AtkinsRéalis

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

August 2026

KI656-811 PORTAFERRY ROAD, CLOUGHEY

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1. Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

AtkinsRéalis have been commissioned by Northern Ireland Water to carry out a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening for the construction of a new surface water sewer on to serve a proposed development on Portaferry Road, Cloughey, to the sea (Irish Sea). The new pipeline will be located under Main Road through to rock armour at Cloughey Bay Beach to discharge through a new headwall. See Appendix A for Site Drainage Plan.

The sections in this report are as follows:

- Section 2 outlines the methodology used for this HRA screening;
- Section 3-8 contains the HRA Screening Matrices;
- Section 9 outlines the proposed works and potential effects;
- Section 10 provides the conclusions of the HRA screening; and
- Associated appendices.

1.2 Background to the Habitat Regulation Assessment

In Northern Ireland, the European Habitats Directive (Directive 92/42/EEC) has been transposed into national legislation through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) (refereed to hereafter as the Habitats Regulations). Under this legislation, assessment is required to meet the requirements of Article 6.3 of the Directive for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of a plan or project. Such an assessment is required where a plan or project under consideration could have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 (N2K) sites. N2K sites are those identified as sites of community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Area of Conservation (SACs)) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Area (SPAs)). According to Planning Policy Statement 2: Planning and Nature Conservation (PPS2), in such assessments, consideration is also given to sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) and Sites of Community Importance (candidate SACs). Collectively, within this report, these are referred to as ‘International Sites’.

The stages of the HRA process are:

- Stage 1 – Screening: To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on an International Site;
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: To determine whether, in view of an International Site’s conservation objectives, the project or plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions: Where a project or plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of an International Site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and,
- Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain: In exceptional circumstance (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest), compensatory measures should be put in place to offset negative impacts.

This report comprises Stage 1 – Screening Assessment of the project.

A HRA must be completed by the Competent Authority (in this case NI Water). This report comprises the information required by NI Water, as Competent Authority, to determine whether the proposed scheme, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on these International Sites.

This HRA is being carried out due to the proximity and connection to the International Sites. It is considered that the nature of the proposed scheme has the potential to negatively affect the identified International Sites, during the construction and operation phase. It is important to note that during the operational phase there will be a discharge of surface water only from the proposed culvert.

1.3 Description of the project

The scope for the project is the construction of a surface water sewer for a new residential development located on the Portaferry Road, Cloughey. There will be a new outfall and associated headwall constructed at the outfall location on Cloughey Bay Beach, requiring the removal of large stones along the beach and reinstatement around the headwall after construction. The proposed headwall will be a precast concrete structure. The approximately 109m long pipeline will predominantly be located under Main Road, with the final section towards the outfall under rock armour adjacent to Cloughey Bay Beach. Only the headwall works are below MHWS.

1.3.1 Is the proposal directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for conservation of the N2K features?

No. The proposed works are in order to facilitate surface water drainage from a new residential development of 34 units at Portaferry Road, Cloughey.

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2. Methodology

2.1 Determination of the International Sites included in the HRA

An initial review of the proposed works, in light of the Habitat Regulations has been undertaken as part of the HRA process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence of any impacts which could arise as a result of the works. In order to ensure that all potential impacts on International Sites were captured, such sites within 10km of the Scheme were identified.

The distance / geographical relationship between the Scheme and International Sites is as follows:

There are six International Sites within 10km of the Scheme, two of which are intersected by the scheme:

- Outer Ards SPA (UK9020271); and
- Outer Ards Ramsar (UK12018).

The works are immediately above the High Water Tide mark (which is the boundary to a number of the sites). The proposed outfall and headwall are located just within the boundary of these sites on Cloughey Bay Beach (See Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2).

The North Channel SAC (UK0030399) is approximately 40m east of the scheme (See Figure 2-3).

The remaining three International Sites are located approximately 3.5km west of the scheme (See Figure 2-4):

- Strangford Lough SAC (UK0016618);
- Strangford Lough SPA (UK9020111); and
- Strangford Lough Ramsar (UK12021).

