

Screening Report for Appropriate
Assessment

Tuam Railway Station House, Vicar
Street, Tuam, County Galway

Minogue Environmental Consultants
Ltd.

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

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1 Introduction

Minogue Environmental Consultants (DEC) Ltd. has been commissioned by Galway County Council. to prepare a Screening Report in support of an Appropriate Assessment (AA), under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, for the works to the **Tuam Station House, Vicar Street, Tuam, County Galway (the project)**. See Figure 1.1 for the location of project site with an aerial view of the project site).

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to identify the potential for the project to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

1.1 Legislative Context

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

1.1.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

According to Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015, the competent authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not,
- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).

FIGURE 1-1 PROJECT SITE, LOCATION AND PLAN AREA BOUNDARY



This Report contains a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to assess and address all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to inform and allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, as amended (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into Irish law Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) lists habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats legislation requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site’s conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

1.2 Screening Methodology

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above and aims to establish whether or not the proposed project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site’s conservation objectives. In this context “likely” means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that **cannot** be ruled out based on objective information and “significant” means an effect that would undermine the conservation objectives of the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), 2021).

The nature of the likely interactions between the Plan and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon the:

- the ecological characteristics of the species or habitat, including their structure, function, conservation status and sensitivity to change; *and/or*
- the character, magnitude, duration, consequences and probability of the impacts arising from land use activities associated with the plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2010) and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*; Office of the Planning Regulator – OPR Practice Note PN01: *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, and recent European and National case law. The guidance document Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018) was also of relevance during the preparation of this Screening Report:

The EC (2021) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites that could be influenced by the project;

3. Where European Sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect European Sites identified under Point 2 above; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

1.2.1 Statement of authority

Ruth Minogue, MCIEEM prepared this AA Screening Report (AASR). Ruth is an environmental consultant with over 25 years of experience in completing ecological impact assessments, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessment. She has prepared Appropriate Assessment screening reports and Natura Impact Statements for a range of landuse activities and types including residential, public realm, recreation and renewable energy.

1.2.1.1 Scientific Investigations

A range of scientific site investigations have been completed for the project and these are relied upon in this AASR. A detailed description of methods to undertake these scientific investigations are set out in the Preliminary Survey Reports for Bats and Swifts completed by EireEcology¹ and are provided in full under separate cover with the planning application.

Site visits to ground truth habitats were undertaken in February 2025.

¹Eire Ecology 2025

2 Project description

Permission is being sought at Tuam Station House, Vicar Street, in the Townland of Vicarschoral Land, Tuam, for:

change of use from former commercial uses to office and event space. Demolition of internal and external elements to provide new office space and welfare facilities, and new glazed connecting walkway. New single storey extension to accommodate an event space and new two storey extension to facilitate a podcast room at ground floor and canteen at first floor level, with new fully accessible entrance area. New hard and soft landscaping and all ancillary site works. The proposed development will include work to Recorded Protected Structure No. 52 and to a building listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 30331045

2.1.1 The scope of works shall include:

- Change of use from former commercial uses to office and event space.
- Demolition of existing contemporary single storey extensions to station house at southeast and northwest gable elevations (circa 57.5 m²)
- Demolition of contemporary masonry corridor to platform elevation of station house, circa 91 m².
- Demolition of contemporary internal elements to facilitate the construction of new reception area, offices, plant room, stores, toilet facilities, and ancillary accommodation.
- Demolition of existing contemporary, masonry-built site boundary wall.
- Construct new single storey extension to northwest gable of station house building to accommodate an event space circa 50 m².
- Construct new two storey extension to southeast gable of station house to accommodate a podcast room at ground floor level, and canteen at first floor level with accessible stairs and lift in lobby area circa 116 m².
- Construct new glazed connecting corridor to platform elevation to replace the contemporary masonry corridor.
- Repair and or replacement of existing timber sash windows and replacement of contemporary main entrance double door with new timber double door.
- Repair and replacement of existing suspended timber floor.
- Repair and or replacement of timber roof structure to main station house roof.
- Replacement of damaged slates to main roof to match existing as far as practicable and retention and reinstatement of existing slates.
- Repair and or replacement of existing cast iron rainwater goods to match.
- Repair of projecting timber facia and soffits and carved timber brackets throughout.
- Repair of existing brick chimney stacks, reinstatement of lead flashing, and installation of new traditional style chimney pots.

