

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD) ASSESSMENT

FOR

PROPOSED REGENERATION WORKS

AT

DUCKING STOOL PUBLIC AMENITY
BELTURBET
CO. CAVAN



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Prepared for

Cavan County Council

Prepared by

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This document presents a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment for the proposed regeneration works of the Ducking Stool Public Amenity at Belturbet Co. Cavan.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Traynor Environmental Ltd has been commissioned by Cavan County Council (hereafter referred to as the Applicant) to undertake a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment for the proposed regeneration at the Ducking Stool Jetty, Belturbet, Co. Cavan (hereafter referred to as the 'site' and 'Proposed Development'). This report presents a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment of the proposed regeneration works at the Ducking Stool Jetty.

1.1 Project Objective

The objective of this assessment is to determine whether the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to adversely affect the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).

In particular, the assessment considers whether the Proposed Development could:

- cause deterioration in the ecological or chemical status of any surface waterbody or groundwater body;
- prevent the achievement of Water Framework Directive environmental objectives;
- adversely affect the objectives of any Water Framework Directive Protected Area; or
- conflict with the objectives of the Water Action Plan 2024 and the relevant River Basin Management Plan.

The assessment identifies hydrologically connected surface water and groundwater receptors, establishes potential source–pathway–receptor linkages associated with the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development, and evaluates the effectiveness of the embedded design measures and mitigation measures incorporated into the development.

1.2 Project Scope of Work

The scope of the WFD assessment included the following tasks:

- A desk-based review of published information and information pertaining to the Site and Proposed Development provided by the Applicant.
- Develop a hydrological / hydrogeological Conceptual-Site-Model and identify any potential source–pathway–receptor linkages.
- Identify and assess any potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the WFD status of sensitive receptors associated with the receiving water environment.
- assessment of compliance with Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive and associated environmental objectives.
- review of published environmental information and project-specific information provided by the Applicant;

1.3 Professional Competency

This report was prepared by Nevin Traynor, BSc, Environmental Consultant with Traynor Environmental Ltd. Nevin Traynor has over 27 years of professional experience in the environmental sector. Regularly undertaking Water Framework Directive Assessments, hydrogeological assessments, flood risk assessments, environmental impact assessments and environmental due diligence studies for residential, commercial, infrastructure and renewable energy developments throughout Ireland. He is professionally competent to undertake this assessment and to provide the opinions and conclusions contained within this report.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Context

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), as amended by Directives 2008/105/EC, 2013/39/EU, and 2014/101/EU ("WFD"), was established to ensure the protection of the water environment. The Directive was transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003).

The WFD requires that all member states protect and improve water quality in all waters, with the aim of achieving good status by 2027 at the latest. Any new development must ensure that this fundamental requirement of the WFD is not compromised. The Article 4 objectives, which have been considered as part of the design process of the Proposed Development, include:

- Protect, enhance, and restore all bodies of surface water and groundwater with the aim of achieving good surface water status by 2027.
- Prevent deterioration and maintain a 'high' status where it already exists.
- Implement the necessary measures with the aim of progressively reducing pollution in surface waters and groundwater.
- Ensure waters in protected areas meet requirements.

The WFD is implemented through the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP), which comprise a six-yearly cycle of planning, action, and review. RBMPs include identifying river basin districts, water bodies, protected areas, and any pressures or risks, monitoring, and setting environmental objectives. In Ireland, the first RBMP covered the period from 2010 to 2015, with the second cycle plan covering the period from 2018 to 2021 and the third current cycle covering from 2022-2027

The Water Action Plan 2024 (RBMP 3rd Cycle) Programme of Measures outlines comprehensive measures to protect and improve water quality across various sectors. The Programme of Measures (PoM) for RBMP is a comprehensive set of actions designed to achieve the environmental objectives set out in the Water Framework Directive. The PoM includes both basic and supplementary measures:

Basic measures are mandatory actions required to fully implement existing water protection directives. The 11 key EU Directives which form the Basic Measures are: Bathing Waters Directive, Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, Drinking Waters Directive, Major Accidents and Emergencies Directive, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, Sewage Sludge Directive, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Plant Protection Products Directive, Nitrates Directive, and Industrial Emissions Directive.

Supplementary measures augment basic actions to achieve water objectives and include codes of practice, voluntary agreements, demand reduction, education, rehabilitation or research programmes, and legal, administrative, and economic instruments.

This assessment evaluates the proposed development against the following Article 4 requirements.