Figure 2-1 - Outer Ards SPA

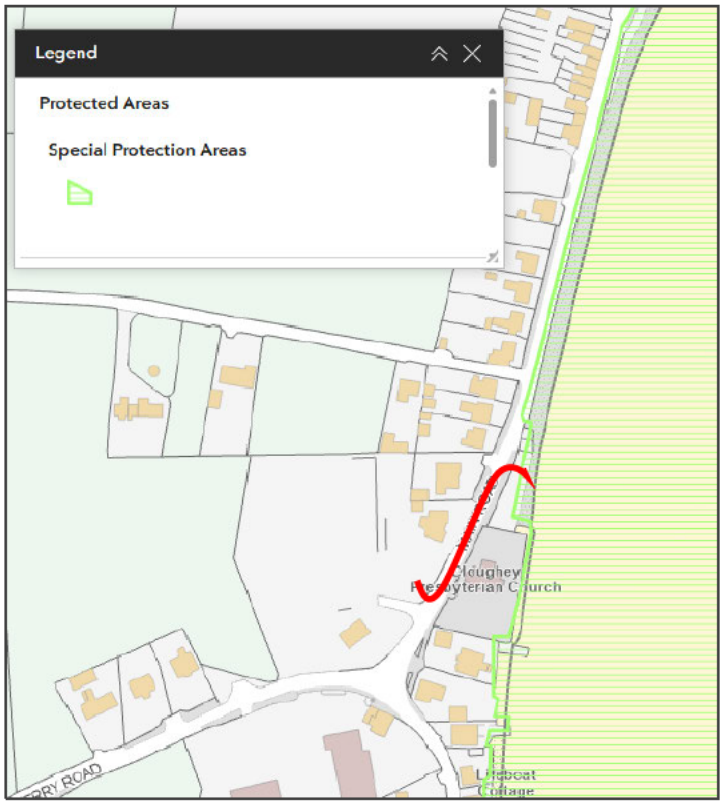


Figure 2-2 - Outer Ards Ramsar Site

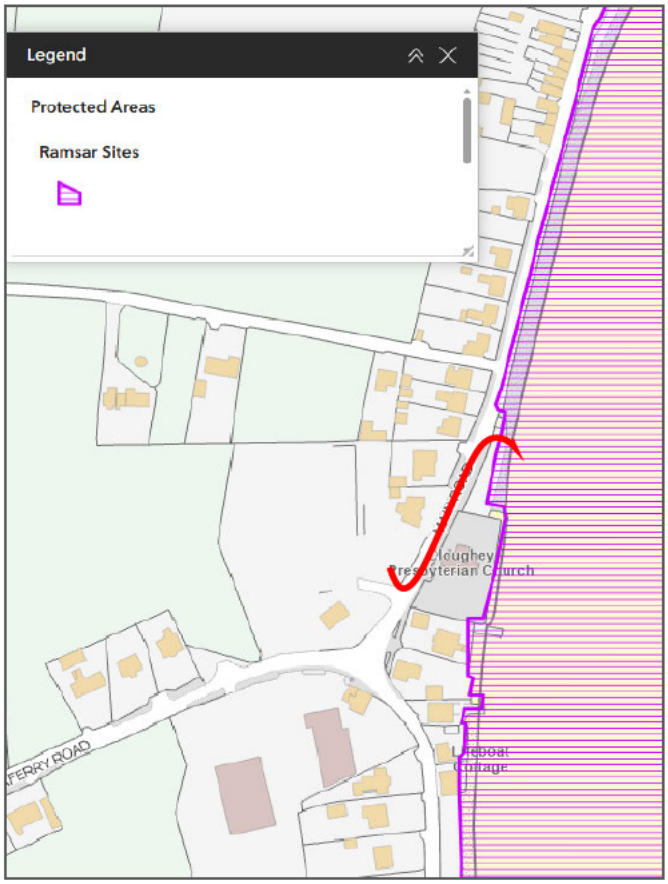


Figure 2-3 – North Channel SAC

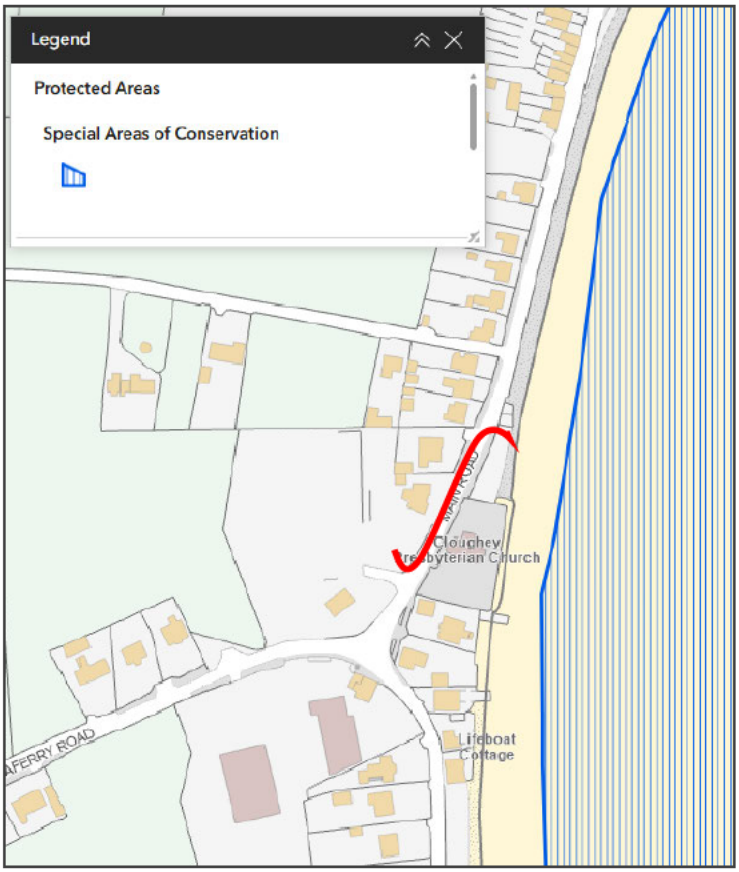
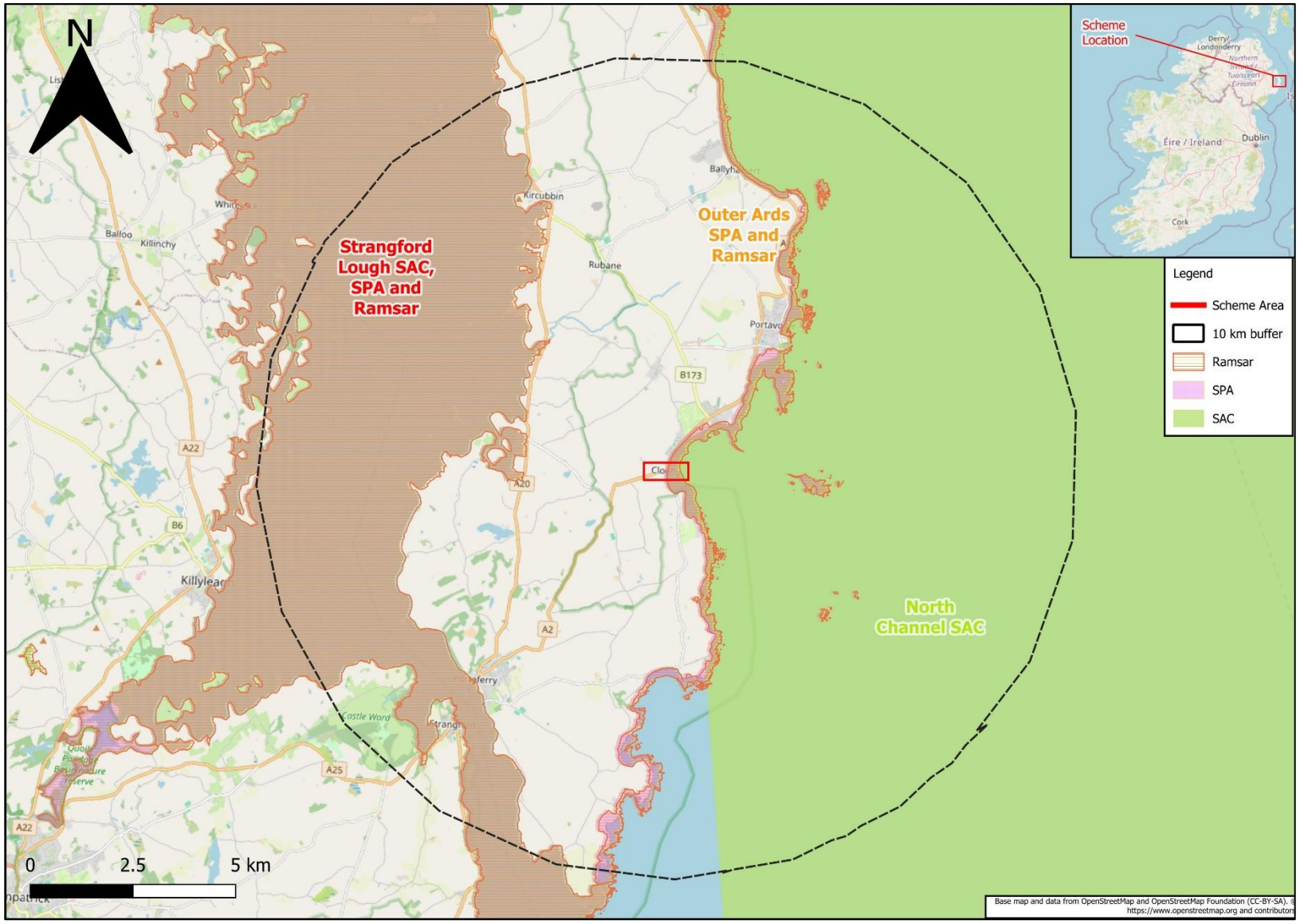


Figure 2-4 - International Sites within 10km of the Scheme Area



2.2 Obtaining information on the International Sites with the potential to be affected

Gathering the information on the International Sites to be included in the HRA involved a desk based review of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) data sheets[1], Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (NIEA) Natural Environment Map Viewer[2] as well as a review of information available on the DAERA website[3].

2.3 Assessing the impacts of the proposed scheme

The assessment of likely significant effects is based on the conservation objectives of the International Site. If any plan or project causes the qualifying features of an International Site to fall into unfavourable condition, they can be considered to have had significant adverse effect upon the International Site.

Plans or projects can adversely affect an International Site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and/or
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

2.3.1 Stage 1 Screening

Stage 1 (Screening) of this HRA comprises the following components:

- Information on the reasons for designation, the conservation objectives and the sensitivities of the International Sites;
- Identifying the elements of the scheme that could give rise to impacts on the International Sites, or result in changes to the sites;
- Information on other projects and plans in the area that could give rise to cumulative effects – information about any other plan or project that had also undergone assessment under the Habitat Regulations for potential impacts on the same International Sites is requested. Whereupon receiving this information, an assessment of likely in-combination effects is made by virtue of distance, timing, severity etc.; and
- Determines whether the proposed works will lead to likely significant effects on the International Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

[1] https://jncc.gov.uk/
[2] https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer
[3] https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/protected-areas

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3. Outer Ards SPA (UK9020271)

Site Designation Status	Outer Ards SPA (UK9020271)[4]
Location of site	The Outer Ards site extends along the coast of the Ards Peninsula from Grey Point on the north Down coast, to Ballyquintin Point in the south. The site is contiguous with Belfast Lough SPA and Strangford Lough SAC/SPA.
Brief description	The site mainly encompasses the inter-tidal areas, but with some additional adjoining areas of notable habitat. It includes sand and mud dominated shores, cobble and boulder beaches together with rocky shores. Off shore islands are also present. Adjoining habitat includes areas of maritime grassland and heath. It comprises a variety of shoreline types including rock platforms, off-shore islands, boulder, gravel and sand beaches. Coastal relief is low so that no significant cliffs are present. The principal interests are the breeding colony of Arctic Tern, together with the wintering populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose, Golden Plover, Turnstone and Ringed Plover. The boundary of the Special Protection Area site is entirely coincident with the Outer Ards Area of Special Scientific Interest together with the Ballymacormick Point Area of Special Scientific Interest. It also includes the open marine area.
Qualifying features and Conservation Objectives	**The qualifying features of the site:** Annex I ▪ Artic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) ▪ Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) Annex II ▪ Light Bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) ▪ Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) ▪ Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) **Non-qualifying species of interest** In addition, the site supports nationally important numbers of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (5 year average of 221, 4.4 % of the Irish wintering population), Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (82, 2.7%) and Eider *Somateria mollissima* (475, 23.8 %) occur offshore. Wading species of significance are Curlew *Numenius arquata* (917, 1.1 %), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (2239, 1.8 %), Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (5379, 2.2 %), Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (1623, 3.3 %), Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* (78, 7.8 %) and Redshank *Tringa totanus* (904, 3.7 %). **The Conservation Objective for this site is:** To maintain each feature in favourable condition.