- Thermal upgrade works within the station building using vapour diffusible or breathable materials to suit historic fabric.
- New mechanical and electrical services to be installed in such a way as to preserve and protect historic fabric as far as practicable.
- Repair and or replacement of timber roof structure to lean-to platform canopy.
- Replacement of existing corrugated iron roof sheet to existing lean-to platform canopy in accordance with conservation architects' recommendation.
- Repair of existing wrought iron pedestrian bridge, stairs and balustrade.
- Repair of cast-iron water tank and repointing of cut limestone base, and renovation of existing historic doors and ironmongery with the inclusion of ventilation openings.
- Undertake all necessary repair works to metal water tank to limit further fabric degradation.
- New surface finishes to railway platform to replace existing tarmacadam with retention of existing interlocking limestone blocks to platform edge.
- New hard and soft landscaping to include public seating, pedestrian avenue, planting beds, and all associated site works.
- New building mounted and free-standing signage and external public lighting.

2.1.2 Lighting

Any lighting provided to the building envelope will be low level and downward facing. Only lighting proposed at this project, is low level bollards to the front of the building and emergency bulkheads over exit doors. These can be limited to a max. output of 3000K if necessary.

2.1.3 Duration of works and approach to works

The duration of the works will be in the region of 14 – 18 months.

1. Construction compounds – their location will be determined upon detailed design and contractor appointment.
2. Potential machinery: standard machinery as for most construction projects.

The contract documents shall include for the following:

- The Contractor shall establish and implement, during the execution and completion of the Works, an Environmental Operating Plan consistent with and analogous to the NRA "Guidelines for the Creation, Implementation and Maintenance of an Environmental Operating Plan".

3 Description of the Site location

The project is located in the town centre Tuam. In terms of total area covered by the project, please see below, this adds to total area within the red line boundary of 0.25 hectares.

Tuam is located within the Corrib catchment (030), with its hydrology primarily influenced by the River Nanny and its tributaries. The project site is located within the Clare -Galway subcatchment (SC 030).The River Nanny flows eastward through the town toward Weir Bridge, where it joins the River Clare.. The Clare River flows in a meandering north-south direction west of Tuam and eventually discharges into Lough Corrib, approximately 30km downstream to the southwest. Another significant watercourse, the Killeelaun (Suileen), a tributary of the River Clare, drains portions of Tuam's southern environs. The nearest surface water monitoring locations are at the Nanny River, c570m north of the project site and water quality is assigned a Q Value of 2 (poor quality) in the most recent EPA monitoring survey carried out (station code: RS14B050490) the river was assigned a Q Value of 3 (poor status); this waterbody is at risk of not meeting the Water Framework Directive objectives by 2027. Figure 3.1 presents indicative surface water flows and 3.2 presents surface water quality.

