APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

FOR

PROPOSED ATTENUATION PONDS IN THE TOWNLAND OF TRILA (MARTIN), DOUGHILL FOREST, SLIABH BAWN MOUNTAIN, CO. ROSCOMMON

OCTOBER 2016

Client	Sliabh Bawn Power DAC
Project	Provision of Four Attenuation Ponds, Doughill Forest, Co. Roscommon
Report	Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
Draft version/Final	FINAL
Date	05/10/16
Prepared by	Elaine Dromey
Reviewed by	Lindsey McManus, Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd.

Contents

1 Summary 2
2 Introduction 3
3 The Appropriate Assessment Process 5
4 Scope of Study 6
5 Appropriate Assessment Screening 8
6 References 24
Appendix 1: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX 26

1 Summary

Elaine Dromey was commissioned by Sliabh Bawn Power DAC to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening report to support an application for Section 5 determination for the proposed provision of four attenuation ponds in the townland of Trila (Martin), Doughill Forest, Sliabh Bawn Mountain, Co. Roscommon.

The proposed attenuation ponds are on the eastern side of Sliabh Bawn mountain within sub catchment 3 which drains to the upper River Shannon. The proposed project involves the construction and operation of four new attenuation ponds within Doughill forest on Sliabh Bawn mountain. The ponds will vary in size.

A desk study was carried out to collate information available on Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the proposed attenuation ponds at Sliabh Bawn, Co. Roscommon. The location of the proposed attenuation ponds was visited by Elaine Dromey MCIEEM on 19th September 2016. The visit to the locations of the proposed attenuation ponds was carried out to allow the ecologist to put it in context in terms of existing ecology and the surrounding landscape.

All Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of the proposed attenuation ponds were considered as the proposed ponds drain into the same river catchments. Natura 2000 sites more than 10 km from the development site were not included as they are not hydrologically connected to the location of the proposed ponds and are sufficiently distant from the pond locations as to be unlikely to suffer significant effects. The features of interest, potential threats and conservation objectives were identified for each Natura 2000 site within 10km.

Lough Ree SAC and Lough Ree SPA is downstream of and connected to the pond locations via surface water pathways. The remaining Natura 2000 sites within 10 km are either upstream of the pond locations or have no surface water pathway linkages.

It is not considered likely that the construction and operation of the ponds at locations A, B, C and alternative location Pond D has the potential to result in indirect impacts due to the combination of distance from the nearest watercourse (via a network of forestry drainage ditches), the inclusion of pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology and the distance from the Lough Ree SAC and SPA

Pond D is located adjacent to a small watercourse and as a result it is considered likely that the construction of this pond has the potential to indirectly impact Lough Ree SAC and SPA. The provision of Pond D is not considered likely to give rise to in-combination effects with other plans and projects.

The construction methodology for the attenuation ponds includes pollution prevention measures such as silt fencing and any soil, or other deleterious matter, entering the watercourse during construction will therefore be localised and contained. Although unlikely to occur, should any pollutants travel further downstream they are unlikely to be of sufficient volume to result in an impact on water quality that could give rise to significant effects on Lough Ree SAC and SPA. It is therefore considered that the construction of Pond D is not likely to result in significant effects on Lough Ree SAC and SPA.

It is considered that the proposed construction and operation of four attenuation ponds within the townland of Trila (Martin), Doughill Forest, Sliabh Bawn Mountain, Co. Roscommon does not require progression to second stage Appropriate Assessment.

2 Introduction

Elaine Dromey was commissioned by Sliabh Bawn Power DAC to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening report to support an application for Section 5 determination for the proposed provision of four attenuation ponds in the townland of Trila (Martin), Doughill Forest, Sliabh Bawn Mountain, Co. Roscommon.

2.1 Background to the commission

Sliabh Bawn Power DAC received a conditional grant of planning permission (Planning Ref PD 10/507) in March 2012 for a twenty turbine wind farm on Sliabh Bawn Mountain, Co Roscommon. The wind farm is currently under construction with the wind farm due to be completed in late 2016 / early 2017. The wind farm is located within Coillte owned Doughill Forest on Sliabh Bawn Mountain.

Sliabh Bawn Power DAC wishes to provide four new attenuation ponds to provide a buffer extreme rainfall events, separate to the permitted surface water management measures for the wind farm, within Doughill Forest in the townland of Trila (Martin). The four new attenuation ponds will be used for the management of surface water within sub catchment 3. The four new ponds proposed for construction are referred to as Ponds A, B, C, D and alternative Pond D. Sliabh Bawn Power DAC proposes to seek a Section 5 determination with respect to the four proposed attenuation ponds.

