

## **Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

Proposed Housing  
Development Broadford, Co.  
Limerick





## DOCUMENT DETAILS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a proposed residential development in Broadford, Co. Limerick.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and field surveys undertaken during October 2019. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed development to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

In addition to the guidelines referenced above, the following relevant documents were also considered in the preparation of this report:

1. *Council of the European Commission (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Official Journal of the European Communities. Series L 20, pp. 7-49.*
2. *EC (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.*
3. *EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC - Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence. Opinion of the commission.*
4. *EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission.*

### 1.2 Appropriate Assessment

#### 1.2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Screening is the process of determining whether an Appropriate Assessment is required for a plan or project. Under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, screening must be carried out by the Competent Authority. As per Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended 'A screening for appropriate assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site'. The Competent Authority's determination as to whether an Appropriate Assessment is

required must be made on the basis of objective information and should be recorded. The Competent Authority may request information to be supplied to enable it to carry out screening.

Consultants or project proponents may provide for the competent authority, the information necessary for them to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required and provide advice to assist them in the Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening decision.

Where it cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt at the Screening stage, that a proposed plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

Where An Appropriate Assessment is required, the Competent Authority may require the applicant to prepare a Natura Impact Statement.

The term Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is defined in legislation<sup>1</sup>. An NIS, where required, should present the data, information and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge, objective information and by the precautionary principle.

This Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in compliance with the provision of section 177U of the Planning & Development Act 2010 as amended.

## Statement of Authority

A baseline ecological survey was undertaken on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 by Claire Stephens (B.Sc. Env., Qualifying CIEEM). MKO ecologists are trained in field ecology and are experts in undertaking surveys to this level. This report has been prepared by Claire Stephens and Sarah Mullen (B.Sc., Ph.D.) and reviewed by John Hynes (B.Sc. Env, MSc., MCIEEM). John has over eight years' experience working in ecological consultancy.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, an NIS means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a proposed development, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives. It is required to include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for the European site in view of its conservation objectives

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Site Location

The proposed development is located in the townland of Farihy, Broadford Co. Limerick. The site is located approximately 100m to the south of Broadford main street and approximately 42km south-west of Limerick City (Grid reference: E 133763 N 121682). The site is surrounded by agricultural fields to the north, south, east and south-west, Cluain Dara road to the west and by existing residential units and a number of buildings to the north-west. The site is accessed from the west via Cluain Dara road off the Main Street and the R515 to the north.

There are no watercourses within or adjacent to the development site boundary. Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161) is located approximately 2.6km to the east of the proposed development and is the closest EU Designated Site to the proposal. The site location is shown in Figure 2.1.

### 2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

#### 2.2.1 Description of the project

The proposed development will consist of:

- The provision of 18 no. residential units, consisting of, 7 No. 1 Bed units, 1 No. 4 Bed unit, 8 No. 2 Bed units, 2 No. 3 Bed units.
- Hard landscaping including new footpaths, new entranceways, boundary treatments and boundary walls.
- Upgrading of foul sewers and surface water drainage and
- All associated site works.

A new foul drainage network will be constructed within the site boundary to Irish Water standards. Foul water from the development will connect to the existing public foul network to the west of the site. Approximately 150m of the existing foul network will be upgraded as part of the works. This will involve laying a new public main from the development site location to Main Street to the north of the development site. A pre-connection enquiry was lodged with Irish Water in relation to the proposed development. Irish Water confirmed that there is capacity to accept the proposed connection to the network once the above upgrade works to the existing network are completed. The letter of confirmation from Irish Water is included in Appendix 1.

Surface water runoff from roofs, roads and other hard surfaces will discharge to ground via filtration pits/swales. Permeable surface finishes will be used where possible to minimise runoff volumes. A petrol interceptor will also be included to prevent contaminants entering the filtration pits.