FIGURE 3-1 PLAN AREA AND INDICATIVE SURFACE WATER FLOWS

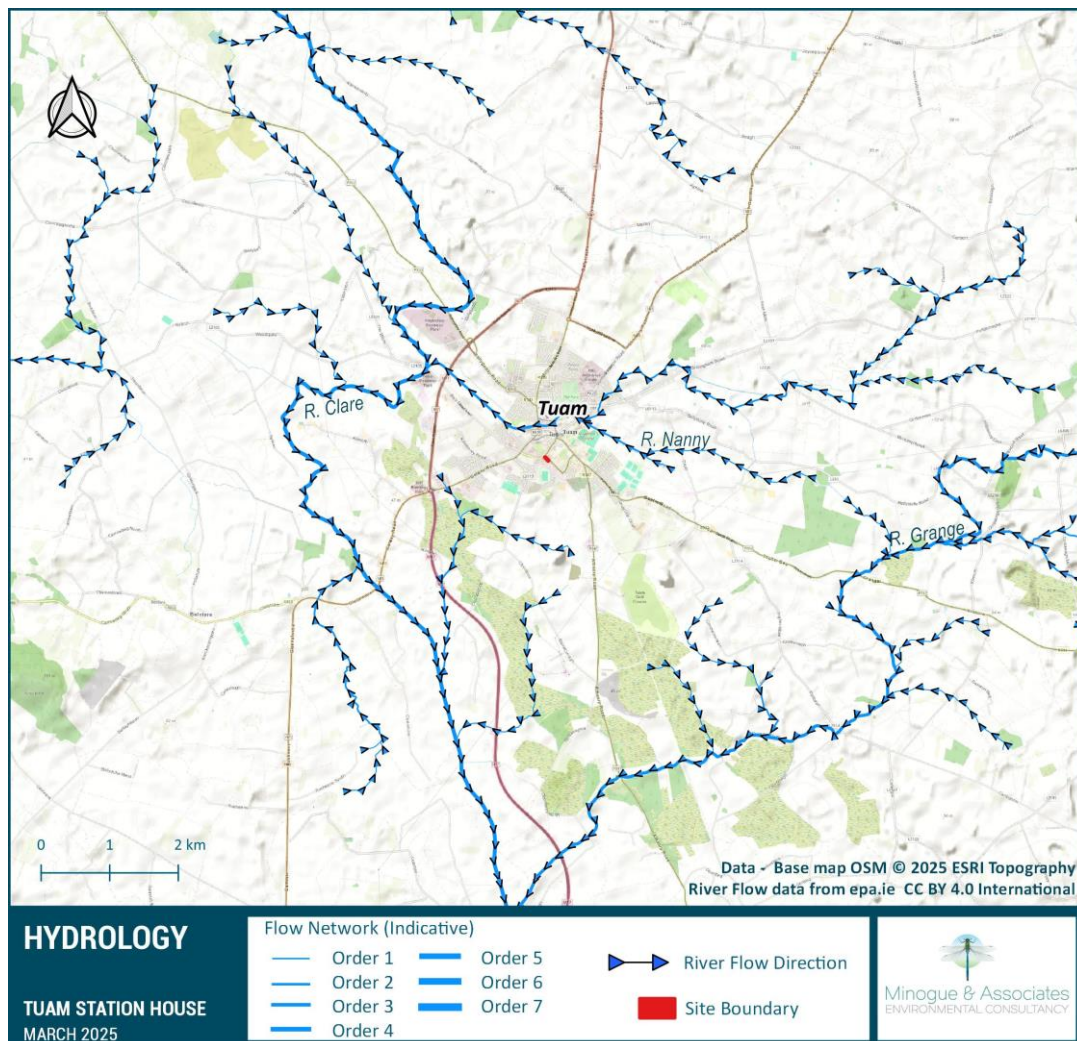