[4] Outer Ards Special Protection Area | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

	Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.
Sensitivities of the site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site[5]: ▪ Marine water pollution (H03) ▪ Utility and service lines (D02) ▪ Other ecosystem modifications (J03) ▪ Interspecific faunal relations (K03) ▪ Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (G01) ▪ Changes in biotic conditions (M02) ▪ Changes in abiotic conditions (M01) Other issues that may have impacts on the site from the Scheme include[6]: ▪ Beach sand and gravel extraction ▪ Habitat quality – inter-tidal
Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. During proposed construction works disturbance to habitat is possible. There will be no operational impacts as the scheme will discharge surface water only, and no decommissioning is proposed. It is recognised that one of the sensitivities of this site is Utility and service lines (D02) and that this has been identified as a low rank threat/pressure. No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ **Size and scale;** ▪ **Land take;** ▪ **Resource requirements;** ▪ **Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);** ▪ **Excavation requirements; and** ▪ **Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.**	**Size and scale** The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the SPA. **Land take** No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site. Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. **Resource requirements** No resources required. **Emissions** During the proposed construction, there is potential for increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. **Excavation** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. **Duration** It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the SPA due to the anticipated short duration of the construction.
Describe any likely changes to the	**Reduction of habitat area**

[5] UK9020271.pdf
[6] Outer Ards SPA conservation objectives 2015

International Site arising as a result of: ▪ **Reduction of habitat area;** ▪ **Disturbance to key species;** ▪ **Habitat or species fragmentation;** ▪ **Reduction in species density;** ▪ **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and** ▪ **Climate Change.**	There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the Outer Ards SPA. Works are restricted to land and the erection of a headwall will likely take up an insignificant amount of space outside of the SPA. **Disturbance to key species** There will be no disturbance to key species within the SPA due to the very localised nature of the work including use of a precast headwall, and noting its location adjacent to the Main Road. **Habitat or species fragmentation** It is not predicted to cause any habitat or species fragmentation with respect to the SPA. Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. **Reduction in species density** A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance, timing of the scheme and very localised nature of works in an area already disturbed by road and ribbon development. **Changes in key indicators of conservation value** No likely significant effects for water quality due to very localised nature of the works and its location adjacent to marine waters. **Climate change** The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

4. Outer Ards Ramsar Site (UK12018)

Site Designation Status	Outer Ards Ramsar Site (UK12018)[7]
Location of site	The Outer Ards Ramsar site is situated along part of the eastern shores of County Down and extends from Grey Point on the north Down coast to Ballyquintin Point in the south. The site boundary follows that of the Special Protection Area (SPA).
Brief description	The Site, which contains about 8% of the Northern Irish coastline and has a very high proportion of offshore reefs and islands, mainly encompasses intertidal areas with some other notable habitats. It includes sand- and mud-dominated shores, cobble and boulder beaches together with rocky shores. Adjoining habitats include areas of dune and maritime grassland, maritime heath and cliff ledge vegetation, saltmarsh, tidal and non-tidal fens and wet flushes. Some areas still display the natural transition from maritime to terrestrial vegetation and host a number of notable communities. At least 17 rare or local plant species have been recorded across the range of habitats within the area. The Outer Ards is especially important for the breeding colony of Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, together with the wintering populations of light-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Nationally important populations of 11 other species of bird have also been recorded within the Site[8].

[7] Outer Ards RAMSAR | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
[8] Outer Ards | Ramsar Sites Information Service

Qualifying features and Conservation Objectives[9]	**The qualifying features of the site:** **Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.** <u>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</u> Species with peak counts in winter: ▪ Light-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla hrota*, East Canada/Ireland - 209 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5-year peak mean 1991/92 – 1995/96) ▪ Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa - 516 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1991/92 – 1995/96) ▪ European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*, P. a. altifrons Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic - 2109 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the all-Ireland population (5-year peak mean 1991/92 – 1995/96) ▪ Ruddy turnstone, *Arenaria interpres interpres*, NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa - 1210 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5-year peak mean 1991/92 – 1995/96) **The Conservation Objectives for this site are:** Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Outer Ards SPA have been referenced: To maintain each feature in favourable condition.
Sensitivities of the site	No factors reported.
Describe the individual elements of the project likely to give rise to impacts on the site	During proposed construction works disturbance to habitat is possible. There will be no operational impacts as the scheme will discharge surface water only, and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ **Size and scale;** ▪ **Land take;** ▪ **Resource requirements;** ▪ **Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);** ▪ **Excavation requirements; and** ▪ **Duration of construction, operation,**	**Size and scale** The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the Ramsar site. **Land take** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. Therefore no land take impacts anticipated. **Resource requirements** No resources required. **Emissions** During the proposed construction, there is potential for increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. **Excavation** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site.

[9] Outer Ards RAMSAR | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

decommissioning etc.	**Duration** It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the Ramsar site due to the anticipated short duration of the construction.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ **Reduction of habitat area;** ▪ **Disturbance to key species;** ▪ **Habitat or species fragmentation;** ▪ **Reduction in species density;** ▪ **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and** ▪ **Climate Change.**	**Reduction of habitat area** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. Therefore no land take / reduction of habitat area impacts anticipated. **Disturbance to key species** There will be no disturbance to key species within the Ramsar site due to the very localised nature of the work including use of a precast headwall, and noting its location adjacent to the Main Road. **Habitat or species fragmentation** The scheme is not predicted to cause any habitat or species fragmentation with respect to the Ramsar site. Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. **Reduction in species density** A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance, timing of the scheme and very localised nature of works in an area already disturbed by road and ribbon development. **Changes in key indicators of conservation value** No likely significant effects for water quality due to very localised nature of the works and its location adjacent to marine waters. **Climate change** The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

5. North Channel SAC (UK0030399)

Site Designation Status	**North Channel SAC (UK0030399)[10]**
Location of Site	The North Channel is located between the east coast of Northern Ireland and Scotland. Centroid: J750520 Latitude: 54.4555 Longitude: -5.2936
Brief description	The site is a marine area (fully saline) including sea inlets, with general habitat characteristics including a mixture of coarse sediments, sand and mud. Water depths are between Mean Low Water Tide and 150m, but much of the site lies between 10m and 40m. 85% of the site lies in Northern Irish inshore waters (0–12nm from shore)[11].
Qualifying features and conservation objectives	**The qualifying features of the site:**

[10] https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030399
[11] https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/north-channel-mpa/

	Annex I: Not applicable Annex II: 1351 Harbour porpoise **Conservation Objectives[12]:** To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters. In the context of natural change, this will be achieved by ensuring that: 1. Harbour porpoise is a viable component of the site; 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species; and 3. The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained. *Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.*
Sensitivities of the Site	Key activities, their associated pressures and potential impacts to harbour porpoise are outlined below with the current relative level of risk of impact: ▪ Commercial fisheries with bycatch of harbour porpoise ▫ Pressure: Removal of non-target species ▫ Impacts: Mortality through entanglement/bycatch ▫ Level of risk: High ▪ Discharge/run-off from land fill, terrestrial and offshore industries ▫ Pressure: Contaminants ▫ Impacts: Effects on water and prey quality, Bioaccumulation through contaminated prey ingestion, Health issues (e.g. on reproduction) ▫ Level of risk: High ▪ Shipping, drilling, dredging and disposal, aggregate extraction, pile driving, acoustic surveys, underwater explosion, military activity, acoustic deterrent devices and recreational boating activity ▫ Pressure: Anthropogenic underwater sound ▫ Impacts: Mortality, Internal injury, Disturbance leading to physical and acoustic behavioural changes (potentially impacting foraging, navigation, breeding, socialising) ▫ Level of risk: Medium ▪ Shipping, recreational boating, tidal energy installations ▫ Pressure: Death or injury by collision ▫ Impacts: Mortality, Injury ▫ Level of risk: Medium/Low ▪ Commercial fisheries (reduction in prey resources) ▫ Pressure: Removal of target species ▫ Impacts: Reduction in food availability, Increased competition from other species, Displacement from natural range ▫ Level of risk: Medium