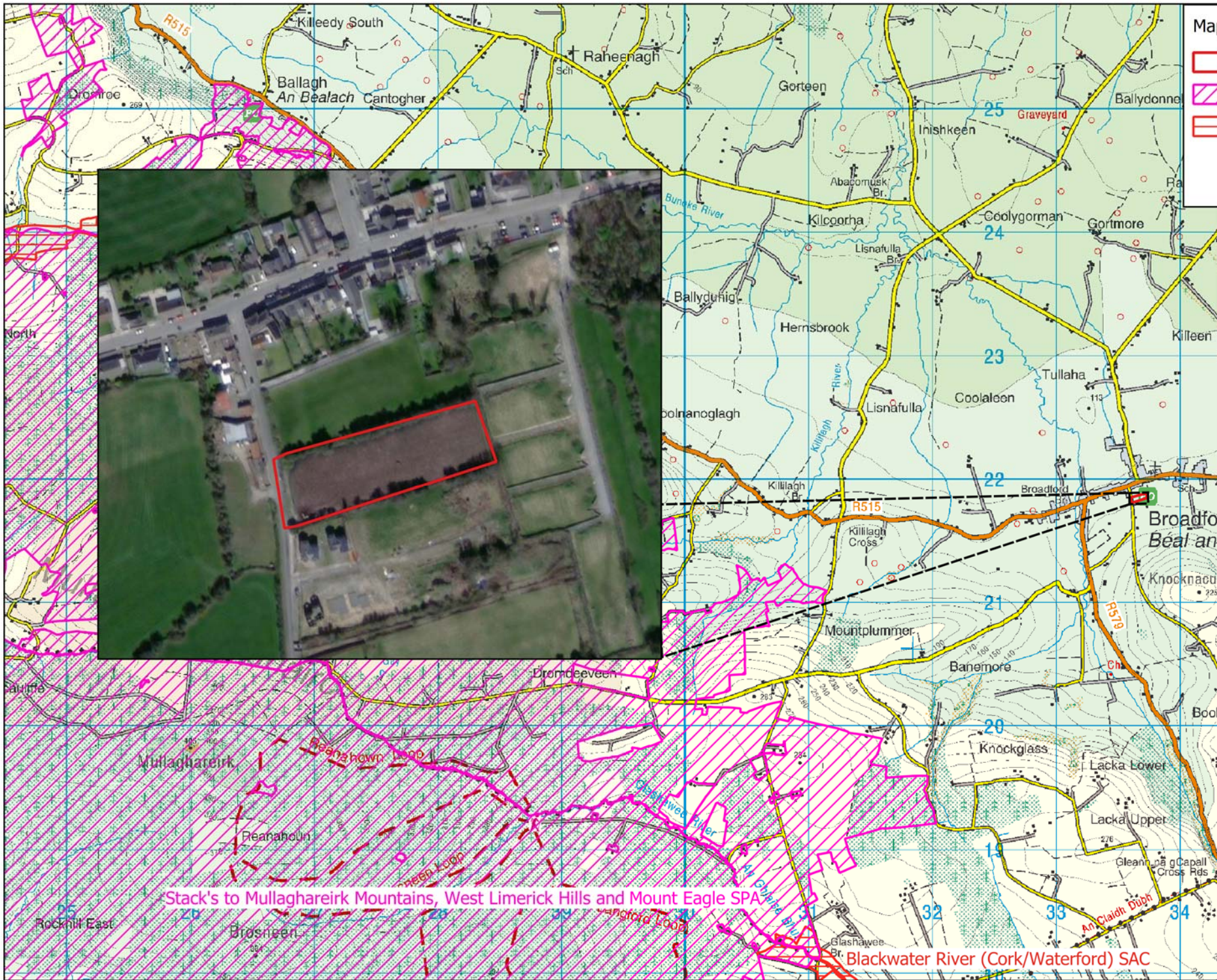
The site layout is shown in Figure 2.2.

#### 2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

Assessing the impacts of any project and associated activities requires an understanding of the ecological baseline conditions prior to and at the time of the project proceeding. Ecological Baseline conditions are those existing in the absence of proposed activities (CIEEM 2018).

A multidisciplinary walkover survey was conducted on the on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 in line with NRA (2009) guidelines (Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes) by Claire Stephens (B. Sc. Env., Qualifying CIEEM) of MKO. The ecological survey was undertaken outside the optimal time of year to undertake a habitat and flora survey (Smith et.





**Map Legend**

-  Site Location
-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)



Drawing Title	
<b>Site Location</b>	
Project Title	
Proposed Residential Development - Broadford	
Drawn By	Checked By
AvdGM	SM
Project No.	Drawing No.
190936	Fig 2.1
Scale	Date
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Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA

Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC





Figure 2.2: Site Layout

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**DO NOT SCALE** from this drawing. Use figured dimensions. Contractor to check all dimensions on site prior to commencement of works. Any discrepancies are to be referred to the ARCHITECT.