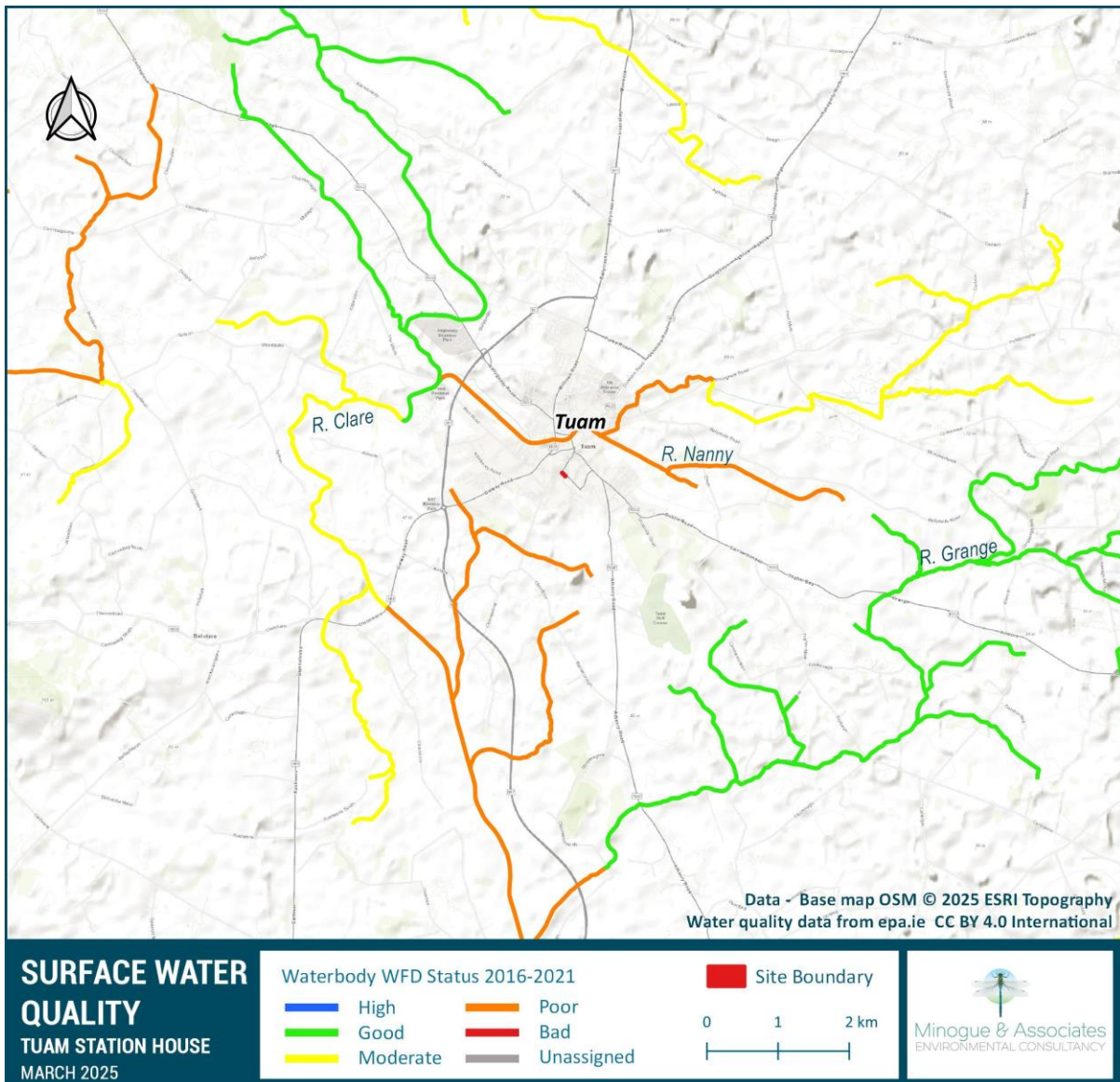
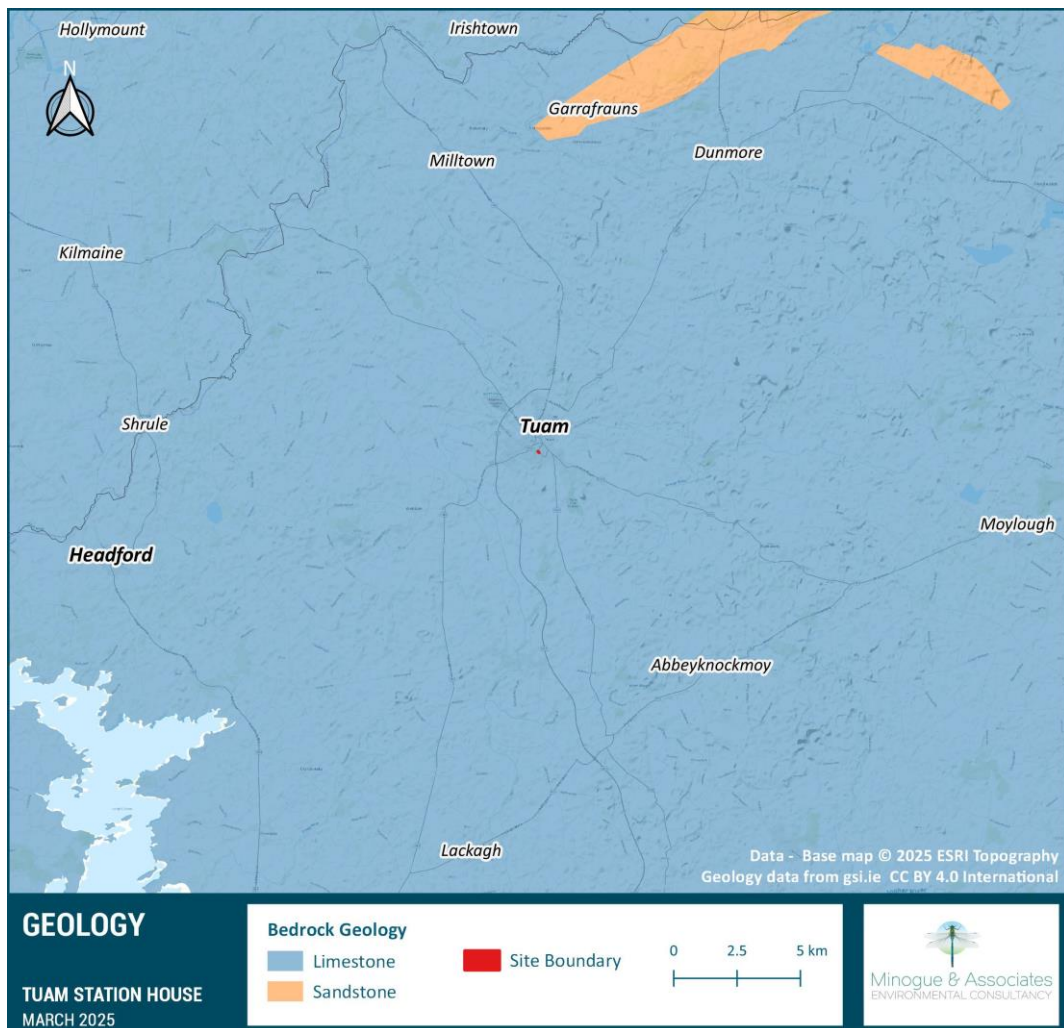