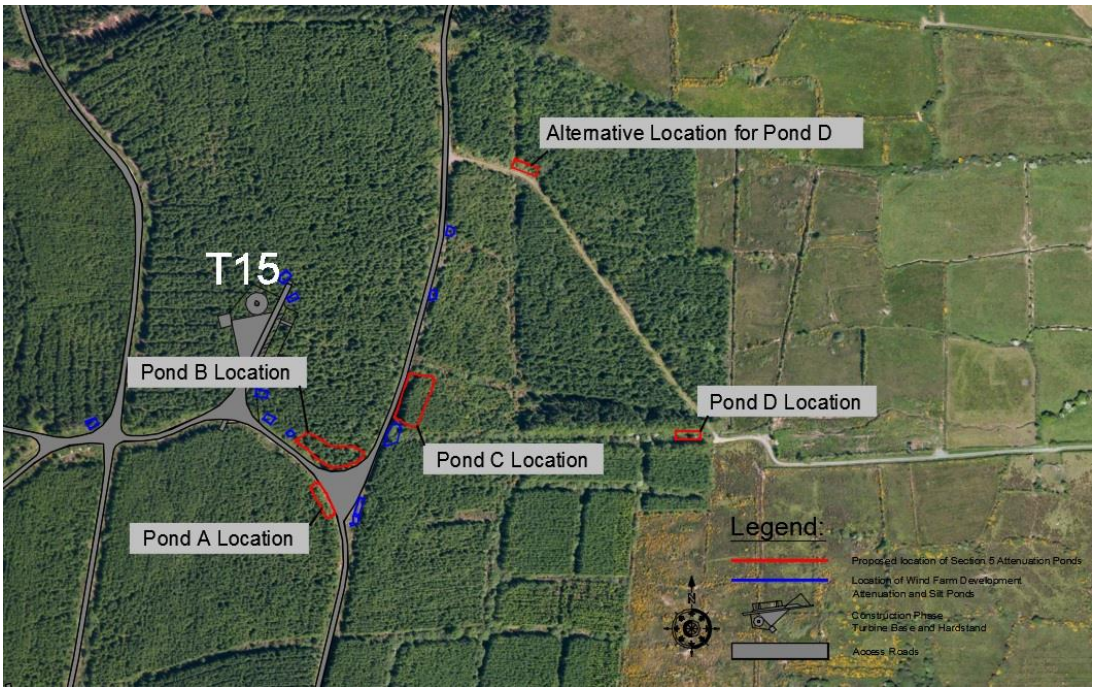


Figure 1: *Image showing locations in red of the proposed attenuation ponds Pond A, B, C D and the alternative location for Pond D.*

2.2 General Site Description

The proposed attenuation ponds are within the townland of Trila (Martin), Doughill Forest, Sliabh Bawn, Co. Roscommon. The proposed attenuation ponds are on the eastern side of Sliabh Bawn mountain within sub catchment 3 which drains to the upper River Shannon. Attenuation ponds A – C and the alternative location for Pond D are located beside existing forestry tracks on the edge of plantation forestry. The alternative location proposed for Pond D is in an existing firebreak within plantation forestry. The proposed attenuation ponds are located at the following approximate Ordnance Survey Ireland Grid References (OSIGR) Pond A is at OSIGR M 96202 76028, Pond B is at

OSIGR M 96212 76044, Pond C is at OSIGR M 96260 76126, the preferred location for Pond D is at OSIGR M 96334 76376 and the alternative location for Pond D is at OSIGR M 96551 76105. The attenuation ponds are shown on *Figure 1*.

2.3 Description of the Project

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of four new attenuation ponds within Doughill forest on Sliabh Bawn mountain. The ponds are all located within sub catchment 3 and will vary in size. The location and extent of the attenuation ponds will be clearly marked out in advance of construction of the ponds beginning. The location of the pond will be assessed before construction by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Denis Moriarty The Kerries Limited (DMKL) Environmental Manager in a walk over of the area. The ECoW comments or recommended actions will be implemented by DMKL prior to any works commencing.

Silt fences and other suitable pollution prevention measures will be put in place in any drains or watercourses close to the location of the ponds prior to any works. These measures will be checked by the site supervisor and only if deemed satisfactory will works proceed. A 14t or 20t excavator will be used to form the attenuation ponds. Works will involve excavating out the lowest cell working towards the highest. When construction of each attenuation pond is complete a timber post & sheep wire fence will be erected around the perimeter. Warning signage will be erected to warn of the danger of deep water. A life ring will be positioned next to each attenuation pond.

All works will be carried out following best working practice and the methods outlined above. Works will only be carried out in good weather conditions and it will take approximately 2 weeks to complete the ponds.

2.4 Evidence of Technical Competence and Experience

Elaine Dromey BSc MSc MCIEEM

Elaine has worked in ecological consultancy since 2000 in both the UK and Ireland. She holds a BSc in Earth Science from University College Cork and an MSc in Vegetation Survey and Assessment from the University of Reading, UK. She is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Elaine has worked as a senior ecologist and the project lead on a number of projects requiring the preparation of Appropriate Assessment reports. Elaine has prepared AA screening reports and Natura Impact Statements (NIS) for a range of different projects and plans including large wind farms, single turbine developments, power lines, quarry developments, anaerobic digesters, industrial development and single small developments. Elaine has also prepared and input to the preparation of AA screening reports and Natura Impact Reports (NIR) for County Development Plans (CDP), Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) and Masterplans.

3 The Appropriate Assessment Process

Article 6, paragraph 3 of the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC ("the Habitats Directive") states that:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a 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".

A distance of 15 km is currently recommended in the case of plans, as a potential zone of influence, and this distance is derived from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) guidance advises that this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects[1].

3.3 The Stages in an Appropriate Assessment

There are up to 4 stages in the Appropriate Assessment process as outlined in the European Commission Guidance document (EC, 2001). The following is a brief summary of these stages (each of which is dependent on the outcome of the previous).

- Stage 1 - Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 Site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant.
- Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, the impact of the project on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site is considered with respect to the conservation objectives of the site and to its structure and function.
- Stage 3 - Assessment of Alternative Solutions: Should the Appropriate Assessment determine that adverse impacts are likely upon a Natura 2000 site, this stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid these adverse impacts.
- Stage 4 - Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the Natura 2000 site will be necessary.

[1] National Parks and Wildlife Service. (2009*). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland,

4 Scope of Study

The purpose of AA screening in this case is to determine the likelihood of significant effects, if any, that the construction and operation of the proposed attenuation ponds could have on Natura 2000 sites.

4.3 Aims of the Screening Report

This report was prepared to facilitate the planning authority in deciding upon this declaration and in conducting a screening for appropriate assessment under section 177U of the Planning Acts.

