

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

N17 Milltown to
Gortnagunne
Realignment, County
Galway





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1. INTRODUCTION

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 the proposed N17 Milltown to Gortnagun road realignment in Co. Galway.

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 in 2019 and 2021. 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.*
5. *EC 2021., Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*

1.1 Appropriate Assessment

1.1.1 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 legislation¹. 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.

1.1.2 Statement of Authority

A field assessment was undertaken by Julie O'Sullivan (B.Sc., M.Sc.) and Aoife Joyce on the 11th of July 2019. Aoife is an experienced ecologist with three years' experience. This report has been prepared by Julie O'Sullivan. Julie is an experienced ecologist with over four years professional experience. This report has been reviewed by John Hynes (B.Sc., M.Sc., MCIEEM) who has over nine years' experience in ecological consultancy.

¹ 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

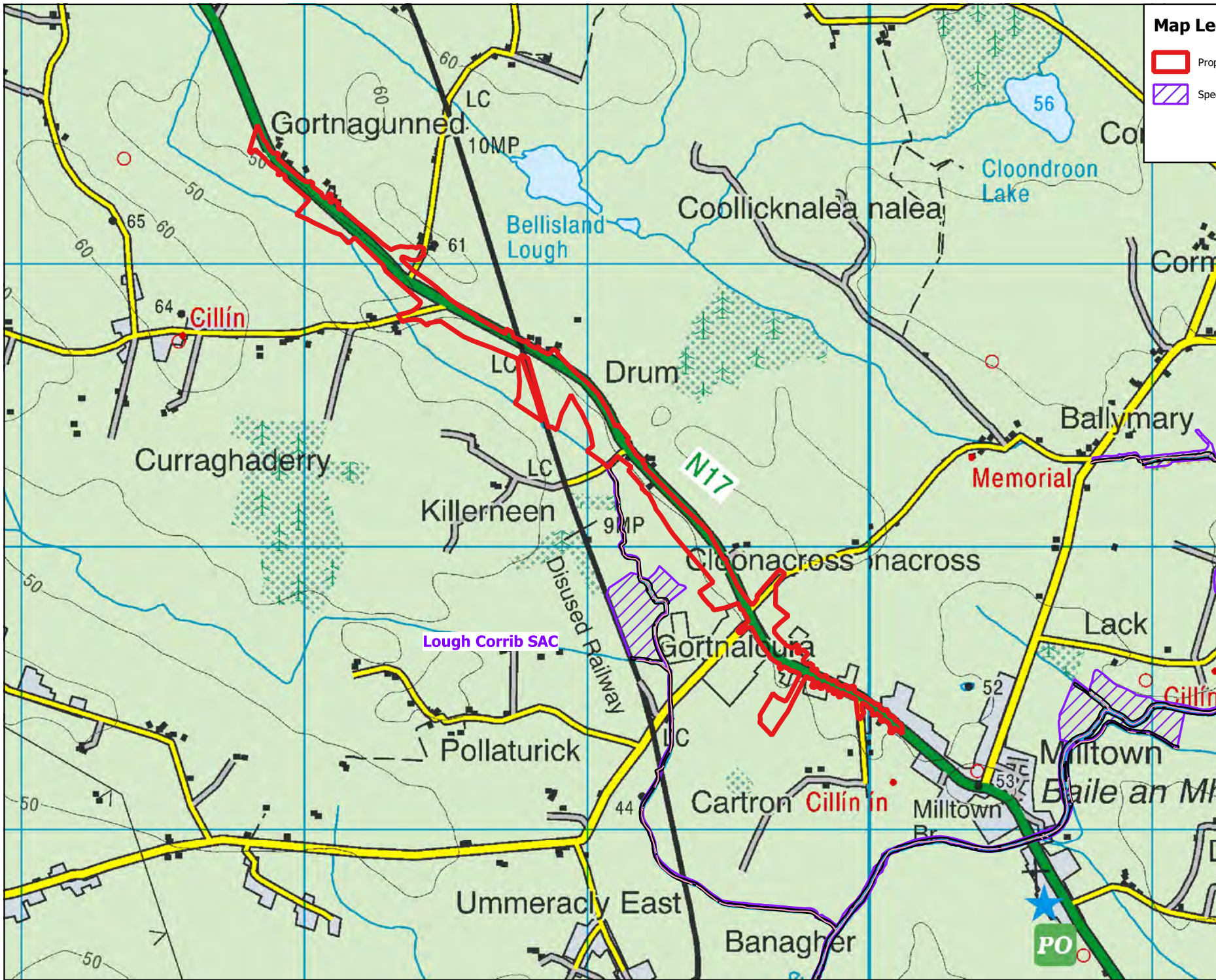
Galway County Council is currently planning a 3km (approx.) upgrade of the N17 National Primary Route, between the townlands of Milltown and Gortnagunned, located immediately north-west of Milltown, Co. Galway (grid reference: M 40235 63265).