FIGURE 3-2 SURFACE WATER QUALITY



Soil and geology within the plan area are made soils associated with the urban landuse and the underlying geology comprises limestone. A review of historic maps from 1st Edition 6" and 2nd Edition 25" identify the station as present on the 2nd Edition OS map. Groundwater vulnerability within the plan area is moderate. The project area is located within the Clare-Corrib groundwater body (IE_WE_G_0020) and is not at risk of not meeting the Water Framework Directive objectives for 2027 .

FIGURE 3-3 BEDROCK GEOLOGY



Given the urban character of the project site, the dominant habitat on site is BL3, Built Land and Artificial Surfaces. The habitats on the project site are built land and artificial surfaces, however, the presence of the former railway line provides a wider ecological corridor across the landscape. The wider landscape supports improved grassland, scrub and woodland.

A preliminary swift and bat survey report has been prepared by Eire Ecology² and this identified a bat roost in the southern extension attic of the building, the droppings indicated it is a small bat roost. No evidence of swift use was confirmed but cannot be ruled out; therefore, additional ecological surveys for bats and swifts in the relevant season are recommended.

Table 3.1 presents the record of protected species based on the 1km tetrad from Biodiversity Ireland.

² Bat and Swift Preliminary Inspection Report Tuam Train Station, Co Galway, Eire Ecology 2025

Table 3-1 Protected species recorded within 1km grid M4351 (NBDC, accessed 18th March 2025)

Species Name	Count	Date of record	Designation
Lesser Noctule (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>)	4	15/08/2012	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	2	18/08/2005	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