4.4 Objectives of Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures to be addressed in the AA process[2] as follows:

1. Firstly, a plan / project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites by identifying possible impacts early and designing the project / plan to avoid such impacts.

2. Secondly, mitigation measures should be applied during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain.

3. Thirdly a plan / project may have to undergo an assessment of alternative solutions. Under this stage of the assessment, compensatory measures are required for any remaining adverse effects, but they are permitted only if (a) there are no alternative solutions and (b) the plan / project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (the 'IROPI test'). European case law highlights that consideration must be given to alternatives outside the plan / project boundary area in carrying out the IROPI test.

4.5 Methods

The approach taken in preparing this document is broadly based on standard methods and best practice guidance, as listed in the References in Section 6. In the preparation of this Appropriate Assessment screening report regard has been given to the:

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (Habitats Directive).

- Statutory Instrument No. 477/2011 — European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

4.6 Desk Study

A desk study was carried out to collate information available on Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the proposed attenuation ponds at Sliabh Bawn, Co. Roscommon. The location of the proposed attenuation ponds and the surrounding area was viewed using Bing maps http://www.bing.com/maps/ (last accessed on 21 September 2016). The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and National Biodiversity Data Centre online databases were consulted concerning designated conservation areas in the vicinity of the proposed development.

The Roscommon County Council website online planning access http://www.eplanning.ie/RoscommonCC/searchtypes (last accessed on 21 September 2016) was

[2]The AA process as outlined is based on Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel, (2006) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans*. Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants.

consulted for information on other plans or projects in the area, which may result in a cumulative impact when considered with the proposed new access path at Sliabh Bawn. The planning website www.myplan.ie was also consulted (accessed on 21 September 2016) for information on other plans and projects in the area.

4.7 Site Visit

The location of the proposed attenuation ponds was visited by Elaine Dromey MCIEEM on 19th September 2016. The visit to the locations of the proposed attenuation ponds was carried out to allow the ecologist to put it in context in terms of existing ecology and the surrounding landscape. The site visit also allowed the ecologist to understand the scale and nature of the proposed works associated with the attenuation ponds.

4.8 Screening Process

The AA screening process is as follows:

- Identify Natura 2000 sites, within the potential zone of influence of the proposed attenuation ponds.
- Identify the features of interest of the Natura 2000 sites and review their conservation objectives.
- Review whether there is potential for the features of interest to be affected by the proposed works based on information such as the vulnerabilities of the Natura 2000 site, proximity to the development, nature and scale of the proposed works.
- Consider the likelihood of potential impacts occurring based on the information collated and professional judgement.
- Consider the likelihood of cumulative impacts arising from the proposed works in-combination with other plans and projects.
- Identify the likelihood of significant impact occurring as a result of the proposed works.

5 Appropriate Assessment Screening

5.3 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

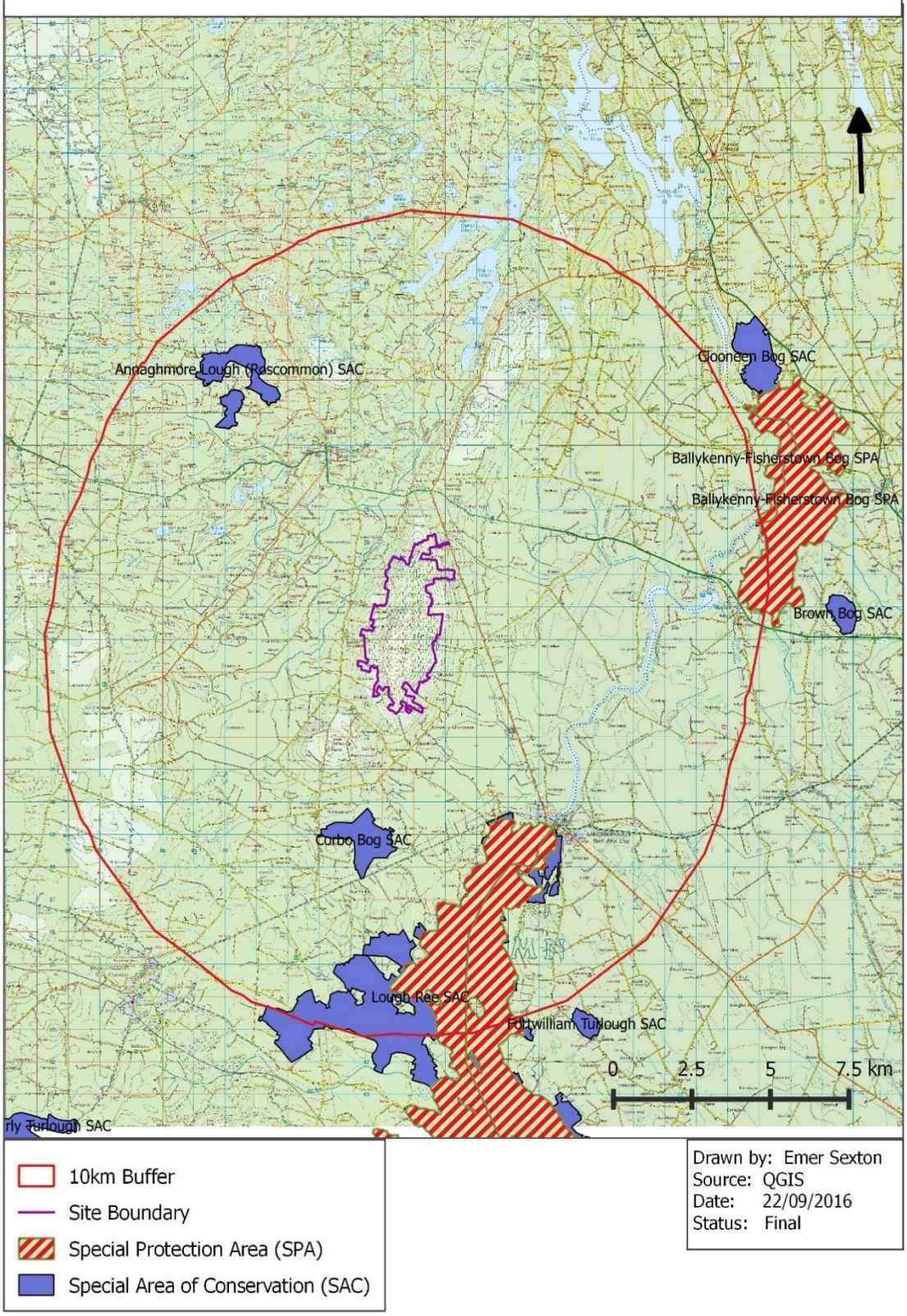
All Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of the proposed attenuation ponds were considered as the proposed ponds drain into the same river catchments. Natura 2000 sites more than 10 km from the development site were not included as they are not hydrologically connected to the location of the proposed ponds and are sufficiently distant from the pond locations as to be unlikely to suffer significant effects. The closest Natura 2000 site to the development is approximately 6.5 km to the south. See Figure 2 for all Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of the proposed ponds.