The project is located along N17 from Milltown to Gortnagunned and consists of both online and offline realignment of the existing road. The scheme commences north at Gortnagunned and extends approximately 3.0km south where it ties in at Milltown.

The realignment will take place in the townlands of Milltown, Cartron, Gortnaloura, Cloonnacross, Drum and Gortnagunned. The project will remove a number of substantially deficient bends on this section of the route and in so doing, will improve aspects such as safety, sight distance, cross sectional width and drainage.

The proposed scheme will tie-in on the Northern end with an existing section of the N17 that has already been upgraded and is of a higher standard and on the Southern end will tie in with the town of Milltown.

The project location is provided in Figure 2.1.



Map Legend

- Proposed Development Site
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)



Drawing Title	
Site Location	
Project Title	
GCC N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned	
Drawn By	Checked By
CS	SM
Project No.	Drawing No.
190540	Figure 2.1
Scale: 1:7500	Date
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2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

2.2.1 Description of the project

The project will remove a number of substantially deficient bends on this section of the route and in so doing, will improve aspects such as safety, sight distance, cross sectional width and drainage. The road type proposed for the project corresponds to a Type 1 Single Carriageway arrangement. The site layout is shown in Drawings SE01-SE04 in Appendix 1.

The scheme includes the upgrade of 3km of the N17 North of Milltown, Co Galway. The realignment consists of both online on offline construction. The route consists of a Type 1 single carriageway and is designed in accordance with TII TD9. The road will consist of two lanes of 3.65m, a hard shoulder for each carriageway of 2.5m and verges of 3m, this cross section shall extend from Ch + 0 to Ch 2 + 560 of the scheme. Ch 2 + 560 to the end of the scheme is a Single Carriageway Urban Road with footway and cycleway on both sides of the carriageway. The design speeds for the proposed scheme are listed below, which is consistent and designed in accordance with TII DMRB's and DMURS.

- The design speed is 100km CH +0 to CH 2+180
- The design speed is 85km CH 2+180 to CH 2+560
- The design speed is 60km CH 2+560 to CH 2+945

The project will entail:

- Circa 3km of Realignment to the existing N17 National Primary Route (c. 1550m online and c.1450m offline);
- Junction Improvements including:
 - 7 no. Simple T Junctions, including one Right/Left Staggered T Junction;
 - Circa 0.775km of realignment to the existing local road network (tie-in works);
 - 34 no. Direct Access connections to the National Primary network (including 17 no. agricultural and 17 no. residential); Where the new road has been realigned away from the original N17, the number of local access points have been rationalised to provide one access point onto the main carriageway from a number of access points. This will improve the safety of the route by reducing the number of possible conflicts.
 - Where direct vehicular access to local properties and farmland has to be provided to the realigned road and cannot be mitigated, the minimum SSD will be maintained at all access points, particularly those that agricultural machinery will use.
- It is proposed to provide a footway/cycleway on the Left Hand Side (LHS) from Ch + 0 to Ch 2 + 560, 3m wide with a 2% slope falling towards the carriageway, with a reduced width of 2m from Ch 0 + 120 to Ch 0 + 200. The footway/cycleway is designed in accordance with DN – GEO – 03047 Rural Cycleway Design (Offline). Also, it is proposed to extend the footway/cycleway on both sides of the alignment from an approximate chainage of Ch 2 + 560 to Ch 2 + 945. The footway/cycleway is proposed to be 4.5m wide. This footway/cycleway is then extended on the western side of the alignment and goes offline from Ch 2 + 560 to Ch 2 + 310 utilising the old road corridor providing connectivity to the N17 Store. The footway/cycleway is designed in accordance with TD300/14 of the TII DMRBs.
- The proposed road drainage system will replace the current one where the road run-off is discharging directly to the receiving water courses and groundwater without any pollution control or attenuation. The proposed system will be designed to ensure the speedy removal of surface water in order to provide safe driving conditions and to minimise the impact of runoff on the receiving environment. The preliminary drainage proposals will be developed in accordance with the TII Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. The drainage system discharges to a local drainage network which flows south before eventually connecting into the River Clare approximately 1.5 km downstream. The River Clare is included within the Lough Corrib SAC.