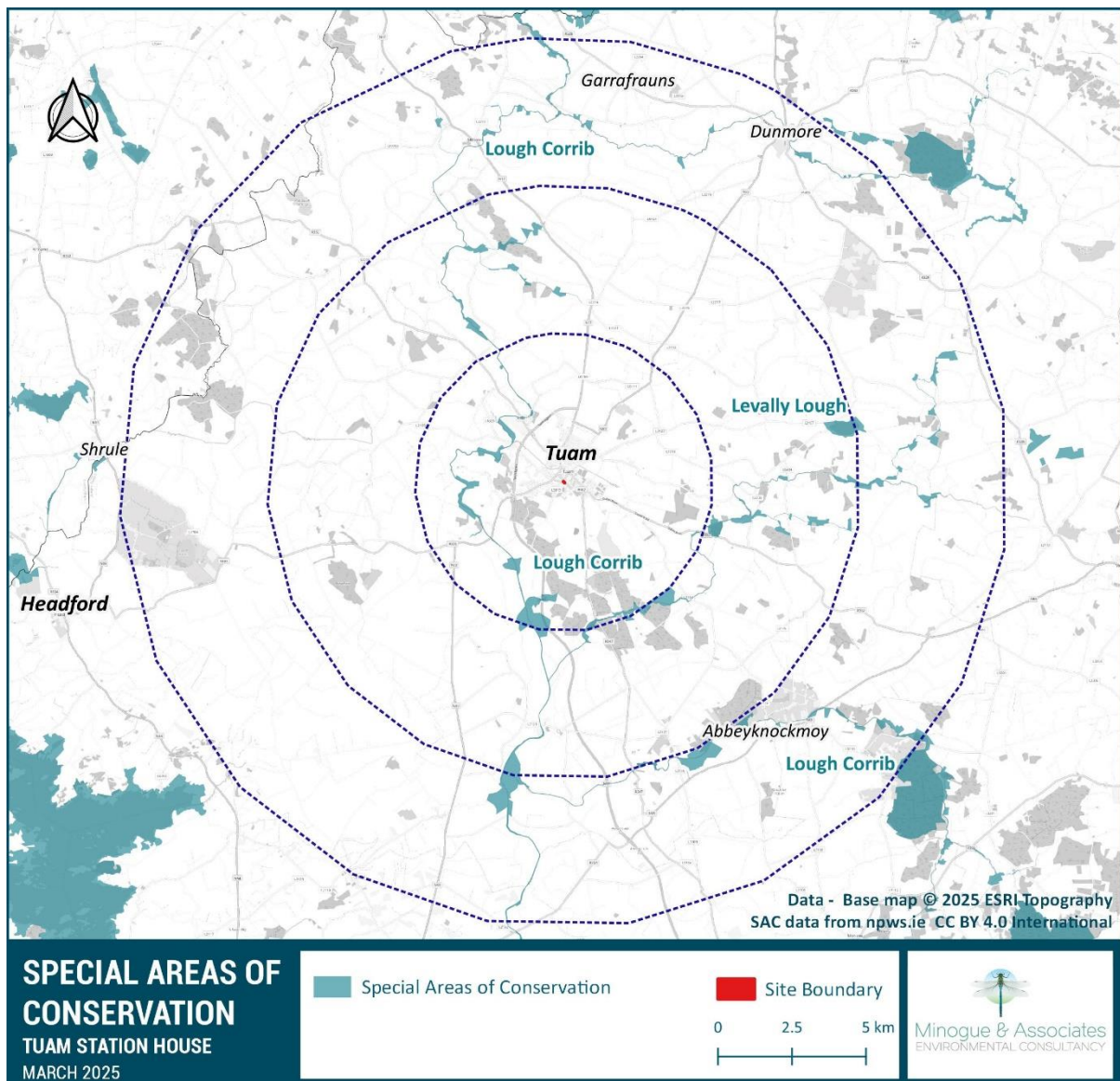
The NBDC database identified no invasive species listed on the Third Schedule and subject to restriction under Regulations 49 and 50 SI 477 of 2011. Stands of butterfly bush, *Buddleia* spp are present adjacent to the railway line.

3.1 Designated conservation area

There are no European sites within or directly adjacent to the boundaries of the proposed development site. The nearest SAC is the Lough Corrib SAC, located approximately 2.12km west of the project site. The Clare River is located approximately 2km north of the site and connects hydrologically into the Lough Corrib SAC.

No Special Protection Areas are located within 15km of the plan area and no habitats are present within the project area upon which mobile species of conservation interest rely (see section above on habitat map and protected species identified via desktop research). The nearest Special Protection Areas is located 18.97km west, the Lough Corrib SPA. The nearest natural heritage area/proposed natural heritage area is Knockavanny Turlough approximately 4km northeast of Tuam town.

FIGURE 3-4 SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION, NO SPAS PRESENT WITHIN 15KM.



3.2 Is the project Necessary for the conservation Management of European Sites

The project has been described in Section 2 of this Screening Report and it is clear from the description provided that the project is not directly connected with or necessary for the future conservation management of any European Sites.

4 European Sites

4.1 Identification of European Sites

Current guidance (OPR, 2021) informing the approach to screening for Appropriate Assessment defines the zone of influence of a proposed development as the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. It is recommended that this is established on a case-by-case basis. In order to identify European Sites that could potentially be located within the zone of influence of the project, the current digital mapping (shapefile) of European Sites in Ireland³, as published by the NPWS, was reviewed to identify the European Sites that could conceivably be connected to the project site via pathways. The OPR guidelines recommend that for projects that are located within or immediately adjacent to European Sites, the relevant European Site should be automatically selected for consideration in the screening exercise. Given that no element of the project occurs within or adjoining a European Sites, the automatic selection of European Sites for further consideration is not triggered. In view of this, this screening exercise will turn its attention to identifying the European Sites that fall within the zone of influence of the project by virtue of pathway connections between the project and European Sites. A Source-Pathway-Receptor model is used to identify the European Sites within the zone of influence of the project.

A total number of 2 European Sites, comprising 2 SACs, occur within a 15km radius of the Plan boundary (see Figures 3.4). These European Sites along with their qualifying features of interest are presented in Table 4.1.