Table 1: Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of the development site.

Site Name	**Site Code**	**Location and distance Natura 2000 site boundary relative to the proposed attenuation ponds.**
Corbo Bog SAC	002349	Ca. 6.5 km south
Lough Ree SPA	004064	Ca. 7.0 km south
Lough Ree SAC	000440	Ca. 6.8 km south
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	001626	Ca. 7.6 km north-west
Ballykenny Fisher bog SPA	004101	Ca. 9.7 km east
Lough Forbes Complex SAC	001818	Ca. 9.7 km east

The features of interest and conservation objectives were identified for each Natura 2000 site, given in Table 1, above through the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website www.npws.ie (accessed on 21 September 2016).

Figure 2: Location of Natura 2000 sites relative to Sliabh Bawn Mountain



5.4 Brief Description of Natura 2000 Sites

A brief description of each Natura 2000 site, taken from the supporting information for each site available on the NPWS website[3] is provided below.

5.4.1 *Corbo Bog SAC (002349)*

"*Corbo Bog is located 7 km west of Lanesborough, mainly in the townlands Corbo, Cloonageeragh, Clooncashel Beg and Coolshagtena, in Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded on the south by the Lanesborough to Roscommon road, and a road from this one to Kilroosky forms part of the western boundary. Corbo Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance as it consists of a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. This site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummock/hollow complexes, pools and flushes. Corbo Bog is a medium sized raised bog located 7 km west of Lanesborough village in Co. Roscommon. It is one of a number of raised bogs in the area, though most of these have been cut to supply peat to power stations. The bog overlies Carboniferous limestone bedrock. Almost 60% of the site is uncut high bog though most of this is classified as degraded bog. The area of high bog is L-shaped and rather narrow. Cutover bog, often invaded by Betula pubescens scrub, surrounds much of the high bog. Some small areas of wet grassland are included in the site.*"

5.4.2 *Lough Ree SPA (004064)*

"*Situated on the River Shannon between Lanesborough and Athlone, Lough Ree is the third largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. It lies in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous Limestone. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10 m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to south, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of Inchmore.*

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Common Scoter, Goldeneye, Little Grebe, Coot, Golden Plover, Lapwing and Common Tern. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds. Lough Ree is one of the most important Midland sites for wintering waterfowl, with nationally important populations of Little Grebe (52), Whooper Swan (139), Wigeon (2,070), Teal (1,474), Mallard (1,087), Shoveler (54), Tufted Duck (1,012), Goldeneye (205), Coot (338), Golden Plover (3,058) and Lapwing (5,793) – all figures are three year mean peaks for the period 1997/98 to 1999/2000.

Other species which occur in winter include Great Crested Grebe (29), Cormorant (99), Curlew (254) and Black-headed Gull (307) as well as the resident Mute Swan (85). Greenland White-fronted Goose has been recorded on occasion on the flooded margins of the site. The site supports a nationally important population of Common Tern (90 pairs in 1995). It is a traditional breeding site for Black-headed Gull and whilst a full survey has not been carried out in recent years, substantial numbers of nesting birds were present on at least one island in 2003. Lesser Black-backed Gull and Common Gull have bred in the past and may still breed. Lough Ree is a noted site for breeding duck and grebes: Tufted Duck (202 pairs) and Great Crested Grebe (32 pairs) – records from 1995. Of particular note is that Lough Ree is one of the two main sites in the country for breeding Common Scoter, a Red Data Book species. Surveys have recorded 39 pairs and 32 pairs in 1995 and 1999 respectively. Cormorant also breeds on some of the islands within the site – 86 nests were recorded in 2010. The woodland around the lake is a stronghold for Garden Warbler and this scarce species probably occurs on some of the islands within the site.

[3] Taken from the supporting information available for each Natura 2000 site at http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/

Lough Ree SPA is of high ornithological importance for both wintering and breeding birds. It supports nationally important populations of eleven wintering waterfowl species. The site has a range of breeding waterfowl species, notably nationally important populations of Common Scoter and Common Tern. Of particular note is the regular presence of three species, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover and Common Tern, which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Parts of Lough Ree SPA are Wildfowl Sanctuaries."