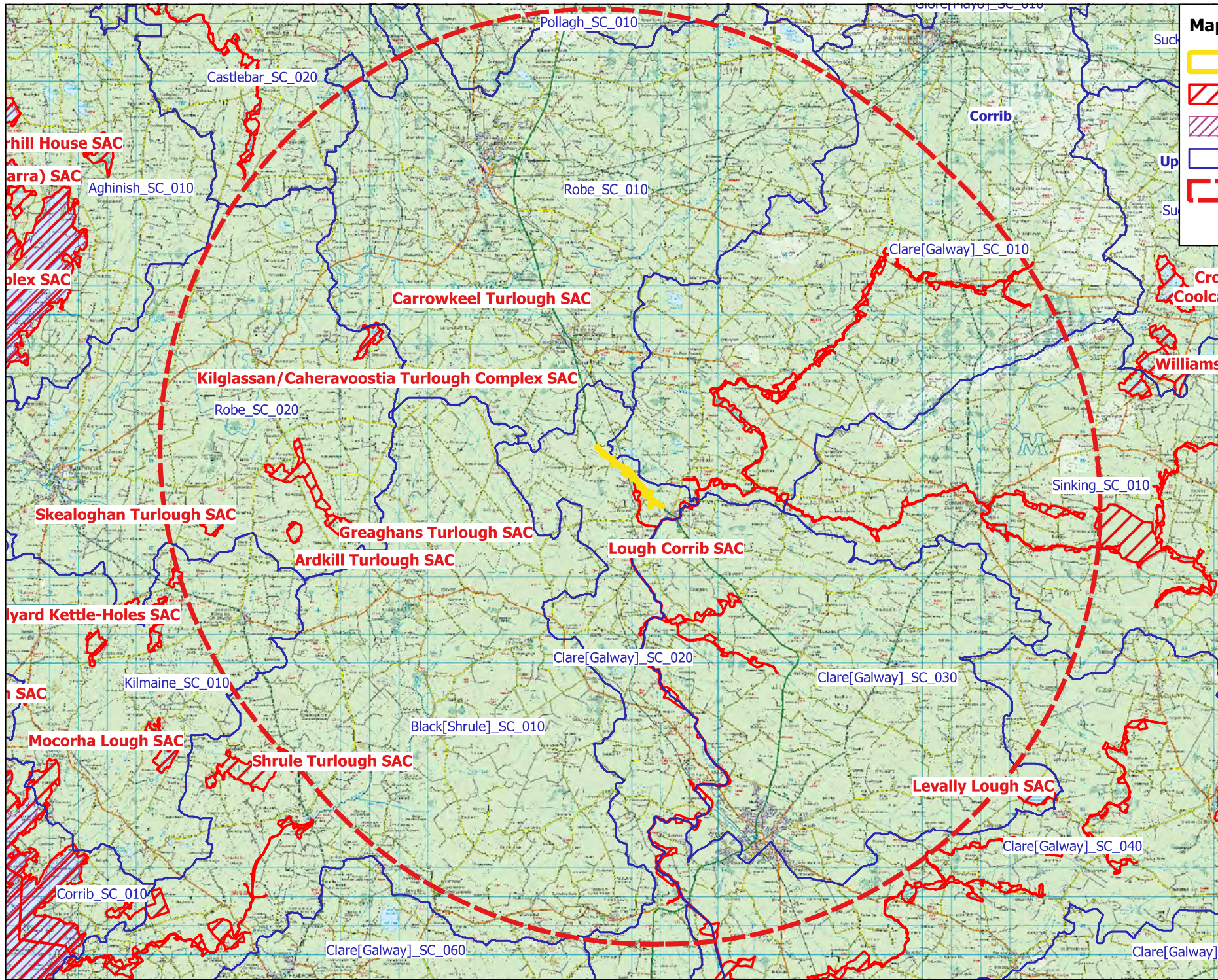
- > The new scheme intercepts various utility services along its mainline, link roads and side roads. The works required to protect/divert existing services shall be developed further during detailed design. Affected utilities include the following:
 - Low and Medium Voltage Electricity Lines
 - Water Supply
 - Telecommunications
 - Irish Rail
- > Earthworks operations; Data gained from the ground investigation will be interpreted and utilized during detailed design for the design of the earthworks required in the construction of the scheme. It is expected that the majority of materials required in construction will be imported as it is expected from that there are low volumes of acceptable material available within the site extents. 2 no. Spoil Repository/Borrow Pits
- > As the scheme has sections of work that are both on-line and offline and as such the Contractor shall be responsible to undertake the works in a manner that will cause the least amount of traffic disruption. The haulage of materials to and from the site will create a significant temporary impact to both road users and to residents living this section of the N17. To minimize these impacts, it is important that only authorized site access roads, as directed by the Local Authority, are used by construction vehicles. The construction process will be planned to accommodate existing traffic flows and the daily construction operations adjacent to the scheme. The overall traffic management strategy for the scheme will be developed further during the detailed design stage through development of the preliminary Traffic Management Plan.

