in recent decades, Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough remain an important site for wintering waterfowl, especially diving duck. The site supports nationally important populations of two species, i.e. Pochard (951) and Tufted Duck (449) - figures are average peaks for the 5 seasons 1995/96-1999/00. A large population of Mute Swan (120), close to the threshold for national importance, also uses the site. Coot (199), whilst still occurring in substantial numbers, formerly had a population of national importance. A number of other species are found, in relatively low numbers, including Great Crested Grebe (25), Mallard (130) and Goldeneye (22). Marginal grassland areas outside of the site attract feeding wildfowl and waders such as Lapwing and Golden Plover.

The variable water quality over the years, with periods of highly eutrophic conditions, undoubtedly has had adverse impacts on the wintering waterfowl, and especially the diving duck. This would appear to be borne out by very variable numbers of birds recorded over the years. The lake is still vulnerable to pollution and it is considered that there is urgent need to reduce the phosphorus inputs to the system. Afforestation has taken place close to parts of the shoreline and further planting would be undesirable. Angling and wildfowling activities currently cause some disturbance to the birds and any increase in such activities would be of concern.

Whilst relatively small in area and subject to a number of damaging activities, this site retains national importance for two duck species. With an improvement in the

environmental conditions pertaining at the site, higher numbers of some species would undoubtedly occur.



Site Name: Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC

Site Code: 000007

Lough Oughter and its associated loughs occupy much of the lowland drumlin belt in north and central Cavan between Upper Lough Erne, Killeshandra and Cavan town. The site 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 a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3150] Natural Eutrophic Lakes

[91D0] Bog Woodland\*

[1355] Otter (Lutra lutra)

As well as the habitats and species listed above, the site also contains areas of dry woodland, marsh, reedbed and wet pasture.

Drainage within the area is inefficient and the water levels are prone to natural fluctuation as a result. The regularly flooded areas still accommodate a variety of specialist plant species such as Amphibious Bistort (*Polygonum amphibium*) and Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), as well as rarer species such as Needle Spikerush (*Eleocharis acicularis*) and Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*).

The lakes and basins are shallow, and the water well mixed and nutrient rich (eutrophic). The aquatic flora is varied with several pondweed species such as Bluntleaved Pondweed (Potamogeton obtusifolius), Shining Pondweed (Potamogeton lucens), Broad-leaved Pondweed (Potamogeton natans), Reddish Pondweed (Potamogeton alpinus) and Various-leaved Pondweed (Potamogeton gramineus). Typical in the zone of aquatic plants are Yellow Water-lily (Nuphar lutea), Canadian Pondweed (Elodea canadensis), Mare's-tail (Hippuris vulgaris), Water Milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum), Brooklime (Veronica beccabunga), Water-dropwort species (Oenanthe spp.) and Water-starwort (Callitriche sp.). The aquatic community includes species of limited distribution in Ireland such as the Duckweed species Lemna gibba and Spirodela polyrhiza.

Around much of the shoreline there are well developed swamp and marsh communities, typically with a zone of Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*) in front of a zone of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) which is in turn backed by a more

species-rich zone of sedges, grasses and herbs, particularly Bottle Sedge (Carex rostrata), Common Sedge (Carex nigra), Creeping Bent (Agrostis stolonifera), Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria), Water Plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica), Rough Horsetail (Equisetum hyemale), Water Horsetail (Equisetum fluviatile) and Wild Angelica (Angelica sylvestris). Less widespread species also occur on the wet lake margins; species such as Marsh Helleborine (Epipactis palustris), Water Dock (Rumex hydrolapathum), Greater Water-parsnip (Sium latifolium), Cowbane (Cicuta virosa), Tufted-sedge (Carex elata), Water Soldier (Stratiotes aloides), Arrowhead (Sagittaria sagittifolia), Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus) and Greater Spearwort (Ranunculus lingua) may be locally prominent.

There are many variations on this typical zonation of sheltered shores with species such as Bulrush (*Typha* sp.), Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) gaining local prominence. More exposed shores lack the extensive swamp zones; here smaller species such as Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) can be found.

Level, wet pastures tend to be dominated by Creeping Bent and rushes (Juncus spp.) with a scattering of marshland and wet grassland plants such as Marsh-marigold (Caltha palustris), Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides) and Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus). Soft Rush (Juncus effusus) is most abundant with frequent Hard Rush (Juncus inflexus) and Sharp-flowered Rush (Juncus acutiflorus), and less widespread Conglomerate Rush (Juncus conglomeratus) also occurring.