³

TABLE 4-1 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN 15KM OF THE PROJECT SITE

Site code	Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features of Interest
000297	Lough Corrib	2.120	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]</p> <p>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</p> <p>Active raised bogs [7110]</p> <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</p> <p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Limestone pavements [8240]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Bog woodland [91D0]</p> <p><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <p><i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]</p> <p><i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]</p>
000295	Levally Lough	8.950	Turloughs [3180]

4.2 Identification of pathway between the project site & European Sites

The OPR Guidelines recommend that the zone of influence is established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model. All European Sites in the wider area surrounding the project site are shown on Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2 above.

Under the SPR model the project, the works associated with the construction and the operation of the project represent the source of potential impacts. Pathways are represented by vectors that could potentially convey impacts from the project site to European Sites and qualifying features of interest. The receptors are European Sites and their qualifying features of interest. The type of pathways that could represent vectors for the conveyance of impacts are considered in Section 4.2.1 below.

4.2.1 SPR Model Pathways

Pathways that can arise as a result of development projects and lead to offsite/downstream impacts are listed below and an appraisal of the potential for these pathways to connect the project to European Sites and their qualifying features of interest are also listed below and each are examined for their potential to function as pathways connecting the project to European Sites.

4.2.1.1 Emissions to Surface water

Given the distance from the project site to the nearest surface water feature is over 572m north buffered from the project site via built land and artificial surfaces, and no connecting drains, there is no potential for the project to result in the emission of surface water runoff from areas of project works to receiving surface waterbodies of the Nanny River, which in turn drain to the River Clare and connects downstream to the Lough Corrib SAC. Given the nature of works relating to an existing building and its refurbishment, the distance between the project site and SAC and the distance and buffering provided by existing built land and absence of hydrological pathway between project site and the River Nanny, this is not considered to be a functional impact pathway.

4.2.1.2 Emissions to Groundwater

As set out in Section 3.2 above the project site is underlain by limestone bedrock. The absence of deep excavations or groundworks given the nature of the project ensures this groundwater pathway is not considered to be a functional pathway.

4.2.1.3 Noise & Vibration Emissions

Noise and vibration emissions are considered to have the potential to result in negative impacts to biodiversity up to a 300m distance from the emission source. This distance is based on the maximum noise disturbance zone of 300m for wetland bird species, as specified by Cutts et al. (2013)⁴. Noise and vibration effects for other qualifying species as well as qualifying habitats of European Sites are less than 300m. For mammal species listed as qualifying features of interest for SACs in the surrounding area this distance is set at 150m, as per the NRA (2009). For qualifying aquatic species, a potential noise and vibration impact pathway will only arise where works such as piling or blasting are proposed at instream or bankside locations within adjoining SACs. No such proposals form part of the project. No European Sites occur within such distances of the project and the potential for works

⁴ It is noted Nature Scotland (2022) published disturbance zones for bird species at a greater distance than 300m. However, unlike Cutt et al. (2013) who specifically examined disturbance effects generated by noise stimuli, the potential disturbance stimuli set out in the Nature Scotland publication are not concerned specifically with noise stimuli. As such the Cutts et al. (2013) publication and maximum noise disturbance distance is relied upon.

associated with the project to result in disturbance to qualifying features of interest of European Sites as a result of noise or vibration emission will not arise. In view of this a noise and vibration pathway is screened out.

4.2.1.4 Emissions to Air

Air emissions identified as having the potential to arise from the project relate to the generation of dust emissions during the construction phase. Dust emissions can have the potential to result in negative impacts to biodiversity up to 50m from the source of the emission. This is supported by the guidance outlined by Holman *et al.* (2020), which provides a risk assessment for ecological impacts arising from dust deposition. European Sites are ranked as highly sensitive sites and the risk to high sensitive sites ranges from high (at less than 20m from source) and medium (at less than 50m from source), while low risks, representative of insignificant and de-minimis effects, arise at distances greater than 50m from source. No European Sites occur within such distances of the project and the potential for works associated with the project to result in disturbance to qualifying features of interest of European Sites as a result of air emission will not arise. In view of this an air emission pathway is screened out.

4.2.1.5 Visual Emissions

Certain species are known to have sensitivity to structural changes in the landscape and alteration of the visual environment. Species most sensitive to such changes are wetland birds, particularly wildfowl such as Geese, and whooper swans. Given the distance between the project site and SPAs where species sensitive to changes in the landscape there will be no potential for the project to result in changes that could result in likely significant effects to this species. As such, no visual emission pathway is identified as part of this Screening exercise.