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) and the EPA website (www.epa.ie) on the 08/12/2021. 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. Whilst all sites within 15km of the proposed development are shown in Figure 3.1, sites outside this 15km buffer were also considered in this initial assessment and the potential for connectivity with European Sites at distances of greater than 15km from the proposed development was taken into account. In this case, potential connectivity with sites located at a distance of over 15km from the proposed development was identified, i.e. Lough Corrib SPA, and this site is considered in Table 3.1 below.
- 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.
- 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), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report. 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
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  WFD Hydrological Sub-catchment
-  15km Buffer



Drawing Title
European Designated Sites within 15km

Project Title
N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned

Drawn By CS	Checked By SM
Project No. 190540	Drawing No. Figure 3-1
Scale 1:170000	Date 2021-11-08

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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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)			
<p>Lough Corrib SAC (000297)</p> <p>Distance: 0m</p> <p>(Works are adjacent to the SAC boundary)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] ➤ Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] ➤ Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i> [3140] ➤ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] ➤ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] ➤ <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] ➤ Active raised bogs [7110] ➤ Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] ➤ Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, April 2017) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct impact as the proposed development is outside of the site boundary.</p> <p>Indirect impacts on the following QIs can be ruled out due to the terrestrial nature of the habitats/species, the distance from the proposed development and the absence of a complete source-pathway-receptor chain for impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ▪ <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ▪ Active raised bogs* ▪ Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ▪ Limestone pavements* ▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ▪ Bog Woodland ▪ Slender Green Feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>)

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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] ➤ Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] ➤ Alkaline fens [7230] ➤ Limestone pavements [8240] ➤ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] ➤ Bog woodland [91D0] ➤ <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] ➤ <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] ➤ <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] ➤ <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] ➤ <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] ➤ <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] ➤ <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] ➤ <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393] ➤ <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] 		<p>According to Map 11 of the site-specific conservation objects document, Lough Corrib SAC has been selected for lesser horseshoe bats because of the presence of one important summer roost, located on the northern shores of Lough Corrib, more than 26km north-west of the proposed development site. The development site is outside the foraging range of the lesser horseshoe bat population for which the SAC is designated (i.e., 2.5km as per Map 11 of the SSCO document). There is no pathway for significant effect on the population of lesser horseshoe bat as a result of the development.</p> <p>This SAC is designated for the Owenriff freshwater pearl mussel population, which occurs in separate hydrological catchment to the works area. There is no pathway for significant effect on this population as a result of the development.</p> <p>A network of drainage ditches, that have surface water connectivity with Lough Corrib SAC, occur within the works area. Therefore, the proposed development has the potential to cause deterioration in surface water quality during construction and operation, potentially affecting the following aquatic habitats and supporting habitats for the aquatic fauna where they occur downstream of the proposed development:</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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ▪ Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ▪ Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ▪ Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ▪ Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ▪ Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ▪ Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> ▪ Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. ▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ▪ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>* ▪ Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ▪ Alkaline fens ▪ Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) <p>Taking a precautionary approach there is also potential for percolation of pollutants to groundwater during construction activities, potentially affecting the above listed aquatic QIs.</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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			<p>There is also potential for disturbance, displacement and collision mortality related impacts to <i>Otter</i> during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>This site is within the zone of likely impact, and further assessment is required.</p>
<p>Carrowkeel Turlough SAC (000475)</p> <p>8.3km</p>	<p>➤ Turloughs</p>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, January 2021) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>This European Site is located 8.3km north-west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p>This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.</p>
<p>Greaghans Turlough SAC (000503)</p> <p>8.8km</p>	<p>➤ Turloughs [3180]</p>	<p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, January 2021) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie</p>	<p>This European Site is located 8.8km west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p>This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.</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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
Kilglassan/Caheravoostia Turlough Complex SAC (000504) 9.5km	> Turloughs [3180]	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, January 2021) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	This European Site is located 9.5km west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.
Ardkill Turlough SAC (000461) 10.5km	> Turloughs [3180]	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, December 2020) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	This European Site is located 10.5km west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded. This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.
Skealaghan Turlough SAC (000541) 13.1km	> Turloughs [3180]	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, January 2021) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	This European Site is located 13.1km west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.

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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
			This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.
Shrule Turlough SAC (000525) 14.6km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Turloughs [3180] 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, January 2021) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>This European Site is located 14.6km south-west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p>This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.</p>
Clyard Kettle-Holes SAC (000480) 14.9km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Turloughs [3180] ➤ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] 	Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, October 2021) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	<p>This European Site is located 14.9km west of the proposed works area and is in a separate hydrological and groundwater catchment. Based on the lack of connectivity between the site and this SAC, potential for indirect impact on the European Site can be excluded.</p> <p>This site is not in the zone of likely impact, and no further assessment is required.</p>
Special Protection Area (SPA)			
Lough Corrib SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) 	This site has the generic conservation objective:	This site is 56.3km south of the proposed works via surface water connectivity.