**KEY PLAN (SITE SECTIONS & ELEVATIONS):**

**SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION:**

Total No. of Housing Units		18	KEY
No. of 1 Bed Units (TYPE A)	7		
No. of 2 Bed Units (TYPE B)	2		
No. of 2 Bed Units (TYPE C)	6		
No. of 3 Bed Units (TYPE D)	2		
No. of 4 Bed Units (TYPE E)	1		

Total No. of Parking Spaces		25
1 no. space for every 1, 2 or 3 Bed Unit	17	
2 no. spaces for each 4 Bed Unit	2	
1 no. visitor space for every 3 Units	6	

**LANDSCAPING LEGEND:**

HOMEZONE FINISH	PUBLIC LANDSCAPED AREAS	EXISTING HEDGEROW BOUNDARY
FOOTPATH	PRIVACY STRIP	EXISTING BUILDINGS

**REVISIONS**

DATE	REV.	BY.	CH.	DESCRIPTION

**Limerick City & County Council**  
Design & Delivery Services  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

PROJECT: BROADFORD HOUSING  
BROADFORD, COUNTY LIMERICK  
STAGE: PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION

DATE: DEC 2020  
SCALE: 1:100 @ A1  
DRAWN: BR  
CHECKED: -  
JOB No: 17059

DRAWING TITLE: PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN - GROUND

DRAWING No. 17059-002	SHEET SIZE A1	REVISION -
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al 2011). However, all habitats within and adjacent to the works area were readily identifiable during the site visit. A dedicated invasive species survey was also undertaken during the site visit. During the survey, the site was searched for species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. 477 of 2011).

The proposed development site is a field classified as **Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)** (Plate 2.1) Species recorded within this habitat included perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Other species recorded in fewer numbers include curled-dock (*Rumex crispus*), broad leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*),

The field is bordered by a combination of **Hedgerows (WL1)** and **Treeline (WL2)** dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), willow (*Salix* spp.), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and ivy (*Hedera helix*). The Cluain Dara road to the west of the site is classified as **Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)**, bordered on each side by a narrow strip of **Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)** and **Hedgerows (WL1)** (Plate 2.2).

There are no watercourses within or adjacent to the proposed development however there is a drainage water gully along the road network west of the field boundary. The closest watercourse is the Coolygorman stream located approximately 382m north of the proposed development. Habitats adjacent to the development comprise of **Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)**, **Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)**, **Amenity grassland (GA2)** and **Recolonising bare ground (ED3)**.

No Annex I listed habitats or supporting habitat for Annex II plant species were identified at the site.

No invasive species listed under Regulations 49 and 50 of the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011) were recorded during the field survey.



Plate 2.1 Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) field is bordered by a combination of Hedgerows (WL1) and Treeline (WL2)



Plate 2.2 Chain Dara road west of the site is classified as Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3), with strip of Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) and Hedgerows (WL1)

### 2.2.3 Significance of Habitats

Ecological evaluation follows a methodology that is set out in Chapter 3 of the ‘Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes’ (NRA, 2009). The habitats within and adjacent to the works site were evaluated in accordance with the criteria developed by the NRA (2009b), which classifies sites in terms of their ecological importance, i.e. ‘international importance’, ‘national importance’, ‘county importance’, ‘local importance (higher value)’ or ‘local importance (lower value)’.

None of the habitats within the works areas correspond to habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. No supporting habitat for any Qualifying Interest species associated with any European sites were recorded within the proposed development site. The hard-standing areas and grassland habitats were assigned **Local Importance (Lower Value)**.

The treelines and hedgerows have been classified as **Local Importance (Higher Value)** as they are essential in maintaining connectivity and ecological corridors between features of higher ecological value in the surrounding environment, however they provide ‘low’ suitability for bat roosting with trees having a lack of suitable cavities.

### 2.2.4 Fauna

No protected fauna were recorded within the proposed works site on the day of the site visit.

No supporting habitat for any SCI species associated with any nearby SPAs was recorded within the proposed development site.

### 2.2.5 Significance of Fauna

No QI or SCI species associated with any European site were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed development site boundary.