5.4.3 *Lough Ree SAC (000440)*

"*Lough Ree is the third largest lake in Ireland and is situated in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous limestone on the River Shannon system between Lanesborough and Athlone. The site spans Counties Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. It has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. Although the main habitat, by area, is the lake itself, interesting shoreline, terrestrial and semiaquatic habitats also occur.*"

5.4.4 *Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC (001626)*

"*Annaghmore Lough is located 5 km north-west of Strokestown, Co. Roscommon. It lies at the centre of a network of small lakes in a rolling, drift-covered landscape. The shoreline slopes gently to the lake and these low-lying margins are extensively flooded in winter. In summer, when water levels recede, substantial areas of this shallow calcareous lake dry out, leaving flat expanses of exposed marl. A smaller, less calcareous lake occurs to the south of the site. The site contains a good example of alkaline fen vegetation. While the extent of the habitat is relatively small, it supports a range of typical species including scarce plants such as Eriophorum latifolium and several orchid species. Alkaline fen is nowadays a scarce habitat in Co. Roscommon. A population of Vertigo geyeri has been recorded at this site as recently as 2001. This is the only known location for this rare mollusc in Co. Roscommon and one of the few sites in western Ireland. Annaghmore Lough supports a good diversity of wintering waterfowl, with nationally important populations of Anas crecca and Anas clypeata, and small numbers of Cygnus cygnus and Pluvialis apricaria. The birds commute to other wetlands in the district.*"

5.4.5 *Ballykenny Fisher bog SPA (004101)*

"*Site is situated in the north central midlands overlying Carboniferous limestone. Lough Forbes is a naturally eutrophic lake on the Shannon system and is fed also from the north by the River Rinn. The lake has well developed swamp vegetation and displays natural transition to seasonally flooded grassland, marsh and raised bog. The raised bogs, known as the Ballykenny-Fishertown complex, are separated by the Camlin River, which has further areas of callow grassland.*

At the time this site was designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) it was being used by part of the Loughs Kilglass and Forbes Greenland White-fronted Goose population. The geese appear to have since abandoned the peatland sites in favour of grassland sites elsewhere. The site was regularly utilised during the 1980s and Greenland White-fronted Goose is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA. The last record of Greenland White-fronted Goose at this site was in 1990/91 (111 individuals). Merlin and Red Grouse have also been recorded within the site. The lake and callow grasslands provide good habitat for a range of wintering waterfowl species though most occur in relatively low numbers: Cormorant (51), Whooper Swan (40), Wigeon (419), Teal (444), Tufted Duck (49) and Goldeneye (11) – are counts are two year mean peaks for the period 1998/99 to 1999/2000."

5.4.6 *Lough Forbes Complex SAC (001818)*

"*This site consists of a number of different habitats, and is centred around Lough Forbes, a lake formed by a broadening of the River Shannon. As well as the lake itself, there is also a series of raised*

bogs, callow grasslands and a variety of other aquatic and terrestrial habitats to the west of Newtown Forbes on the Longford/Roscommon boundary.

The importance of the Lough Forbes site lies in its excellent diversity of habitats, some of which, for example the raised bogs, are rare and threatened. The site is also of ornithological importance for its wintering waterfowl, breeding Merlin and Red Grouse. The presence of Whooper Swan and Merlin is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive."

5.5 Conservation Objectives for the Natura 2000 sites

The Habitats Directive defines when the conservation status of the listed habitats and species is considered as favourable. The definitions it uses for this are specific to the Directive. In summary, they require that the range and areas of the listed habitats, and the range and population of the listed species, should be at least maintained at their status at the time of designation. Site-specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site.

Article (1) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) describes favourable conservation status for habitats and species as follows.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The detailed conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 sites, where available, were reviewed and considered when preparing this AA screening report. Conservation objectives[4] for each Natura 2000 site are summarised in Table 2 below.

5.6 Features of Interest and Potential Threats to the Natura 2000 Sites

The Features of Interest and potential threats[5] , as identified by NPWS, for 'the Natura 2000 sites listed above are given in Table 2 below, this information was obtained from the NPWS website (accessed on 21 September 2016). Most of the threats identified by NPWS relate to damaging land uses, changes in land use, pollution or loss of suitable habitat to support the qualifying species of the Natura 2000 sites.

[4] Found for each site at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites

[5] Threat is the term used by NPWS when describing activities that may affect the condition of the Natura 2000 site.

Table 2: Natura 2000 sites features of interest, conservation objectives and NPWS identified threats

Natura 2000 site name	Features of Interest	Conservation Objectives	NPWS identified sensitivities/threats[6]
Corbo Bog SAC 002349	7110 Active raised bogs* 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporio*n	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Active raised bogs in Corbo Bog SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. The long-term aim for Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration is that its peat-forming capability is re-established; therefore, the conservation objective for this habitat is inherently linked to that of Active raised bogs (7110) and a separate conservation objective has not been set in Corbo Bog SAC. Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion is an integral part of good quality Active raised bogs (7110) and thus a separate conservation objective has not been set for the habitat in Corbo Bog SAC.	Peat extraction within the bog is identified as the highest rank of impact / threat to this site. Other threats identified include peat extraction outside the site, fire, cultivation, development of roads, tracks and paths.
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626	7230 Alkaline fens 1013 Geyer's Whorl Snail *Vertigo geyeri*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Fire is listed as the highest ranking threat to the site with fertilisation ranked as a medium threat and grazing as a low ranked threat. The site synopsis also identifies drainage as a potential threat to the site and associated flood lands.