[12] https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/be0492aa-f1d6-4197-be22-e9a695227bdb/NorthChannel-conservation-advice.pdf

Describe the individual elements if the project is likely to give rise to impacts on the Site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain the integrity of the site and ensure that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining FCS for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters[13]. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed construction works disturbance to habitat is possible. There will be no operational impacts as the scheme will discharge surface water only, and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ **Size and scale;** ▪ **Land take;** ▪ **Resource requirements;** ▪ **Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);** ▪ **Excavation requirements; and** ▪ **Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.**	**Size and scale** The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the SAC. **Land take** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. Therefore no land take impacts anticipated. **Resource requirements** No resources required. **Emissions** During the proposed construction, there is potential for an increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. **Excavation** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. **Duration** It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the SAC due to the anticipated short duration of the construction.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ **Reduction of habitat area;** ▪ **Disturbance to key species;** ▪ **Habitat or species fragmentation;** ▪ **Reduction in species density;** ▪ **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and** ▪ **Climate Change.**	**Reduction of habitat area** Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. Therefore no land take / reduction of habitat area impacts anticipated. **Disturbance to key species** There will be no disturbance to key species within the SAC due to the very localised nature of the work including use of a precast headwall, and noting its location adjacent to the Main Road. **Habitat or species fragmentation** It is not predicted to cause any habitat or species fragmentation with respect to the SAC. Works are restricted to the area of existing rock armour i.e. its removal and reinstatement upon completion of outfall installation. **Reduction in species density** A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance, timing of the scheme and very localised nature of works in an area already disturbed by road and ribbon development. **Changes in key indicators of conservation value**

[13] https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/north-channel-mpa/

	No likely significant effects for water quality due to very localised nature of the works and its location adjacent to marine waters. **Climate change** The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The Scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

6. Strangford Lough SAC (UK0016618)

Site Designation Status	Strangford Lough SAC (UK0016618)[14]
Location of Site	Strangford Lough is a large marine inlet on the east coast of County Down. Centroid: J559577 Latitude: 54.4444 Longitude: -5.5944
Brief description	Strangford Lough is a large (150 km2) marine inlet on the east coast of County Down, of which about 50 km2 lies between high water mark mean tide (HWMMT) and low water mark mean tide (LWMMT). Its northern end lies some 15 km east of Central Belfast (6 km from the outskirts). Downpatrick lies 5 km west of the south west corner. Strangford, Killyleagh, Whiterock, Comber, Newtownards, Greyabbey, Kircubbin and Portaferry are situated on the edge of the Lough. The Lough supports an impressive range of marine habitats and communities with over 2,000 recorded species. It is important for marine invertebrates, algae and saltmarsh plants, for wintering and breeding wetland birds, and for marine mammals[15].
Qualifying features and conservation objectives	**The qualifying features of the site:** Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: ▫ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ▫ 1150 Coastal lagoons ▫ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ▫ 1170 Reefs Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site ▫ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ▫ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ▫ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ▫ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: ▫ 1365 Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*

[14] Strangford Lough - Special Areas of Conservation
[15] Strangford Lough SAC | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

	Conservation Objectives[16]: The Conservation Objective for this site is: To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the ▪ Large shallow inlet and bay ▪ Coastal lagoons ▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide ▪ Reefs ▪ Annual vegetation of drift lines ▪ Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) ▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks ▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ▪ Harbour (Common) Seal Phoca vitulina to favourable condition. *Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.*
Sensitivities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site: ▪ Changes in abiotic conditions (M01) ▪ Invasive non-native species (I01) ▪ Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (H01)
Describe the individual elements if the project is likely to give rise to impacts on the Site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed Construction works ▫ Disturbance to habitat There will be no operational impacts and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ **Size and scale;** ▪ **Land take;** ▪ **Resource requirements;** ▪ **Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);** ▪ **Excavation requirements; and** ▪ **Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.**	**Size and scale** The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the SAC. **Land take** No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site, so there will be no reduction in extent as a result of the proposed works. The closest part of the SAC is located approximately 3.5km west of the scheme. **Resource requirements** No resources required. **Emissions** During the proposed construction, there is potential for an increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. **Excavation** No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. **Duration**

[16] Strangford Lough SAC Conservation Objectives 2015

	It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the SAC.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ **Reduction of habitat area;** ▪ **Disturbance to key species;** ▪ **Habitat or species fragmentation;** ▪ **Reduction in species density;** ▪ **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and** ▪ **Climate Change.**	**Reduction of habitat area** There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the SAC as the scheme is located outside the International Site boundary. **Disturbance to key species** There will be no disturbance to key species within the SAC due to the distance from the scheme. **Habitat or species fragmentation** There will be no disturbance to key species within the SAC due to the distance from the scheme. **Reduction in species density** A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance and type of works. **Changes in key indicators of conservation value** No likely significant effects for water quality due to distance of the proposed works. **Climate change** The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

7. Strangford Lough SPA (UK9020111)

Site Designation Status	**Strangford Lough SPA (UK9020111)[17]**
Location of Site	Strangford Lough is a large marine inlet on the east coast of County Down. Latitude: 54.4444 Longitude: -5.5944
Brief description	Situated on the east coast of Northern Ireland, Strangford Lough is a large shallow sea lough with an indented shoreline and a wide variety of marine and intertidal habitats. The west shore has numerous islands typical of flooded drumlin topography. The Lough contains extensive areas of mudflat and also sandflats, saltmarsh and rocky coastline. This is Northern Ireland's most important coastal site for wintering waterfowl, and it is particularly important for breeding terns. The landward boundary of the Special Protection Area (SPA) is entirely coincident with the landward boundary of the following five ASSIs: Strangford Lough Part 1, Strangford Lough Part 2, Strangford Lough Part 3, Killard and Ballyquintin Point. Marine areas below mean low water are also included such as the Quoile Pondage nature reserve[18].
Qualifying features and conservation objectives	**The qualifying features of the site:**

[17] Strangford Lough - Special Areas of Conservation
[18] Strangford Lough SPA | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

AtkinsRéalis - Sensitive / Sensible [FR]

	The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds by supporting internationally important breeding populations of both Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis and Common Tern Sterna hirundo and nationally important breeding populations of Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea. The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive by regularly supporting in winter over 20,000 waterfowl. **The Conservation Objective for this site is:** To maintain each feature in favourable condition.[19] *Further detail on component objectives are included in Appendix B.*
Sensitivities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site: ▪ Changes in biotic conditions (M02) ▪ Changes in abiotic conditions (M01) ▪ Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (G01) ▪ Invasive non-native species (I01) ▪ Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (H01) ▪ Other ecosystem modifications (J03)
Describe the individual elements if the project is likely to give rise to impacts on the Site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed Construction works ▫ Disturbance to habitat There will be no operational impacts and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ **Size and scale;** ▪ **Land take;** ▪ **Resource requirements;** ▪ **Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);** ▪ **Excavation requirements; and** ▪ **Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.**	**Size and scale** The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the SPA. **Land take** No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site, so there will be no reduction in extent as a result of the proposed works. The closest part of the SPA is located approximately 3.5km west of the scheme. **Resource requirements** No resources required. **Emissions** During the proposed construction, there is potential for an increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. **Excavation** No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. **Duration** It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the SPA.
Describe any likely changes to the	**Reduction of habitat area**

[19] Strangford Lough SPA conservation objectives 2015

International Site arising as a result of: ▪ **Reduction of habitat area;** ▪ **Disturbance to key species;** ▪ **Habitat or species fragmentation;** ▪ **Reduction in species density;** ▪ **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and** ▪ **Climate Change.**	There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the SPA as the scheme is located outside the International Site boundary. **Disturbance to key species** There will be no disturbance to key species within the SPA due to the distance from the scheme. **Habitat or species fragmentation** There will be no disturbance to key species within the SPA due to the distance from the scheme. **Reduction in species density** A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance and type of works. **Changes in key indicators of conservation value** No likely significant effects for water quality due to distance of the proposed works. **Climate change** The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