Where a general lack of grazing pressure or a particular slope has allowed it, deciduous woodland has re-established itself behind the reedbeds. Two species of Willow (Salix caprea and S. cinerea) are common constituents, along with Alder (Alnus glutinosa), Downy Birch (Betula pubescens), Hazel (Corylus avellana) and Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna). Along submerged margins Alder and Willow are most commonly found with a flooded understorey typically containing Reed Canarygrass, Meadow Sweet, Yellow Iris and in places Tufted-sedge and Greater Tussock-sedge (Carex paniculata). Downy Birch occurs along lake edges and also forms stands of wet woodland on cutover bog with varying degrees of wet and dry peat. Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea), Marsh Cinquefoil (Potentilla palustris) and bog mosses (Sphagnum spp.) occur in areas with pools and dry areas. Where there is dry peat, Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum), Bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg.) and gorse (Ulex sp.) occur under the birch canopy. Birch dominated wood is also found in association with Heather (Calluna vulgaris) bog.

In areas of wet bog with good *Sphagnum* cover, bog woodland has developed. Downy Birch characterises this habitat; other typical species include Purple Moorgrass and Bottle Sedge.

Dry broadleaved woodland is characterised by Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Hazel, Holly (Ilex aquifolium) and Oak (Quercus spp.), while shrubs include Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), Spindle (Euonymus europaeus) and Guelder-rose (Viburnum opulus). The Red Data Book species Bird Cherry (Prunus padus) has also been recorded from the site.

The clayey soils have a characteristic flora, including Wood Avens (Geum urbanum), Wood-sorrel (Oxalis acetosella), Primrose (Primula vulgaris), Herb-Robert (Geranium robertianum) and Wood-sedge (Carex sylvatica).

The site supports a substantial population of water birds including internationally important numbers of Whooper Swan (average peak 231) and nationally important numbers of Tufted Duck (average peak 247) and Cormorant (average peak 130), as well as important numbers of species such as Greenland White-fronted Goose, Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Teal and Pochard. Lapwing, Snipe and Golden Plover also utilise the wet grassland areas. Wildfowl Sanctuaries exist at Inchin Lough, Derrygid Lough, Farnham Lough, Derrybrick Lough, Derrinishbeg Lough and Annagh Lough. Part of the site is designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive.

Otter, a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, occurs at the site. Irish Hare has also been recorded. Both of these species are listed in the Irish Red Data Book and are legally protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976.

The main threats to the quality of the site are water polluting activities (such as runoff from fertiliser and slurry application, and sewage discharge) which have raised the nutrient status of some lakes to hypertrophic. Housing and boating developments are on the increase, both adjacent to and within the site. There is also significant fishing and shooting pressure on and around the lakes. Increased afforestation has resulted in some loss of wetland habitat and also loss of feeding ground for wintering birds such as Greenland White-fronted Goose.

The Lough Oughter area contains important examples of two habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive and supports a population of the Annex II species, Otter. The site as a whole is the best inland example of a flooded drumlin landscape in Ireland and has many rich and varied biological communities. Nowhere else in the country does such an intimate mixture of land and water occur over a comparable area, and many of the species of wetland plants, some considered quite commonplace in Lough Oughter and its associated loughs, are infrequent elsewhere.



Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Part 8 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the requirements of the above regulations that Longford County Council proposes to undertake the following works:

"The construction of a path c.4.2kms in length, approximately 3m wide to enhance existing Heritage & Amenity Trail, including three bridges, fencing, passing bays @ 500m intervals along L-10431-0 and ancillary site works in the village of Aughnacliffe"

#### The development will consist of:

The construction of a path c.4.2kms in length, approximately 3m wide to enhance existing Heritage & Amenity Trail, including three bridges, fencing, passing bays @ 500m intervals along L-10431-0 and ancillary site works to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, through the townlands of Aghakine, Aghnacliff, Rathmore (Granard By), Dunbeggan (Granard By) and Cleenrah. Linking two National Monuments.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee, not exceeding the reasonable cost of making the copy, at the office of Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford during official public opening hours, excluding weekends and bank holidays from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 up to and including Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

Submissions with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, may be made in writing to Longford County Council, headed

"The construction of a path c.4.2kms in length, approximately 3m wide to enhance existing Heritage & Amenity Trail, including three bridges, fencing, passing bays @ 500m intervals along L-10431-0 and ancillary site works in the village of Aughnacliffe"

and addressed to Planning Section, Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford to arrive not later than **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at 4pm**.

Signed
J. BRANNIGAN,
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES.



#### **Longford County Council**

#### **SITE NOTICE**

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27/05/2021