[6] The sensitivities/threats have been identified from the Natura 2000 standard data form and site synopsis for each designated site provided on www.npws.ie (accessed 25/02/15)

Natura 2000 site name	Features of Interest	Conservation Objectives	NPWS identified sensitivities/threats[6]
Lough Ree SPA 004064	Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038] Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050] Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052] Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053] Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056] Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065] Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) [A067] Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A125] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140] Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Lough Ree SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	Nautical sports are listed as being a high level threat to the site. Medium level threats to site include the following: • Walking. • Horse riding. • Fishing. • Hunting. • Fertilisation. • Invasive non-native species. • Grazing. Forestry is listed as a low level threat to the site.
Lough Ree SAC 000440	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation in Lough Ree SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Semi-natural dry grasslands and	High level threats: • None identified. Medium level threats: • Nautical sports (inside SAC). • Leisure fishing (inside SAC). • Fertilisation (outside SAC) • Grazing (outside SAC). • Mowing / cutting of grassland (outside SAC).

Natura 2000 site name	Features of Interest	Conservation Objectives	NPWS identified sensitivities/threats[6]
	Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0] Bog woodland [91D0] *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]	scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) in Lough Ree SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration in Lough Ree SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alkaline fens in Lough Ree SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Limestone pavements in Lough Ree SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. The status of Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles as a qualifying Annex I habitat for the Lough Ree SAC is currently under review. The outcome of this review will determine whether a site-specific	• Dispersed habitation (outside SAC). • Sylviculture / forestry (inside SAC). Low level threats: • Invasive non-native species (inside SAC). • Mowing / cutting of grassland. • Grazing (inside SAC). • Fertilisation (inside SAC). • Mowing / cutting of grassland (inside SAC). • Camping and Caravans. *"Land uses within the site include recreation in the form of cruiser hire, angling, camping, picnicking and shooting. Chalet accommodation occurs at a few locations around the lake. Low-intensity grazing occurs on dry and wet grassland around the shore, and some hay is made within the site. Some of these activities are damaging, but in a very localised way, and require careful planning. The main threat to the aquatic life in the lake comes from artificial enrichment of the waters by agricultural and domestic waste, and also by peat silt in suspension which is increasingly limiting the light penetration, and thus restricting aquatic flora to shallower waters. At present Lough Ree is less affected by eutrophication than Lough Derg."*[7]

[7] NPWS (2013) *Site synopsis for Lough Ree SAC*

Natura 2000 site name	Features of Interest	Conservation Objectives	NPWS identified sensitivities/threats[6]
		conservation objective is set for this habitat. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Bog woodland in Lough Ree SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets.	
Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA 004101	Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) [A395]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	High level threats: • None identified. Medium level threats: • Grazing. • Nautical sports. • Sylviculture / forestry. Low level threats: • Leisure fishing. • Hunting.
Lough Forbes Complex SAC 001818	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation in Lough Forbes Complex SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Active raised bogs in Lough Forbes Complex SAC, which is defined by a	High level threats: • None identified. Medium level threats: • Nautical sports. • Roads, motorways. • Dispersed habitation. • Invasive non-native species. • Fertilisation. • Grazing. • Urbanised areas, human habitation. • Peat extraction outside the Natura 2000 site. • Cultivation outside the Natura 2000 site.

Natura 2000 site name	Features of Interest	Conservation Objectives	NPWS identified sensitivities/threats[6]
		specific list of attributes and targets. The long-term aim for Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration is that its peat-forming capability is re-established; therefore, the conservation objective for this habitat is inherently linked to that of Active raised bogs (7110) and a separate conservation objective has not been set in Lough Forbes Complex SAC. Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion is an integral part of good quality Active raised bogs (7110) and thus a separate conservation objective has not been set for the habitat in Lough Forbes Complex SAC To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) in Lough Forbes Complex SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets	Abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing is listed as a high level threat. Abandonment / lack of mowing is listed as a medium level threat. Low level threats: • groundwater abstractions for public water supply. • invasive non-native species. • Hunting. • Leisure fishing. • diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities.

5.7 Likelihood of Potential Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites

The available information on the Natura 2000 sites was reviewed to establish whether or not the construction and operation of the proposed attenuation ponds is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of those sites. The likelihood of impacts on the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites identified in this report is based on information collated from the desk study and other available existing information.

The likelihood of impacts occurring are established in light of the type and scale of the proposed development, the location of the proposed development with respect to Natura 2000 sites and the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.

This screening report is prepared following the Cause – Pathway – Effect model[8]. The potential impacts are summarised into the following categories for screening purposes.

- Direct impacts refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development or agricultural purposes. Direct impacts can be as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the removal of agricultural practices that prevent scrub encroachment.
- Indirect and secondary impacts do not have a straight-line route between cause and effect. It is potentially more challenging to ensure that all the possible indirect impacts of the plan/project – in combination with other plans and projects - have been established. These can arise, for example, when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels. Deterioration in water quality can occur as an indirect consequence of development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals. The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect impact. Disturbance to fauna can arise directly through the loss of habitat (e.g. bat roosts) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.

5.7.1 *Identification of potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites*

Ponds A, B, C and the alternative location for Pond D are not located close to any watercourses. There are drains associated with the forestry plantation in close proximity to ponds A, B, C and alternative location D but these do not generally hold water and there is no regular flow of water through them. Pond D is located adjacent to a small watercourse, unmarked on Ordnance Survey Ireland Discovery Maps and the EPA envision website[9]. At the time of the site visit there was a regular fast flow of water in this small watercourse.

Sliabh Bawn mountain drains to the upper River Shannon via the Scramoge River to the west and the Feorish river to the east. Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA and Lough Forbes Complex SAC both drain into the upper River Shannon but are located upstream of the proposed attenuation ponds. Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA, Lough Forbes Complex SAC and Anaghmore Lough SAC are all upstream of the proposed attenuation ponds. The proposed locations of the attenuation ponds are not connected via hydrological surface pathways to Corbo Bog SAC. The location of the proposed attenuation ponds is upstream of Lough Ree SAC and Lough Ree SPA and these are the only Natura 2000 sites that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed attenuation ponds.