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 08/12/2021)	Conservation Objectives	Likely Zone of Impact Determination
56.3km via surface water connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ➤ Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) ➤ Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) ➤ Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) ➤ Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) ➤ Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ➤ Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ➤ Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ➤ Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) ➤ Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ➤ Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ➤ Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) ➤ Wetland and Waterbirds 	<p><i>‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA’</i></p> <p>This site has a second conservation objective:</p> <p><i>‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Lough Corrib SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.’</i> (NPWS Generic version 8.0, 2021)</p>	<p>Based on the nature and scale of works and the distance from this SPA potential for indirect impact on the SCI species in terms of disturbance/displacement can be excluded.</p> <p>This SPA is located hydrologically downgradient of the proposed works and has hydrological connectivity via drainage ditches and watercourses that discharge to the River Clare. Taking a precautionary approach there is a potential pathway for indirect effects on the SCI species via impact to their supporting habitat, Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], through deterioration of water quality during the construction and operational phases of the development.</p> <p>Following the precautionary principle and based on surface water connectivity, the site is considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact and further assessment is required.</p>

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

Where potential pathways for effect are identified in Table 3.1 above, further assessment is required and the potential for the proposed works to contribute to a cumulative impact on Lough Corrib SAC and Lough Corrib SPA requires further assessment at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

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, Water Framework Directive (WFD),
- Review of specially requested records from the NPWS Rare and Protected Species Database for the hectads which overlap with the study area.
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) Reports
- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the proposed project.
- Review of relevant databases including National Biodiversity Ireland Database and available literature of previous surveys conducted in the area.
- Review of other plans and projects within the area.
- Site visits carried out by Julie O'Sullivan Aoife Joyce and Claire Stephens.

4.2 Concluding Statement

It cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information, in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, and in the absence of mitigation measures, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a likely significant effect on Lough Corrib SAC and Lough Corrib SPA.

As a result, it is recommended to the competent authority that an Appropriate Assessment is required and that a Natura Impact Statement be prepared in respect of the proposed development.

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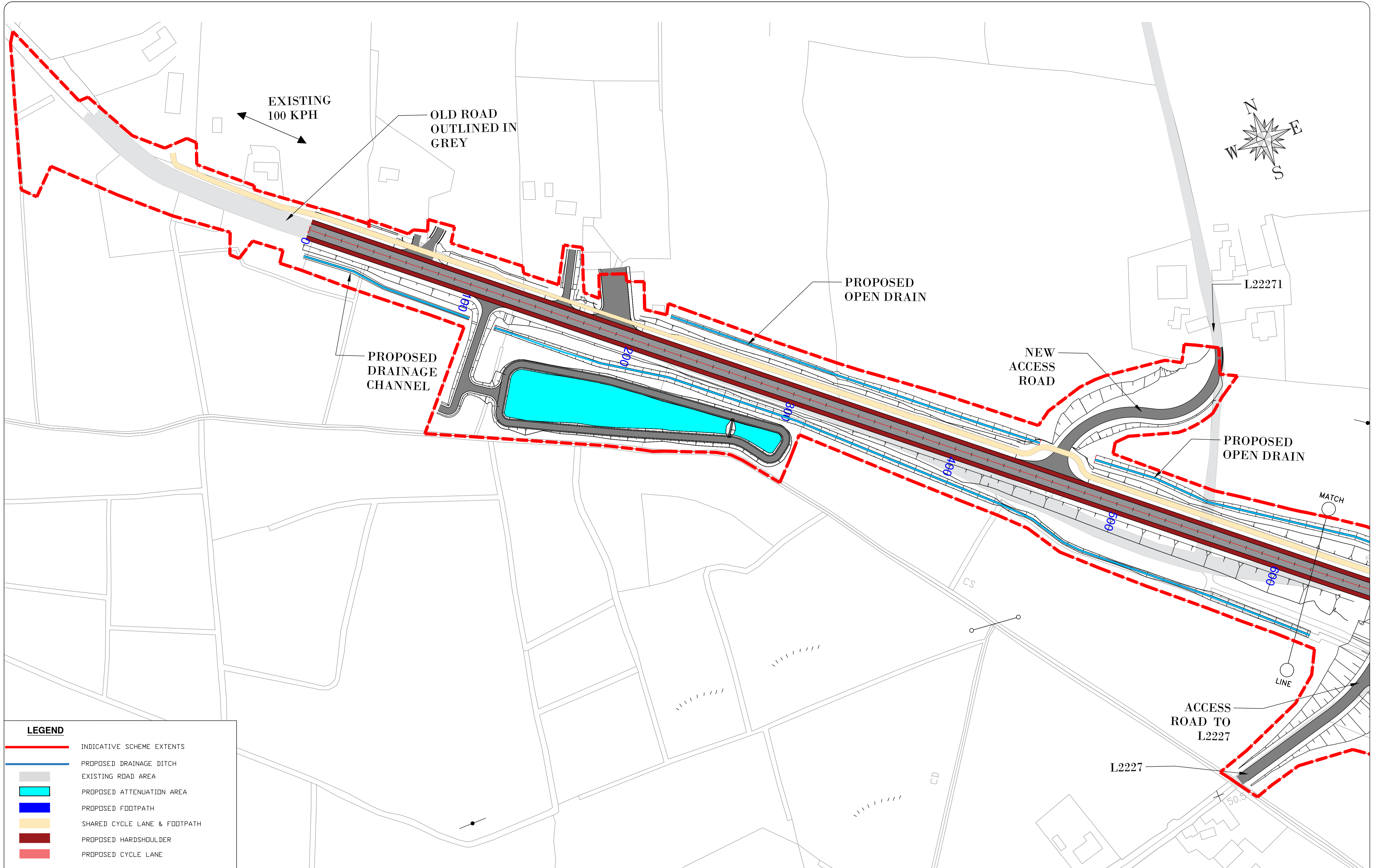
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APPENDIX 1