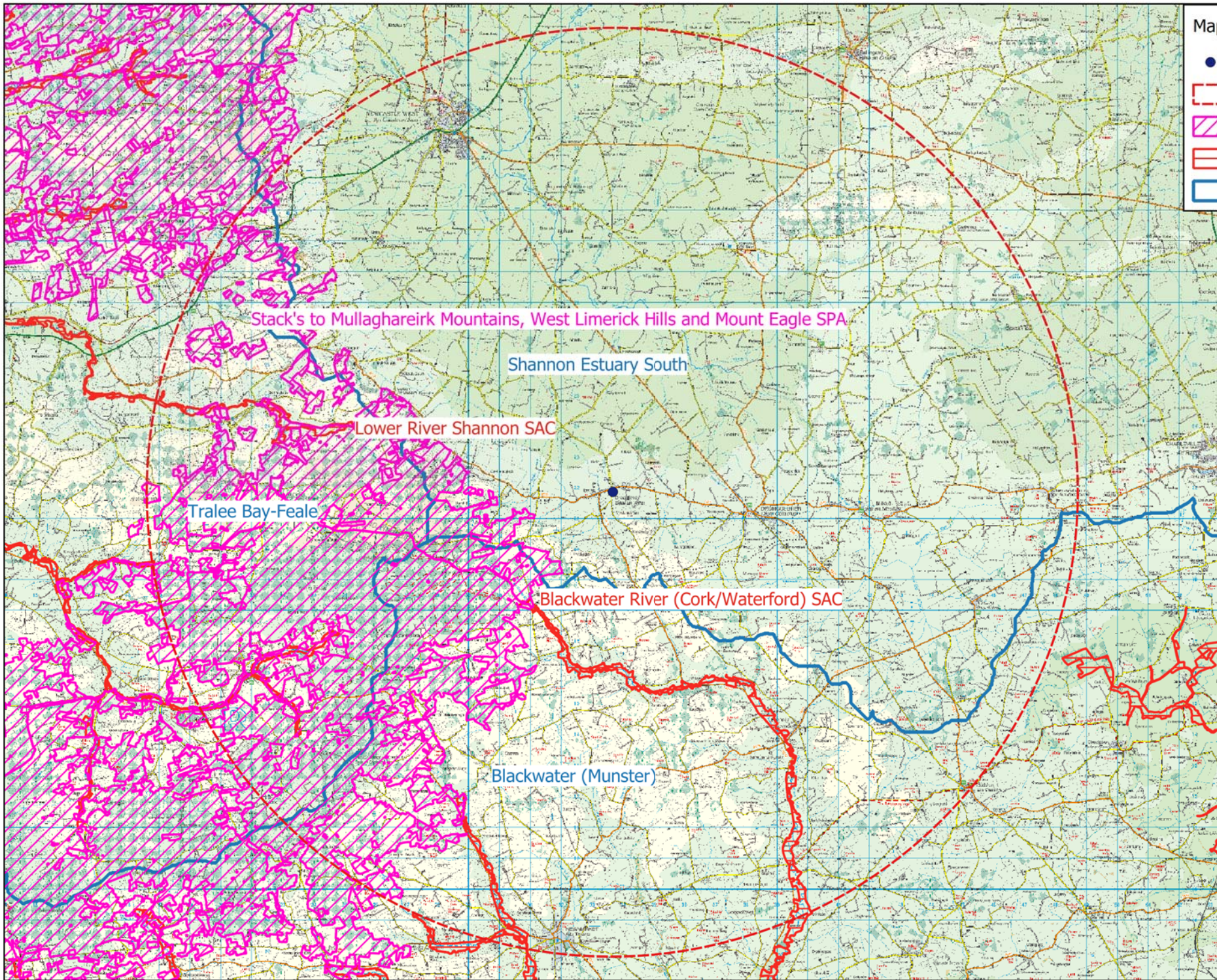
### 3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

#### 3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

The following methodology was used to establish which European Sites are within the Likely Zone of Impact of the proposed development:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) and the EPA website ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)) on the 04/05/2021. The datasets were utilized to identify European Sites which could feasibly be affected by the proposed development.
- All European Sites within a distance of 15km surrounding the development site were identified and are shown on Figure 3.1. In addition, the potential for connectivity with European Sites at distances of greater than 15km from the proposed development was also considered in this initial assessment. In this case, no potential connectivity with sites located at a distance of over 15km from the proposed development was identified.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed development and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3.1.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, 'Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)' (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed development and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- Table 3.1 provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses which are within the likely Zone of Impact. The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this screening assessment.
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report 04/05/2021. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the proposed development in relation to all European sites within 15km of the proposed development.
- Where potential pathways for Significant Effect are identified, the site is included within the Likely Zone of Impact and further assessment is required.