[8] The approach is broadly based on information contained in Cooper, L. M. (2004), *Guidelines for Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA of Plans, EPMG Occasional Paper 04/LMC/CEA*, Imperial College London.
[9] http://gis.epa.ie/Envision

The proposed attenuation ponds are not located within a Natura 2000 site. The closest Natura 2000 site, Corbo Bog SAC, is approximately 6.5 km to the south. There is no potential for direct impacts on Natura 2000 sites, such as habitat loss or fragmentation, arising from the proposed attenuation ponds.

The construction and operation of the proposed attenuation ponds is not likely to give rise to any of the threats to the site as identified in Table 2. The construction of the ponds has the potential to give rise to indirect impacts such as deterioration in water quality should soil enter a watercourse that is connected via hydrological surface pathways to a Natura 2000 site. The operation of the ponds is not likely to give rise to any indirect impacts as any water discharged from the ponds will be clean as any solid material will have settled in the pond.

The ponds at locations A, B, C and alternative location for Pond D are not located close to any watercourse that could carry polluting materials to Lough Ree SAC and SPA. The location for Pond D is adjacent to a small watercourse that is part of a network of small streams that flow into the Feorish River and eventually into the Upper River Shannon. Lough Ree SAC and SPA is located downstream of where the Feorish joins the Upper River Shannon.

The inclusion of pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology for the proposed ponds reduces any potential for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. The construction of the ponds is a temporary activity and the construction of the ponds will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. It is not considered likely that the construction and operation of the ponds at locations A, B, C and alternative location D has the potential to result in indirect impacts due to the combination of distance from the nearest watercourse (via a network of forestry drainage ditches), the inclusion of the proposed pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology and the distance from the Lough Ree SAC and SPA

Pond D is located adjacent to a small watercourse and as a result it is considered that the construction of this pond has the potential to indirectly impact Lough Ree SAC and SPA.

5.7.2 *Cumulative impacts*

The plans and projects, as outlined below, were reviewed and considered for in-combination effects with the proposed development.

- Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020.
- Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2014-2020.
- County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016.
- Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm.
- Other proposed and permitted developments in the area available on Roscommon County Council planning portal.

The proposed attenuation ponds A, B, C and alternative location Pond D are not considered likely to give rise to any impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, there is no likelihood of in-combination effects with the plans and projects listed above.

The provision of Pond D has the potential to indirectly impact Lough Ree SAC and SPA during construction. Therefore, it has the potential to act in-combination effects with the plans and projects listed above. The potential for in-combination effects is addressed below:

- There are no objectives within the plans listed above that could act in-combination with Pond D and give rise to a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites. It is not considered likely that the construction of Pond D will act in-combination with any objective within the plans mentioned above.

- Roscommon County Council carried out an AA screening assessment for Sliabh Bawn wind farm as part of the planning process and no significant effects on Natura 2000 sites were predicted. It is not considered likely that the construction of Pond D in combination with the development of Sliabh Bawn wind farm is likely to give rise to any impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

- The Roscommon County Council planning portal was searched and there are no proposed developments listed for the townland Trila (Martin) within which Pond D is located. Permitted developments are largely confined to single house and farm buildings. It is not considered likely that the construction of Pond D will act in-combination with any of proposed or permitted development.

Upon examination of the available information the provision of Pond D is not considered likely to give rise to in-combination effects with other plans and projects as described in above.

Table 3: Likelihood of impacts on Natura 2000 sites

Natura 2000 site	Location and distance of Natura 2000 site relative to the pond locations	Hydrological links between pond locations and Natura 2000 sites	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites due to the proposed development.	Likelihood of significant effects occurring	Rationale
Corbo Bog SAC 002349	Ca. 6.5 km south	No	No	No	Potential impacts are not considered likely due to the distance and lack of surface water pathways between the pond locations and Corbo Bog SAC.
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626	Ca. 7.6 km north-west	No	No	No	Anaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC is not connected via surface water pathways and is located upstream of the proposed pond locations.
Lough Ree SPA 004064	Ca. 7.0 km south	Yes. The eastern side of Sliabh Bawn drains to the Feorish River. The Feorish River flows into the Upper River Shannon which flows into Lough Ree.	Yes	No	Significant effects are not considered likely for due to the inclusion of pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology combined with the distance between the proposed pond locations and Lough Ree SPA.
Lough Ree SAC 000440	Ca. 6.8 km south	Yes. The eastern side of Sliabh Bawn drains to the Feorish River. The Feorish River flows into the Upper River Shannon which flows into Lough Ree.	Yes	No	Significant effects are not considered likely for due to the inclusion of pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology combined with the distance between the proposed pond locations and Lough Ree SAC.
Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA 004101	Ca 9.7 km east	No	No	No	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog is located upstream of the proposed pond locations.

Natura 2000 site	**Location and distance of Natura 2000 site relative to the pond locations**	**Hydrological links between pond locations and Natura 2000 sites**	**Potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites due to the proposed development.**	**Likelihood of significant effects occurring**	**Rationale**
Lough Forbes Complex SAC 001818	Ca 9.7 km east	No.	No	No	Lough Forbes Complex SAC is located upstream of the proposed pond locations.

5.7.3 *Likelihood of Significant Effects on Natura 2000 Sites*

The construction of Pond D is identified as having the potential to result in an indirect impact, such as a reduction in water quality, on Lough Ree SAC and SPA. The potential for impact to occur during construction is due to the proximity of a small watercourse to the proposed location of pond D. Lough Ree SAC and SPA are approximately 7.0 km south of the location of Pond D when measured in a straight line. However, this distance more than doubles when measured along surface water pathways.