SITE LAYOUT DRAWINGS



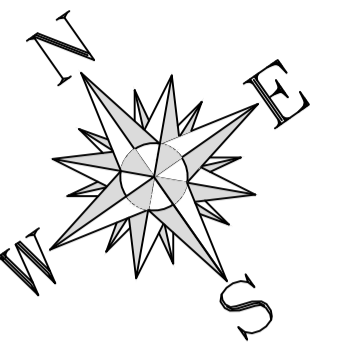
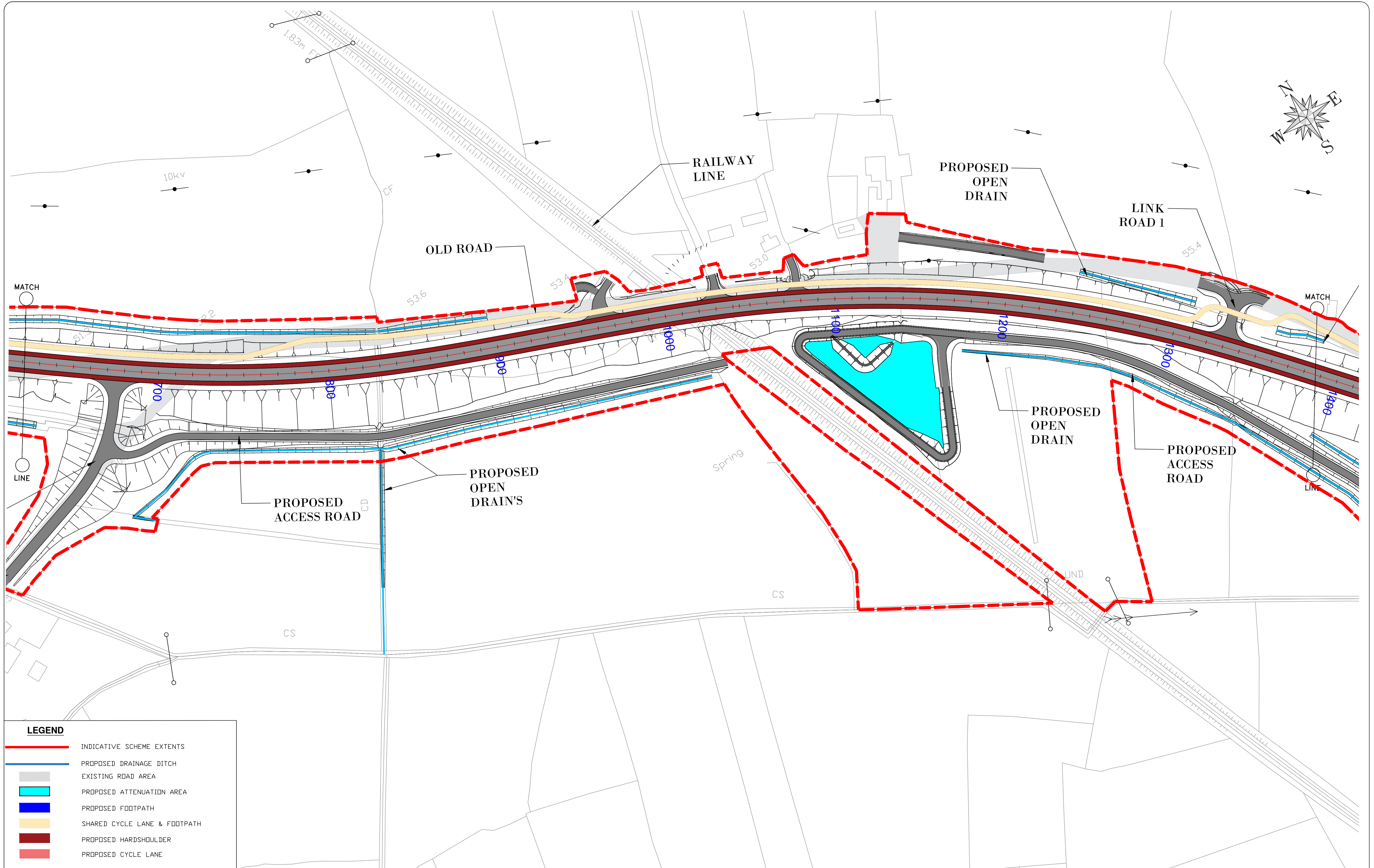
LEGEND