8. Strangford Lough Ramsar Site (UK12021)

Site Designation Status	**Strangford Lough Ramsar Site (UK12021)[20]**
Location of Site	Strangford Lough is a large marine inlet on the east coast of County Down. Latitude: 54.4444 Longitude: -5.5944
Brief description	Situated on the east coast of Northern Ireland, Strangford Lough is a large shallow sea lough with an indented shoreline and a wide variety of marine and intertidal habitats. The west shore has numerous islands typical of flooded drumlin topography. The Lough contains extensive areas of mudflat and also sandflats, saltmarsh and rocky coastline and is Northern Ireland's most important coastal site for wintering waterfowl. It is also an important site for breeding terns.[21]
Qualifying features and conservation objectives	**The qualifying features of the site:** Ramsar criterion 1 This site supports a variety of important wetland features. Areas of fringing saltmarsh and freshwater habitats support a diversity of wetland plant species. Strangford Lough supports one of the most extensive saltmarsh areas in Northern Ireland. Ramsar criterion 2 This site supports an important assemblage of vulnerable and endangered wetland plants and animal species. These include a number of marine sponges, marine

[20] https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK12021.pdf
[21] Strangford Lough RAMSAR | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

	hydroids, marine mollusc and sea urchins which are restricted to Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland or, in some cases unknown or very rare elsewhere in the British Isles. The mudflats support luxuriant beds of eelgrass; Zostera noltei, Zostera angustifolia, Zostera marina and Ruppia maritima are all present, with the latter widespread but quite local in its distribution. Such extensive 'beds' are rare in the British Isles. Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 74876 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. **Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):** ▫ Species regularly supported during the breeding season: ▫ Sandwich tern , Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis sandvicensis, W Europe - 894 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 1% of the breeding population ▫ Common tern , Sterna hirundo hirundo, N & E Europe - 554 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 17.8% of the all-Ireland population ▪ Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: ▫ Light-bellied brent goose, Branta bernicla hrota, East Canada/Ireland - 10863 individuals, representing an average of 54.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ▫ Common redshank , Tringa totanus totanus,- 4145 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ▪ Species with peak counts in winter: ▫ Red knot , Calidris canutus islandica, W & Southern Africa (wintering) - 4796 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9 2002/3) **The Conservation Objective for this site is:** Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Outer Ards SPA have been referenced: To maintain each feature in favourable condition.
Sensitivities of the Site	No factors reported.
Describe the individual elements if the project is likely to give rise to impacts on the Site	The overall conservation objective for the site is to maintain each feature in favourable condition. The following elements have been considered and are discussed in detail below: During proposed Construction works ▫ Disturbance to habitat There will be no operational impacts and no decommissioning is proposed.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Project on the International Site by virtue of: ▪ **Size and scale;**	**Size and scale** The size and scale of the project does not give rise to impacts on the Ramsar site. **Land take** No land-take or disturbance is required within the International Site, so there will be no reduction in extent as a result of the proposed works. The closest part of the Ramsar site is located approximately 3.5km west of the scheme.

▪ **Land take;** ▪ **Resource requirements;** ▪ **Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);** ▪ **Excavation requirements; and** ▪ **Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.**	**Resource requirements** No resources required. **Emissions** During the proposed construction, there is potential for an increase in localised suspended sediments for short intermittent durations. Plant exhaust emissions will also likely be observed. **Excavation** No excavations will be undertaken within the International Site. **Duration** It is not considered that the Scheme will have any impact on qualifying features of the Ramsar site.
Describe any likely changes to the International Site arising as a result of: ▪ **Reduction of habitat area;** ▪ **Disturbance to key species;** ▪ **Habitat or species fragmentation;** ▪ **Reduction in species density;** ▪ **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and** ▪ **Climate Change.**	**Reduction of habitat area** There will be no land take or loss of habitat within the Ramsar site as the scheme is located outside the International Site boundary. **Disturbance to key species** There will be no disturbance to key species within the Ramsar site due to the distance from the scheme. **Habitat or species fragmentation** There will be no disturbance to key species within the Ramsar site due to the distance from the scheme. **Reduction in species density** A reduction in density of the qualifying species is not anticipated as a result of the proposed works, due to distance and type of works. **Changes in key indicators of conservation value** No likely significant effects for water quality due to distance of the proposed works. **Climate change** The Scheme may produce very localised emissions during construction, though these will be negligible in relation to a changing climate. The scheme is intended to allow for more effective site drainage.

9. Details of the proposed works

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

The methodology of the proposed scheme comprises of:

- Protection of pedestrians.
- Installation of Concrete Pipe
- Installation of Headwall

Plant and equipment are expected to include:

- 20 T Excavator
- 8 Wheel lorries/ Concrete lorries
- Traffic Control / Signs & Barriers
- Concrete pump
- Heras fencing
- Floating silt screen

The methodology sets out the details of sequence/methods of work:

- Site Induction/Training
  - All employees involved with works provided with an induction/tool box talk. Made aware of potential hazards and risks associated with operations, such as pollution prevention.
  - Health Declaration completed by all operatives on site.
  - Site Supervisors shall ensure that all delivery drivers are issued with Driver Site Induction.
- Site Access & Parking Arrangements:
  - Access/egress to work area controlled by Heras fencing placed around perimeter area.
  - Closed Gate Policy in operation to ensure safety of public.
  - Parking in designated car park area only.
- Mobilisation / Traffic Management
  - Traffic Management set up in accordance with TMP.
- Environmental Considerations
  - All plant used on site is well maintained with noise and exhaust levels kept to specified limits.
  - During rest periods all machinery is turned off to stop emissions and save fuel.
  - When possible, materials will be recycled.
  - All fuel is stored in appropriate containers. All other containers of potential sources of contamination to be stored in a suitable bunded area.
  - The bowser used to fuel the machines is bunded.
  - Machines to be fuelled and maintenance checks to be carried out in a specified area.
  - Suitable emergency spill kits to be on hand near all potential sources of contamination.
  - Wastes on site are controlled and appropriate disposal methods are employed.
  - No burning of waste on site.
  - Environmental Monthly Site Check List is completed and returned to the contractors Environmental Policy Manager.

- All operatives are informed of the dangers associated with Leptospirosis and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating.
- Sites will periodically be audited by both internal and external officers to ensure that th contractor Environmenta Polic i bein upheld.

- Sit Protectio alon works
  - Access/egres t wor are controlle b Hera fencin place aroun perimeter.
  - Perimete o wor are secure an sign poste warnin al personne an publi o dangers
  - Earth-movin equipmen segregate fro constructio worker wher possible.
- Workin Hours
  - Workin hr wil b dictate b lo tida times tid level t b reviewe befor work commence.
- Constructio an installation Concrete Pipe
  - Excava or w ll oper te f om he op of he exist ng r ck arm ur (ab ve MHWS).
  - Excava or w ll cl ar exist ng r ck nd deb is a ay f om w rk ar a, levell ng ea ed to al ow or inst ll of p pe at corr ct level.
  - Remo ed ro ks nd deb is to be mo ed by dum er to compo nd loca ed ff site.
  - Ro ks to be pla ed b ck carefu ly on op of p pe nd headw ll to ma ch existing
- Work ng in water (if necessary)
  - Pe mi to ork sy te in pl ce, pe mi in p ace be ore any w rk t be car ied out
  - No opera iv i to or in w ter al ne, bank man us be pre en at all time.
  - Operat ve to ear w ist igh wa ers and ife v st at all times.
  - or in w te to nly ake p ace hen ide le el in w rks rea are w ist ig or lower.
- Excav tor wor in in wate (if necessary)

  Tide l vels ime and c ar s o be ch cked ver day b fore orks commence.
  - Oper ti e in hest high w de s to heck ater l vels sing E-staff.
  - Exca at r to only nter ater when l vels elow 8 0mm, excavator upper structure ground cl ar nce is 1020mm.