The construction methodology for the attenuation ponds includes pollution prevention measures such as silt fencing, should any soil enter the watercourse close to Pond D the pollution prevention measures will prevent it from moving downstream. Any soil, or other deleterious matter, entering the watercourse during construction will therefore be localised and contained. Although unlikely to occur, should any pollutants travel further downstream they are unlikely to be of sufficient volume to result in an impact on water quality that could give rise to significant effects on Lough Ree SAC and SPA. It is therefore considered that the construction of Pond D is not likely to result in significant effects on Lough Ree SAC and SPA due to the inclusion of pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology and the distance between the location of Pond D and Lough Ree SAC and SPA.

5.8 Consideration of Findings

This screening report for Appropriate Assessment, based on the best available scientific information, shows that construction and operation of four proposed attenuation ponds poses no likely risk of significant effects to Natura 2000 sites within the identified potential zone of influence of 10km.

It is considered that the proposed construction and operation of four attenuation ponds within the townland of Trila (Martin), Doughill Forest, Sliabh Bawn Mountain, Co. Roscommon does not require progression to second stage Appropriate Assessment.

Based on this conclusion, we submit that the planning authority can determine that an appropriate assessment is not required, as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites in light of their conservation objectives.

6 References

Cooper, L. M. (2004), *Guidelines for Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA of Plans*, EPMG Occasional Paper 04/LMC/CEA, Imperial College London.

European Commission (2001) *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 (2000) *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC*.

European Union Habitats Directive, (1992). *Council Directives 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*.

NPWS (2009) *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.

NPWS (2014) *Site synopsis for Corbo Bog SAC (002349*). Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) Natura 2000 standard data form for Corbo Bog SAC (002349). Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) *Conservation Objectives: Corbo Bog SAC 002349. Version 1*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015). *Site synopsis for Lough Ree SPA* (004064).

NPWS (2015) *Natura 2000 standard data form for Lough Ree SPA (004064).* Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2016) *Conservation objectives for Lough Ree SPA [004064]. Generic Version 5.0*. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS (2016) *Conservation Objectives: Lough Ree SAC 000440. Version 1.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS (2015) *Natura 2000 standard data form for Lough Ree SAC (000440)*. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) *Site synopsis for Lough Ree SAC (000440)*. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2016) *Conservation objectives for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [001626]. Generic Version 5.0*. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

NPWS (2014) *Natura 2000 standard data form for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC (001626)*. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) *Site synopsis for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC (001626)*. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2012) *Site synopsis for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA (004101).* Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) *Natura 2000 standard data form for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA (004101).* Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2016) *Conservation objectives for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [004101]. Generic Version 5.0.* Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS (2016) *Conservation Objectives: Lough Forbes Complex SAC 001818. Version 1*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014) *Natura 2000 standard data form for Lough Forbes Complex SAC (001818*). Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014) *Site synopsis for Lough Forbes Complex SAC (001818)*. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel, (2006) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans.* Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants.

Websites:

www.npws.ie (last accessed 21st September 2016)

http://heritagemaps.biodiversityireland.ie/#/Map (Last accessed 21st September 2016)

http://gis.epa.ie/Envision (Last accessed 21st September 2016)

Appendix 1: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX

Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix	
Name of project or plan	Provision of four attenuation ponds, Doughill Forest, Co. Roscommon.
Name and location of Natura 2000 site (relative to location of proposed development)	Corbo Bog SAC 002349 Ca. 6.5 km south Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626 Ca. 7.6 km east Lough Ree SPA 004064 Ca. 7.0 km south Lough Ree SAC 000440 Ca. 6.8 km south Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA 004101 Ca 9.7 km west Forbes Complex SAC 001818 Ca 9.7 km west
Description of the project or plan	The proposed project involves the construction and operation of four new attenuation ponds within Doughill forest on Sliabh Bawn mountain.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?	➢ Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020. ➢ Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2014-2020. ➢ County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016. ➢ Sliabh Bawn wind farm. ➢ Other proposed and permitted developments in the area available on Roscommon County Council planning portal.
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.	It is not considered likely that the construction and operation of the ponds at locations A, B, C and alternative location D has the potential to result in indirect impacts due to the combination of distance from the nearest watercourse (via a network of forestry drainage ditches), the inclusion of pollution prevention measures in the construction methodology and the distance from the Lough Ree SAC and SPA Pond D is located adjacent to a small watercourse and as a result it is considered likely that the construction of this pond has the potential to indirectly impact Lough Ree SAC and SPA. The provision of Pond D is not considered likely to give rise to in-combination effects with other plans and projects.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address.	n/a
Response to consultation.	n/a

Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix	
Overall recommendations and conclusions	
The construction methodology for the attenuation ponds includes pollution prevention measures such as silt fencing and any soil, or other deleterious matter, entering the watercourse during construction will therefore be localised and contained. Although unlikely to occur, should any pollutants travel further downstream they are unlikely to be of sufficient volume to result in an impact on water quality that could give rise to significant effects on Lough Ree SAC and SPA. It is therefore considered that the construction of Pond D is not likely to result in significant effects on Lough Ree SAC and SPA. It is considered that the proposed construction and operation of four attenuation ponds within the townland of Trila (Martin), Doughill Forest, Sliabh Bawn Mountain, Co. Roscommon does not require progression to second stage Appropriate Assessment.	
Data collected to carry out the assessment (*Competent Authority to complete*)	
Who carried out the assessment?	
Sources of data	
Level of assessment completed	Appropriate Assessment Screening
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?	