	INDICATIVE SCHEME EXTENTS
	PROPOSED DRAINAGE DITCH
	EXISTING ROAD AREA
	PROPOSED ATTENUATION AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH
	SHARED CYCLE LANE & FOOTPATH
	PROPOSED HARDSHOULDER
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE



REVISION:	MADE BY:	DATE:

PROJECT:	N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned		
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DESIGNED BY:	S.B.	FILE NO.:	
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CHECKED BY:	S.B.	DATE:	September 2021
DRAWING NO.:			SE-01



LEGEND

	INDICATIVE SCHEME EXTENTS
	PROPOSED DRAINAGE DITCH
	EXISTING ROAD AREA
	PROPOSED ATTENUATION AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH
	SHARED CYCLE LANE & FOOTPATH
	PROPOSED HARDSHOULDER
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE

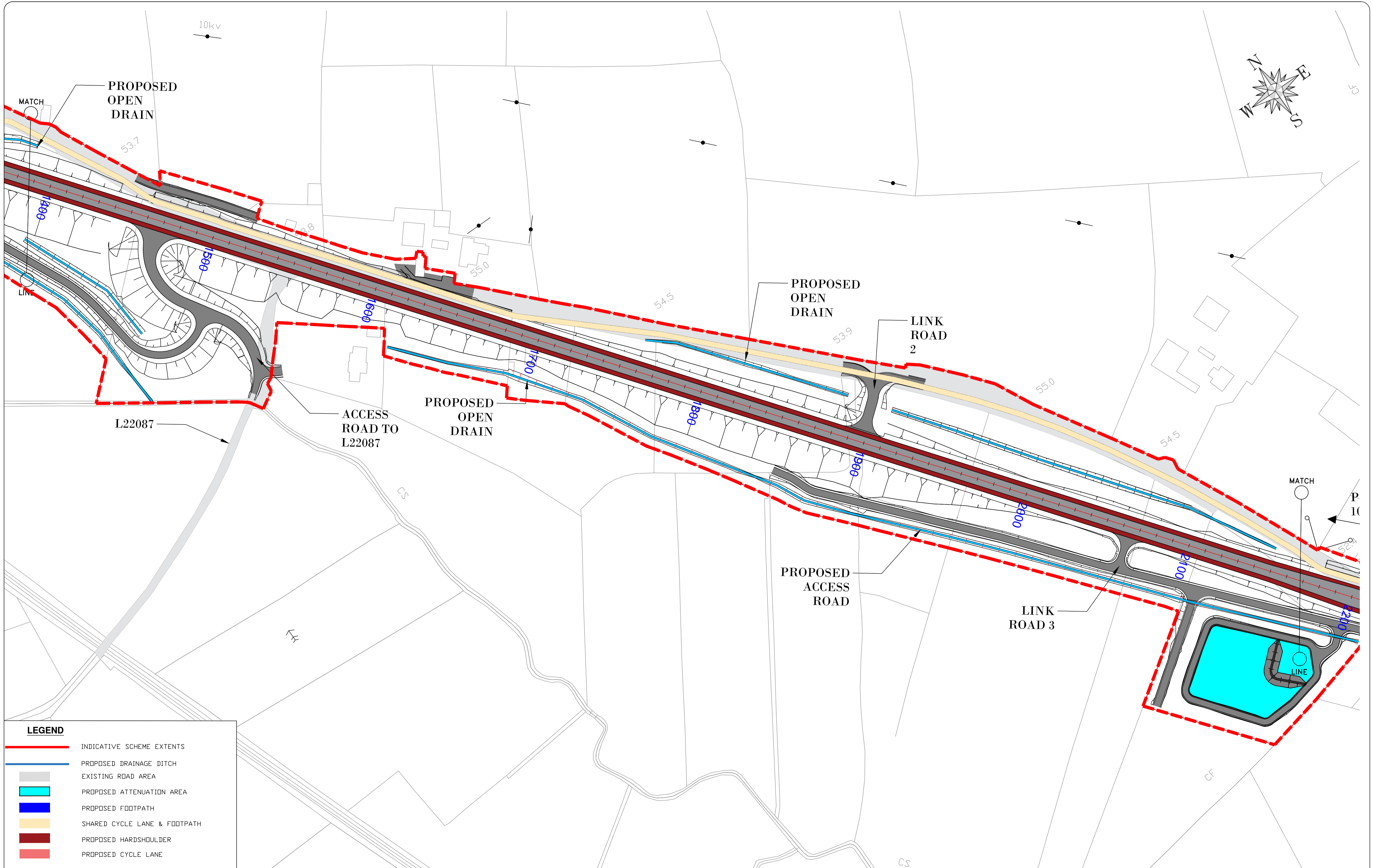