    Pe mit o ork i water issued before wo ks
  - If it ecomes ne es ary to locat pl nt and eq ip ent on the be ch, Bi Die el will be u ed as a greener alt rn tive o Whit Di s l a d a Bio H dra lic il will be used in tea of the tandard H drau i Oil A 4. m heet f whit ter am will b ro le ou on th be ch. All e uipm nt will be trac ed ont te ram nd e t for a sever l ours o c eck for an l aks. f leak ap ear the e uipm nt will e t ken ff si e to be r pair d. This proc ss will be epeat d nti we are c nfid nt th t t er are no l ak .
  - If it becomes n ce sary t loca e p ant and e ui men on the b ach, all achi er will b t acked to co pou d t end of shif so hat hey wi l ot e in he ater for lon p riods of time
- S orage of Mate ials
  - All d liveries ns ected by a thorise pe sons and ffload d d ring off p ak tim s within compound area

Des ribe any otentia e fec s on t e Na ura 200 s t (s) a a whole in terms of: int rfer nce wit the key rela ions ips th t d fine the tr cture or fu cti n of the s te s).

It is n ted that the ote tial or wor s within / ad ace t to the bo ndary of O ter Ar s Ra sar Sit and S A annot be r led out, nd w rks ill t ke place in close ro imity to Nort Channel SAC. H wever, any is urb nce to nd eff cts on the desig ate sites are nt ci ated t be m nor. Th re will be temporary distu bance to the xisting wal to allow fo i sta lation o th pipelin and out all, alth ug this will be re nstated afte c nstructio i c mple e. It is a so r cog ised tha the pr pose ou fal site nd the nea by de ign ted si es are ithi an area with exist ng d sr pti n such as the ad acent Main Roa and C oughey Bay Beach.

All proposed work activities associated with undertaking the construction works adjacent to r wi h minor intersecti n of he designa ed si es w ll be limi ed to he existing ock armour (re ova and reinstatemen) nd no irect i pac s are ex ec ed n the sel ction fea ures. Ther fore, ther w ll be no red c ion l ss of h bi at n the desi nated ar as or other 'on site' f ctor th t ma l a to a d cl ne in h bi at or s ecies nu bers. Ther wil a so be no h bi at or s ecies fragmen at on or red ct on in s ecies d nsity i these ar as It s also anti ipat d that th re il be no ha ges in key ind ca ors of conse vatio va ue nd the p opos d work act viti s w ll not i cre se the vulner bi ity of the s tes.

No mit gation m asu es are ide ti ied a being r qu red to rot ct the Intern tional sites, t ough an Outline Cons ruction Envir nmental Ma agement Plan (CEMP has bee pr duced an includes itigatio m asures to ensure ro ectio of wat r ual ty in the immediat v cin ty of he orks. Fo exam le, while t e precis l cat on o the sit c mpo nd is no known a p esen , t will be a r qu rem nt of the CEMP that th s ill be as far a pos ibl from any wa er ourse, or pollution pathway. Addi io ally, I it becom s ecessa y to oca e plant a d qui ment on the be ch, ea ures s ch as t rram she ts checking of quipm nt or ea s a d use f bi d esel will b i plemented t minimise t e opportunity f r any pot ntial polluti n inciden s. The oCE P ill be adopted by the con ra tor and pdated as detailed es gn emerges ahead of constr ct on Ad itionally it s the in en ion th t a series of ethod Stat ments and ssoc at d proce ur s w ll be ena ted by the ap ointed ontractor to addres any ot n ial issue such as a pol utio i ciden . Th se will be ased upon ppro ri te guidelin s such as Guidance for Pollu io Prevent on produc d by relevan s at tory autho ities. It i a so orth n ti g that a t e cheme is on b ha f of NI Water NIW) it w ll herefore fa l u der the auspices f the NIW nviron en a Manag me t Syste as a matt r of course. herefo e, h s prop se scheme ha a serie of m tig tion meas res whic are ' esi ned i to' he schem a d which are designed t prevent ny accide tal pollut on inci ents occurring. As with a y co stru ti n activit , t e ris o poll tion can n ver be fully e adicated a d as such t e Contract r ill en ur pr cedur s o ollow in the event of n inc dent occur in ar fully un er too by all oncerned on the project These pro edu es inclu e informing the elevant aut or ties wh n pplicable, as well as i ne essary, ea i g with he incide t i a pro pt, effic ent nd r bust manner

It wil be a re uire ent of a y contract th t p riodi i spe tion of he w rks y NIW of ic rs will ta e place.

I is onsid red he ef re that the e will be no etri ental impact on the Ma n C nservation Objective or th se n ted desi nate sites To maintain e ch feature n avo ra le co dition", r any of th ir C mponent Ob ecti es. It is co si ere that the eff cts o the In ernational sites will b Non-Si ni ica t.

Pro ide deta ls of an oth r projec s or pla s that og ther with he proje t or lan being as essed could (direc ly r indir ctly) affec t e s te.

An exa ination of the following website https://planningregister.pl nningsy temni.gov.uk which d ta ls lann ng a plications n the ar a has id ntified a ra ge of lanning Appl cations in he gener l ar a o Mai Road, Clou hey ver the la t years None were identified a ha ing particu ar i plic tions fo inter cti n with th s propo ed scheme and potent al ffects on des gna ed s tes. T e follow ng are the m st rec nt plan ing pp ica ions in he general area of the p oposed schem :

T ble 9-1 - Pl nni g applic tions n proxim ty t the propos d scheme

P anni g Ref.	pp ication dec sio / d te	Det ils of a plicat on	Any risk to t e propo ed works?
A06/2023/14 2/F	Grant d 21/09/2 23	Replac men dwelling extension of arag for ancil ary accommodation	None i e tified
LA06/ 026/ 705/DC	On oi g - Consu t ti n Open	Dis harge of Condition 6 of previously ap rove applicati n LA06/2019/0634/F	None identified

LA06/2024/0960/A	Granted 05/03/2026	Village Sign	None identified
LA06/2024/0660/LBC	Ongoing - Site Inspection Complete	The proposal associated with this application aims to refurbish the existing listed structure and repurpose it as a community hub for Cloughey village.	None identified
LA06/2024/0661/F	Ongoing - Site Inspection Complete	Change of use from church to community building to include w/c's, hall, café, viewing gallery, stage, store, communication and plant rooms and office. External and internal alterations to building including demolition of return and new window extension, soft and hard landscaping, pathway widening/extension.	None identified
LA06/2026/0769/F	Ongoing - Consultation Open	Residential development of 34 dwellings (Renewal of LA06/2019/0634/F).	None identified (this application is associated with the proposed scheme)

Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?

Alone? No

In combination with other plans or projects? No.

List of Agencies / Organisations consulted:

No consultation has taken place, as of yet. This HRA is part of an application for a Marine Licence and as such consultation will take place during that process.

10. Habitats Regulation Assessment Summary

It is considered that the activities required in order to undertake construction of a surface water sewer and associated outfall will not have an impact on any of the noted designated sites for the following reasons:

- Construction activities adjacent to or with minor intersections of the designated sites are limited to the existing rock armour (to facilitate its removal and reinstatement upon installation of outfall). Therefore there will be no reduction / loss in habitat in the designated areas or other 'on-site' factors that may lead to a decline in habitat or species numbers. There will also be no habitat or species fragmentation or reduction in species density in these areas. It is also anticipated that there will be no changes in key indicators of conservation value and the proposed work activities will not increase the vulnerability of the sites;
- The work will involve very localised construction activities, limited to the removal and reinstatement of rock armour at the designated sites;
- The proposed scheme is located immediately adjacent to a main road (Main Road), with ribbon urban development and any additional disturbance will be minimal in this context;
- Pollution prevention / remediation measures have been 'built into' the scheme and there will be a periodic inspection by NIW officers;
- There will be no detrimental impact on any Conservation Objective or component objectives of any of the designated sites; and
- No other project or plan has been identified that will have a cumulative impact on any of the identified International sites in conjunction with this proposed scheme.

Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site?

No.

Who carried out the assessment?