### Map Legend

- Site Location
- 15km Buffer
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Hydrological Catchments



Drawing Title	
EU Designated Sites within 15km	
Project Title	
Proposed Residential Development - Broadford	
Drawn By	Checked By
AvdGM	SM
Project No.	Drawing No.
190936	Fig 3.1
Scale	Date
1:160000	05.05.21

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Table 3.1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 04/05/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>			
<p>Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC [002170]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 4.3km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>➤ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>➤ Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>➤ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>➤ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>➤ Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritim</i>) [1410]</li> <li>➤ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>➤ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>➤ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>➤ <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>➤ <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2012) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 4.3km from this European Site. There are no watercourses within the development site boundary which could act as conduits for pollution and there is no surface water connectivity between the proposed development and the SAC. No pathways for indirect effects via surface water were identified.</p> <p>No QI habitats or supporting habitat for QI species was identified at the proposed development site. No habitat loss or disturbance related effects on QI species are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> on the 04/05/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>➤ <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>➤ <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>➤ <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103]</li> <li>➤ <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>➤ <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>➤ <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>		
<p>Lower River Shannon SAC [002165]</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 8.2km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]</li> <li>➤ Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>➤ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>➤ Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>➤ Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>➤ Reefs [1170]</li> <li>➤ Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>➤ Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>➤ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>➤ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, August 2012) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></p>	<p>There will be no direct effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the designated site.</p> <p>The proposed works are located 8.2km from this European Site. There are no watercourses within the development site boundary which could act as conduits for pollution and there is no surface water connectivity between the proposed development and the SAC, located in a separate hydrological sub-catchment. No pathways for indirect effects via surface water were identified.</p> <p>No QI habitats or supporting habitat for QI species was identified at the proposed</p>



European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 04/05/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>➤ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>➤ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>➤ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>➤ <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>➤ <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>➤ <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>➤ <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>➤ <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>➤ <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</li> <li>➤ <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>		<p>development site. No habitat loss or disturbance related effects on QI species are anticipated.</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>
Special Protection Area (SPA)			

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 04/05/2021	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
<p>Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161)</p> <p><b>Distance:</b> 2.6km</p>	<p>➤ Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]</p>	<p>This site has the generic conservation objective:</p> <p><i>'To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.'</i> (NPWS Generic version 8.0, 2021)</p>	<p>There will be no direct effects as the works are located entirely outside of this European Site.</p> <p>This European Site is located 2.6km from the development. The proposed development site consists predominantly of agricultural grassland and does not support suitable habitat for hen harrier. No habitat loss or disturbance related effects on the SCI species Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] are anticipated. The site is outside the core foraging range for hen harrier (SNH Guidance V3, 2016).</p> <p>No pathway for effect was identified and the site is not within the Likely Zone of Impact.</p>



### 3.2 European Sites with the Potential to be Significantly Affected by the Proposed Development

It is anticipated that no European Sites will be affected by the proposed development.

### 3.3 Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects

The potential for the proposed development to contribute to a cumulative impact on European Sites was considered. The online planning system for Limerick City and County Council was consulted on the 04/05/2021.

Additional projects identified in the vicinity of the development, in the townland of Farihy, Broadford include permission to;

- Permission to demolish a store and planning permission to construct calving pens and a machinery workshop (Planning ref.: 141070),
- Permission for the construction of an extension of a class room, toilet and attic storage and all associated site works (Planning ref.: 15873),
- Permission for a new car park, amenity area and alterations to the existing entrance, connection to the public services and all associated site works (Planning ref.: 15922),
- Permission for the construction of cattle underpass number 1, effluent storage tank and all ancillary site works (Planning ref.: 161145),
- Permission for the construction of cattle underpass with effluent storage tank and all ancillary site works (Planning ref.: 161146),
- Permission for the construction of a dwelling house, garage and 4 serviced sites each consisting of a dwelling house and garage and connection to public services and all associated site works (Planning ref.: 16306),
- Permission for an extension to the gable end of dwelling house (Planning ref.: 16388),
- Permission for the demolition of 2 semi-detached dwelling houses and apply for planning permission for a replacement dwelling house, new garage, effluent treatment system and polishing filter and all associated site works (Planning ref.: 16962),
- Permission for the construction of 2 no. poultry houses and all associated site works. The development requires an EPA Industrial Emissions License (formerly Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control License). An Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted as part of the planning application (Planning ref.: 171159),
- Permission for the construction of an unroofed silage pit and concrete yards (Planning ref.: 17404),
- Permission to make alterations and construct an extension to the existing dwelling house for use as a granny flat (Planning ref.: 1783),
- Permission for the installation of a precast slatted tank and associated works (Planning ref.: 181286),
- Permission for the demolition of existing derelict dwelling and construction of a livestock underpass, effluent holding tank and all associated site works (Planning ref.: 18144),
- Permission for the construction of a classroom extension to the existing school building with all associated site works (Planning ref.: 19823),
- Permission for a new single storey dwelling house, secondary treatment system and polishing filter, entrance and all ancillary site works (Planning ref.: 19901).