4.2.1.6 Mobile Species Pathways

Development projects that are located outside of European Sites can also result in impacts to mobile qualifying species of European Sites in the event that such species rely on habitats occurring within the proposed development site. For the purposes of including such a scenario in the consideration of potential pathways, this screening report refers to the reliance of mobile qualifying species of European Sites on the project site as a “mobile species pathway”.

For special conservation interest bird species: the maximum disturbance distance for special conservation interest bird species of SPAs in the surrounding area is considered to be 300m, in line with the Cutts *et al.* (2013) toolkit. Given that no SPAs occur within 300m of the project site, no mobile species pathway is established by special conservation interest bird species between the project site and SPAs.

Lesser Horseshoe Bats have been recorded (1985) north east of the project site over 5km. This record is outside the core sustenance zone of the SAC's lesser horseshoe bats sites. These are screened out.

5 Identification of likely significant effects

As shown in the preceding Section 4, the absence of functional pathways between the project site and European Sites means such pathways are screened out in this screening exercise.

The potential exists for the project to overlap with other land use plans applicable to the lands occurring at and in the vicinity of the project site as well as other projects within the vicinity of the project site.

result in cumulative effects on the environment. The online planning system myplan.ie was consulted on the 18th March 2025 for the subject lands and immediate surrounds. Please see Table 5.1 below.

TABLE 5-1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS IN PROJECT AREA

Planning reference and address	Summary of application	Planning
21 251 Tirboy Tuam	for a) floodlighting to existing GAA Grounds to include 4 No. lighting columns with light fittings to provide a minimum 500lux lighting scheme b) New access stairs and platform lifts to the existing stand/seated terrace c) To retain existing toilet block adjacent to existing seated terrace d) Construct new 2.4m high boundary walls to part of existing boundary to form revised boundaries to previously approved permission Reference 19/768 at Tuam Stadium, Tirboy Td, Tuam. Gross floor space of proposed works: 56 sqm. Gross floor space of work to be retained: 60 sqm	permission
22 60977 Vicars Choral Lands , Vicars Choral Lands , Tuam	for retention of extension consisting of outdoor and indoor storage areas roofed children's play area and permission for extension to creche and permission for construction of extension and change of opening hours. Gross floor space of work to be retained 95.00sqm and gross floor space of proposed works 12sqm	Permission
303420 ABP Townparks 2nd div. Tuam, Co Galway	Construction of metal security fencing and gateways around Mart complex. Retention of wall, with upper fence and signage at the new main entrance (at Church view).	permission

The project however will not have the potential to combine with other land use activities to result in likely significant effects to qualifying habitats or species of the European sites or other environmental parameters. This is due to the planning applications above relating to existing landuse activities such on lands zoned for same under the Tuam LAP 2023 -2029 and the relatively minor nature, scale of the projects.

6 Screening Conclusion

The proposed project has been screened for its potential to result in likely significant effects to surrounding European Sites. As this project site is located approximately 2.12km from the nearest European Site, Lough Corrib SAC, a Source-Pathway-Receiver model was used to identify potential impact pathways linking the project site to European Sites. As described in Section 4.2 no functional pathways exist between the project site and European Sites due to the nature of the project, relating to refurbishment of an existing building and distances to European Sites. Following detailed review and assessment it is considered that the Tuam Station House project, will not result in likely significant effects to European Sites. This assessment is derived from consideration of the following factors:

- The existing environmental protection measures of the Tuam LAP as detailed in the NIR and SEA of the LAP.
- The scale, nature and extent of the project which will not give rise to any land use activities that could result in impacts to European Sites

In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by Galway County Council that the Tuam Station House refurbishment is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives.

7 References

Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2008) Circular letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08.

Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2010). Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects. Guidance for Local Authorities.

English Nature (1999). *Habitats regulations guidance note no. 3 (HRGN No. 3). Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994.*

European Commission (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* Luxembourg.

European Commission (2021). *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.* Luxembourg.

European Commission (1992). EU Habitats Directive.

Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021). Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01.

Cutts, N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013). The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.

Holman et al (2020). A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites – version 1.1, Institute of Air Quality Management, London

Photographic record

Plate 1: front of station house



Plate 2: rear of station house showing platform and former railway line



Plate 3: modern extension proposed for demolition



Plate 4: modern extension proposed for demolition



Plate 5: railway track at station