[redacted]

[redacted]

AtkinsRéalis Limited

Consultant for Northern Ireland Water

Sources of data

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency website http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/ and consultation with appropriate section within this organisation.
- Planning website https://planningregister.planningsystemni.gov.uk
- Proposed construction methodology information

Level of assessment completed

Screening

Summary of Response

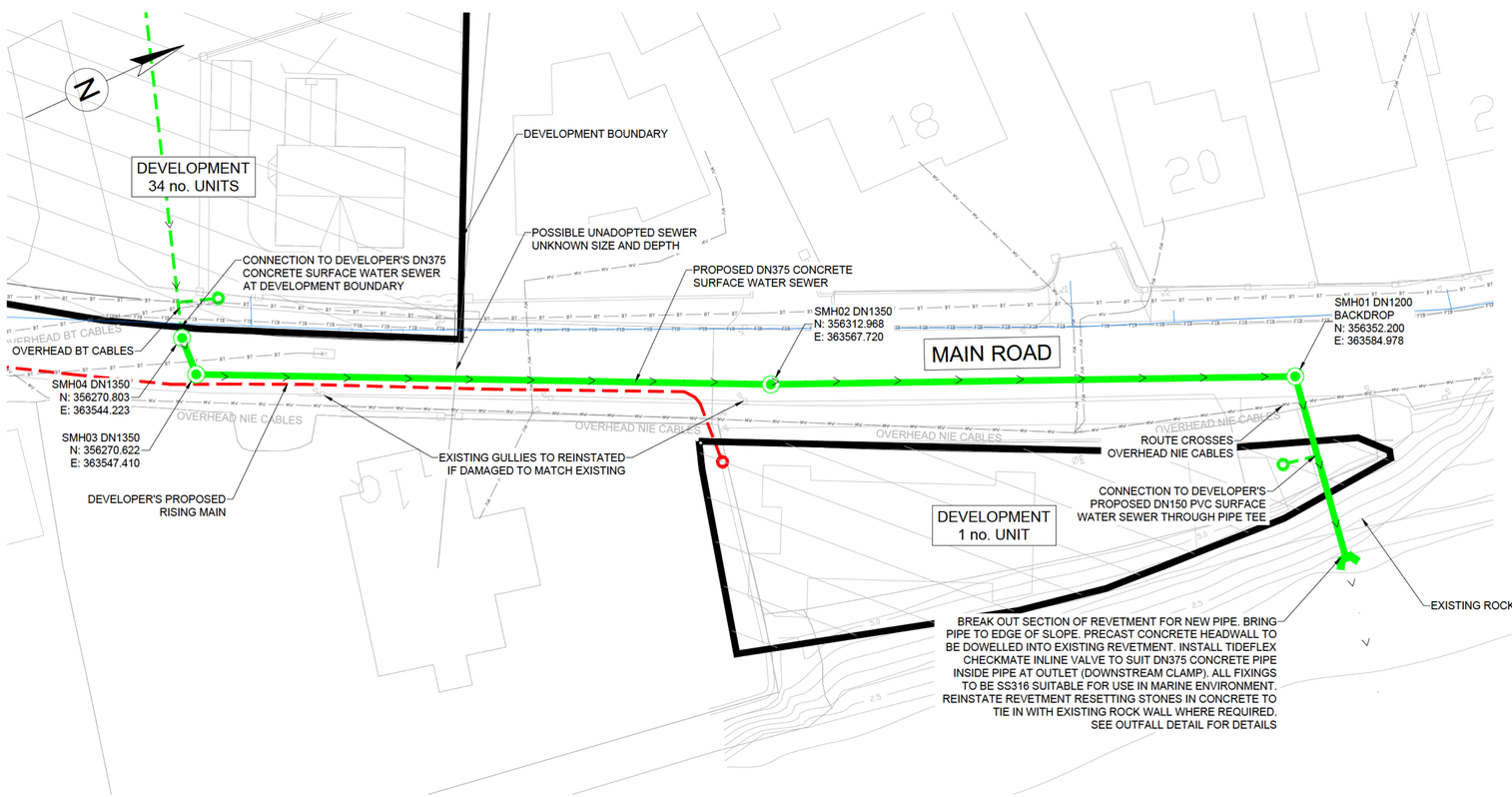
N/A

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Proposed Site Design

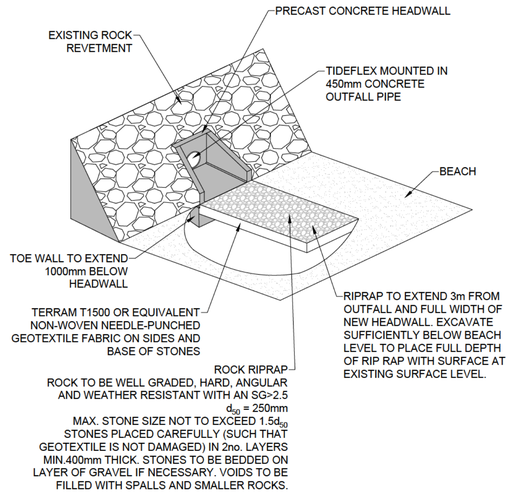
AtkinsRéalis - Sensitive / Sensible [FR]

DO NOT SCALE



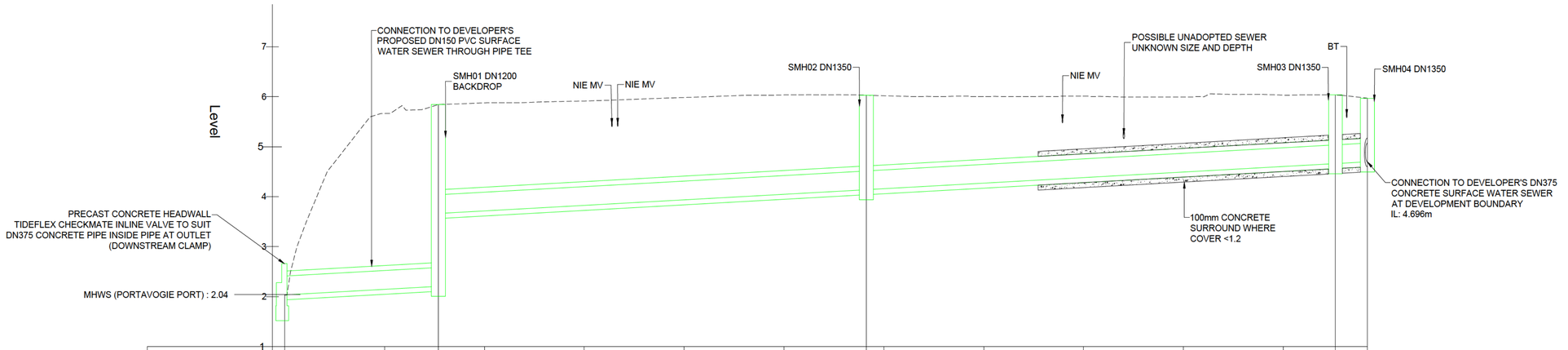
PLAN

SCALE 1:250



OUTFALL DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE



Chainage	00	10.000	15.401	20.000	30.000	40.000	50.000	58.258	60.000	70.000	80.000	90.000	100.000	105.223	108.446
Existing Levels	2.029	5.663	5.844	5.875	5.912	5.983	6.035	6.028	6.018	6.005	6.007	5.995	6.030	6.034	5.970
Proposed Pipe Invert	2.036		2.207 3.662					4.139 4.139						4.661 4.661	4.696
Pipe Material and Bedding Type	Reinforced Concrete Class S														
Surface Type	Rip Rap														
Proposed Gradient, Length & Size	1:90 / 15.4m 375mm														

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

SCALE 1:250 HORZ, 1:50 VERT

Scale 1:250

Scale 1:50

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

In addition to the hazards/risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing, note the following:

CONSTRUCTION

N/A

MAINTENANCE/CLEANING

N/A

DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION

N/A

It is assumed that all works will be carried out by a competent contractor working, where appropriate, to an approved method statement

FLOWS

DEVELOPMENT PEAK FLOW = 208.60 l/s
PIPE FULL CAPACITY (DN375 @ 1:90) = 210.84 l/s

LEGEND

EXISTING SERVICES AND UTILITIES

- UNADOPTED SEWER
- WATER MAIN
- DEVELOPER'S RISING MAIN
- DEVELOPER'S SURFACE WATER SEWER
- FLOW DIRECTION
- NIE MV
- BT
- FIBRUS

PROPOSED SERVICES

- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER SEWER

LONGSECTION

- EXISTING SURFACE
- EXISTING SURFACE WATER SEWER
- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER SEWER

Rev.	Date	Description	By	Chk'd	App'd
P2	07/09/26	FOR TENDER			
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Client: niwater — Delivering what matters