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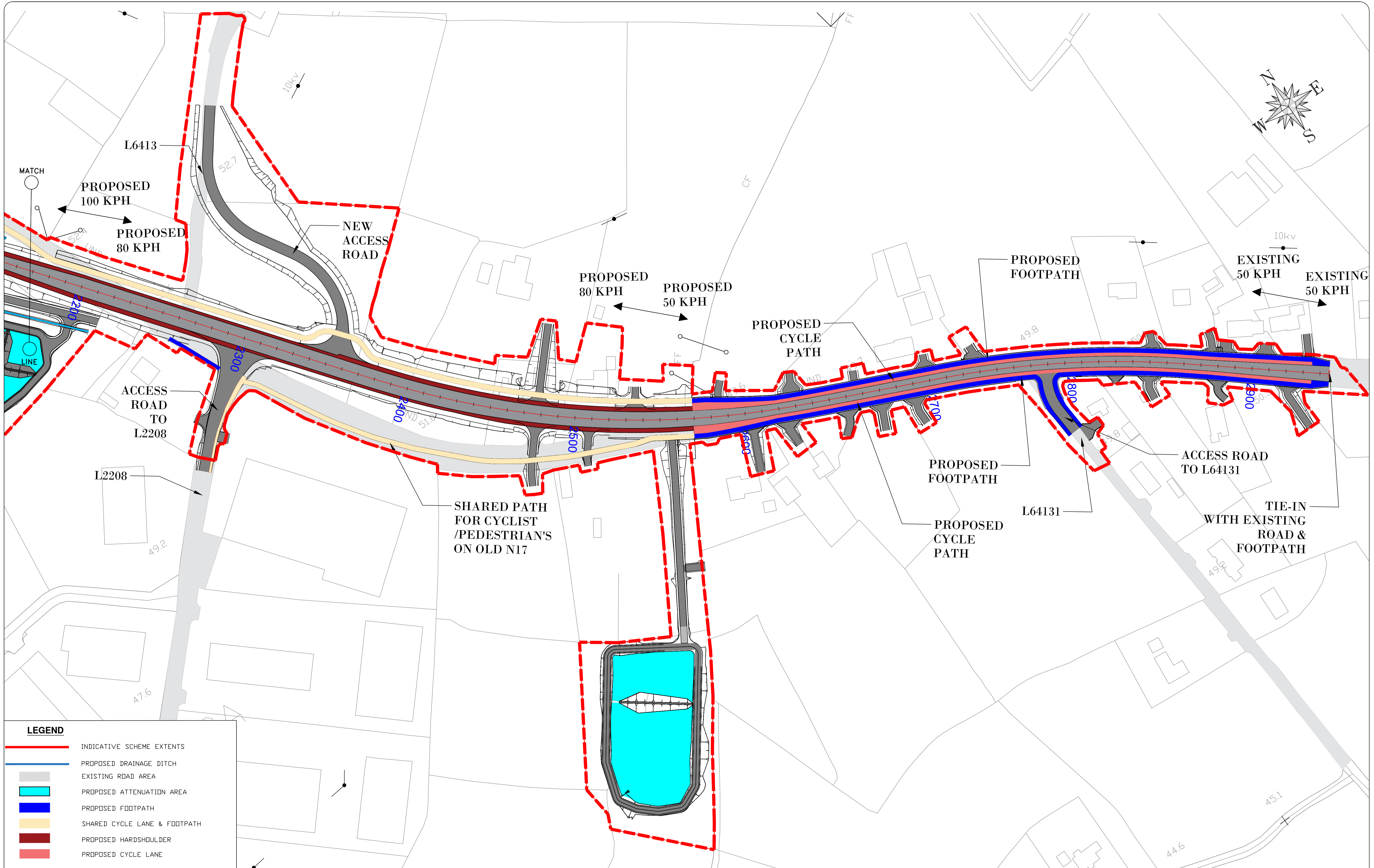
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	INDICATIVE SCHEME EXTENTS
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	EXISTING ROAD AREA
	PROPOSED ATTENUATION AREA
	PROPOSED FOOTPATH
	SHARED CYCLE LANE & FOOTPATH
	PROPOSED HARDSHOULDER
	PROPOSED CYCLE LANE



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DRAWING NO.:			SE-03



LEGEND

- INDICATIVE SCHEME EXTENTS
- PROPOSED DRAINAGE DITCH
- EXISTING ROAD AREA
- PROPOSED ATTENUATION AREA
- PROPOSED FOOTPATH
- SHARED CYCLE LANE & FOOTPATH
- PROPOSED HARDSHOULDER
- PROPOSED CYCLE LANE



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COMPONENT: Design Drawings	
TITLE: Site Extents Part 4	
DESIGNED BY: S.B.	FILE NO.:
DRAWN BY: A.M.	SCALE: 1:1000 @ A1
CHECKED BY: S.B.	DATE: September 2021
DRAWING NO.: SE-04	