- Permission for the construction of a dwelling house, detached domestic garage, mechanical aeration unit and soil polishing filter, new site entrance and carry out all associated site works (Planning ref: 20260).
- Permission for the demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of a slatted cubicle house, calf house, calving pens, cattle drafting area, meal bins and concrete aprons (Planning ref: 21288).

The Limerick County Development Plan 2010 - 2016 (and variations) was also reviewed and considered as part of this assessment.

No pathway or mechanism for the proposed development to result in any significant effect on any European Site was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and therefore there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effects when considered in-combination with other developments.

**Describe how the project is likely to affect the European Site**

- ☐ There will be no direct effect on the QIs of any European sites and no pathways for significant indirect effects were identified.
- ☐ The project as proposed will not significantly affect any European Sites.



## 4. ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this Screening Assessment are presented following the European Commission's Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018) as well as the Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010).

### 4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

**In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:**

- > Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- > Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- > Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA
- > Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the proposed project.
- > Review of other plans and projects within the area.
- > Site visit conducted by Claire Stephens (B. Sc. Env., Qualifying CIEEM) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

### 4.2 Concluding Statement

It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site.

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## APPENDIX 1

*LETTER FROM IRISH WATER*

Aidan Doyle  
Merchants Quay  
Co.Limerick  
Ireland

7 October 2019

Uisce Éireann  
Bosca OP 448  
Oifig Sheachadta na  
Cathrach Theas  
Cathair Chorcaí

Irish Water  
PO Box 448,  
South City  
Delivery Office,  
Cork City.

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

Dear Aidan Doyle,

**Re: Connection Reference No CDS19006726 pre-connection enquiry -  
Subject to contract | Contract denied**

**Connection for Housing Development of 15 unit(s) at Cluian Dara, Broadford, Limerick.**

Irish Water has reviewed your pre-connection enquiry in relation to a Water & Wastewater connection at Cluian Dara, Broadford, Limerick.

Based upon the details that you have provided with your pre-connection enquiry and on the capacity currently available in the network(s), as assessed by Irish Water, we wish to advise you that, subject to a valid connection agreement being put in place, your proposed connection to the Irish Water network(s) can be facilitated.

**Wastewater:**

In order to accommodate the proposed connection at the Premises, upgrade works are required to increase the capacity of the Irish Water wastewater network. Approximately 147m of existing 150mm diameter foul sewer requires upsizing to 225mm diameter. Irish Water does not currently have any plans to carry out the works required to provide the necessary upgrade and capacity. Should you wish to have such upgrade works progressed, Irish Water will require you to provide a contribution of a relevant portion of the costs for the required upgrades, please contact Irish Water to discuss this further.

No storm water shall discharge to the public wastewater network.

**Water:**

This Confirmation of Feasibility to connect to the Irish Water infrastructure also does not extend to your fire flow requirements. In order to determine the potential flow that could be delivered during normal operational conditions, an on site assessment of the existing network is required. Please note that Irish Water cannot guarantee a flow rate to meet fire flow requirements and in order to guarantee a flow to meet the Fire Authority requirements, you should provide adequate fire storage capacity within your development.

All infrastructure should be designed and installed in accordance with the Irish Water Codes of Practice and Standard Details. A design proposal for the water and/or wastewater infrastructure should be submitted to Irish Water for assessment. Prior to submitting your planning application, you are required to submit these detailed design proposals to Irish Water for review.

You are advised that this correspondence does not constitute an offer in whole or in part to provide a connection to any Irish Water infrastructure and is provided subject to a connection agreement being signed at a later date.

A connection agreement can be applied for by completing the connection application form available at **[www.water.ie/connections](http://www.water.ie/connections)**. Irish Water's current charges for water and wastewater connections are set out in the Water Charges Plan as approved by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities.

If you have any further questions, please contact John Hennessy from the design team on 022 52256 or email [jhennessy@water.ie](mailto:jhennessy@water.ie). For further information, visit **[www.water.ie/connections](http://www.water.ie/connections)**.

Yours sincerely,



**Maria O'Dwyer**

**Connections and Developer Services**