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Project Title: KI656-811
PORTAFERRY ROAD
CLOUGHEY

Drawing Title: PROPOSED SURFACE WATER SEWER
PLAN AND LONGITUDINAL SECTION

Scale	Designed	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
AS SHOWN				
Original Size: A1	Date: 11/06/26	Date: 11/06/26	Date: 26/08/26	Date: 01/09/26

Drawing Number: 100123331-ATK-811-ZZ-DR-C-1001
Revision: P2

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USER: GRAT1038 Date: 07/9/26 12:26:58 FileName: C:\Users\GRAT1038\AtkinsRéalis\100123331-ABS6BTSPC217\rv4-b - Collaboration\02 Deliver Work\811 Portaferry Road, Cloughey\02 Design\07 DWGS\100123331-ATK-811-ZZ-DR-C-1001_PLAN AND LONGITUDINAL.dwg
Internal Project Number: 100123331

Appendix B. Summary of Conservation Objectives

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Designated Site	Conservation Objectives	Selection Feature	Component Objectives	Potential impact identified from activities related to proposed scheme?
Outer Ards SPA and Ramsar[22]	To maintain each feature in favourable condition *(Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Outer Ards SPA have been referenced.)*	Arctic Tern breeding population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
			Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities, due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
			To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme due to the nature of the works involved.
			To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.
			To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities, due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
			To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term:	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.

[22] Outer Ards SPA conservation objectives 2015

	▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species ▪ Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	
Light-bellied Brent Goose wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will the species population.
	Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
	To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme due to the nature of the works.
	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.
	To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities, due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.

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		To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: ▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species ▪ Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.
	Golden Plover wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will the species population.
		Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
		To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme, due to the nature of the works.
		To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.
		To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not

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		anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
	To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: ▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species ▪ Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.
Ringed Plover wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will the species population.
	Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
	To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme, due to the nature of the works.
	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.
	To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities due to their location within

			engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
		To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: ▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species ▪ Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.
	Turnstone wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities, due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will the species population.
		Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities, due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
		To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme, due to the nature of works.
		To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.

			To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities, due to their location within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
			To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: ▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species ▪ Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.
		Habitat extent	To maintain or enhance the area of natural and semi-natural habitats used or potentially usable by Feature bird species (1001 ha intertidal area), (breeding areas xx ha) subject to natural processes	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in significant loss of habitats.
			Maintain the extent of main habitat components subject to natural processes	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in significant loss of habitats.
		Roost sites	Maintain or enhance sites utilised as roosts	The proposed scheme is not expected to result in significant loss of roost sites.
North Channel SAC[23]	The conservation objectives for the site is to maintain	Harbour porpoise	Harbour porpoise are a viable component of the site	The proposed scheme is not expected to have an impact on the viability of harbour porpoise.

[23] North Channel MPA: Conservation Objectives And Advice On Operations

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	site integrity by ensuring: 1. Harbour porpoise are a viable component of the site 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species 3. The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained		There is no significant disturbance of the species	The proposed scheme will not cause significant disturbance to harbour porpoise due to the location of proposed works within engineered rock armour and a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road.
			The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained	The proposed scheme is not expected to have an impact on the condition of supporting habitats and processes or the availability of prey, due to its location within a disturbed area adjacent to the Main Road.
			Maintain the extent of main habitat components subject to natural processes	The proposed scheme is not expected to have an impact on the habitat extent due to the nature of the proposed works.
Strangford Lough SPA and Ramsar[24]	To maintain each feature in favourable condition *(Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for*	Sandwich Tern Breeding Population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
		Common Tern Breeding Population	Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
			To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme.

[24] Strangford Lough SPA conservation objectives 2015

the Strangford Lough SPA have been referenced.)	Arctic Tern Breeding Population	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.
		To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
		To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: ▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species ▪ Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.
		Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
	Golden Plover wintering population	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect the species population.
	Bar-tailed Godwit wintering population	Fledging success sufficient to maintain or enhance population	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will affect fledging success.
		To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species	The range of habitats are not expected to be impacted by the proposed scheme.

	Light-bellied Brent Goose wintering population Shelduck wintering population Knot wintering population Redshank wintering population Great Crested Grebe wintering population Cormorant wintering population Greylag Goose wintering population Wigeon wintering population	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained	The proposed scheme will not affect the integrity of the site.
		To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will cause significant disturbance to the species.
		To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: ▪ Population of the species as a viable component of the site ▪ Distribution of the species within site ▪ Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	The proposed scheme is not expected to impact on maintaining the population, their distribution, habitats or supporting processes.

Gadwall wintering population

Teal wintering population

Mallard wintering population

Pintail wintering population

Shoveler wintering population

Goldeneye wintering population

Red-breasted Merganser wintering population

Coot wintering population

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	Oystercatcher wintering population		
	Ringed Plover wintering population		
	Grey Plover wintering population		
	Lapwing wintering population		
	Dunlin wintering population		
	Curlew wintering population		
	Turnstone wintering population		
	Waterfowl Assemblage	No significant decrease in population against national trends	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will result in any decrease in population.

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		Waterfowl Assemblage wintering population	Maintain species diversity contributing to the Waterfowl Assemblage	No impact has been identified resulting from the proposed activities. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed scheme will impact species diversity.
		Habitat Extent	To maintain or enhance the area of natural and semi-natural habitats used or potentially usable by Feature bird species (3781 ha intertidal area), (breeding areas X ha) subject to natural processes	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the habitat extent.
		Roost sites	Maintain or enhance sites utilised as roosts	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the roost sites.
Strangford Lough SAC[25]	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the ▪ Large shallow inlet and bay ▪ Coastal lagoons ▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide ▪ Reefs ▪ Annual vegetation of drift lines	Large shallow inlet and bay	Maintain the extent of the large shallow inlet and bay	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the inlet and bay extent.
			Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure, function and extent of the large shallow inlet and bay, to operate appropriately	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.
			Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.
		Coastal lagoons	Maintain the extent of the coastal lagoons	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the extent of the coastal lagoons.
			Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure,	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.

[25] Strangford Lough SAC Conservation Objectives 2015

▪ Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) ▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks ▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ▪ Harbour (Common) Seal Phoca vitulina to favourable condition.		function and extent of the coastal lagoons, to operate appropriately	
		Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	Maintain the extent of mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the extent of the mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide.
		Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure and extent of mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide, to operate appropriately	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.
		Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.
	Reefs	To restore the reefs and their characteristic species to favourable condition, allowing for natural change.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the condition of the reefs.
		Allow the natural processes which determine the development, structure, function and extent of the reefs, to operate appropriately	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.
		Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.
	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Maintain and enhance the extent of annual vegetation of drift lines subject to natural processes	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the extent of annual vegetation of drift lines.

	Allow the natural processes which determine the development and extent of annual vegetation of drift lines to operate appropriately	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.
	Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this community including the presence of notable species	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco Puccinellietalia maritimae)	To restore the Atlantic salt meadows and their characteristic species to favourable condition, allowing for natural change.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the condition of Atlantic salt meadows.
	To maintain or enhance, as appropriate, the composition of the saltmarsh communities	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the saltmarsh communities.
	To maintain transitions between saltmarsh communities and to other adjoining habitats	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the saltmarsh communities.
	To permit the continued operation of formative and controlling natural processes acting on the saltmarsh communities	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the saltmarsh communities.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	To restore the perennial vegetation of stony banks and their characteristic species to favourable condition, allowing for natural change.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the condition of perennial vegetation of stony banks.
	Allow the natural processes which determine the development and extent of perennial vegetation of stony banks to operate appropriately	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.
	Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this community including the presence of notable species	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.

	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	To restore the Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand and their characteristic species to favourable condition, allowing for natural change.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the condition of Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand.
		Allow the natural processes which determine the development and extent of Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, to operate appropriately	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the natural processes.
		Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the species diversity within this habitat.	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on species diversity.
	Harbour (Common) Seal Phoca vitulina	Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the Harbour (Common) Seal population	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the Harbour (Common) Seal population.
		Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, physical features used by Harbour (Common) Seals within the site	None of the proposed scheme is located in the designated area. As such there will be no impact on the Harbour (Common) Seal population.

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