- No deterioration in status
- No prevention of achieving good status potential.
- No compromise of protected areas.

Key elements of the PoM include:

- Integrated Catchment Management: The PoM uses an integrated catchment management approach, focusing on identifying the right measures for specific locations to maximize effectiveness.
- Collaboration: Implementation involves collaboration between various government departments, local authorities, the EPA, and other stakeholders, with the Programme Delivery Office overseeing and coordinating efforts.
- Monitoring and Reporting: An enhanced monitoring and reporting programme tracks the implementation progress and assesses the effectiveness of the measures.
- Targeted Actions: The PoM identifies specific actions under each pressure/issue affecting water quality, assigning lead organizations, timelines, and key performance indicators.
- Multiple Benefits: The PoM aims to deliver multiple benefits for water, biodiversity, and climate change

mitigation and adaptation.

- Environmental Assessment: All measures and projects arising during the third-cycle RBMP are subject to further environmental assessments, including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), as required.

The Programme of Measures (PoM) sets out targeted actions across key sectors including agriculture, wastewater, hydromorphology and forestry to improve water quality. These measures are implemented at national and catchment level to support the achievement of WFD objectives.

- Agriculture: Implementation of a stronger and more targeted Nitrates Action Programme, including tighter controls on nutrient applications, a livestock excretion banding system, a national fertilizer sales database, and enhanced inspection and enforcement programmes.
- Hydromorphology: Developing a new Controlled Activities for the Protection of Waters regime to address pressures on the physical condition of waters.
- Forestry: Increasing the area of forests with appropriate water setbacks, seeking improvements to the licence applications process for key forestry activities, and rolling out schemes that promote water protection.
- Urban Wastewater: Continued investment in urban wastewater infrastructure and a review of water bodies where urban wastewater is a significant pressure.
- Peatlands: Updating the National Peatlands Strategy and continuing the national programme of peatland restoration.

These measures are designed to ensure that all new developments comply with the WFD's fundamental requirements and contribute to the overall goal of achieving good water status by 2027.

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and relevant national legislation and evaluates the potential for the proposed development to comply with these objectives.

2.2 Desk-based Study

A desk-based study was undertaken including a review of relevant information from the following publicly available sources and information provided by the Applicant:

- Ordnance Survey Ireland Online mapping (OSI, 2026).
- Geological Survey of Ireland Online mapping (GSI, 2026).
- Environmental Protection Agency Online mapping (EPA, 2026).
- National Parks & Wildlife Services, Protected Sites Web mapping (NPWS, 2026).
- Relevant drawings and design reports for the proposed development provided by the Applicant.

2.3 Risk Based Impact Assessment

A risk-based and receptor-focussed approach was adopted to include an assessment of any impact to the receiving hydrological and hydrogeological (water) environment associated with the Proposed Development.

The basis for a risk assessment is the CSM or Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model which underpins the Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) amended by Directives 2008/105/EC, 2013/39/EU, and 2014/101/EU. These directives have been transposed into Irish legislation through the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) and subsequent amendments, as well as the EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA, 2011) and the EPA Guidance on the Management of Contaminated Land and Groundwater at EPA Licensed Sites (EPA, 2013) on the protection of groundwater and surface water resources.

A risk assessment is undertaken to provide an understanding of the risk associated with the presence of any potentially contaminating materials and/or activities on a site. This is informed by the assessment of potential for viable pollutant linkage(s) to be present. A pollutant linkage is established when there is a viable or potentially viable Source, a Pathway, and a Receptor. A significant effect can only arise where a complete and viable source-pathway-receptor linkage exists. Where one or more elements of this linkage are absent, no impact on waterbody status can occur.

The WFD requires that no deterioration in waterbody status occurs. The 'prevent or limit' objective involves measures to avoid and mitigate impacts, serving as the first line of defence in restricting pollutant inputs from a development (i.e., "source" removal) and preventing any potential impact or deterioration of the water quality status or WFD status of the receiving water body.

In this assessment all three elements of the Source-Pathway-Receptor model will be identified to develop a CSM, and any potential linkages evaluated and assessed to determine if the development could potentially impact upon the WFD Status of the water bodies associated with the site.

In accordance with European Commission Guidance Document No. 36 (2017) and EPA guidance, this assessment applies the following key WFD compliance tests:

- The proposed development must not cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or groundwater body.
- The proposed development must not prevent the achievement of good status or good ecological potential.
- The proposed development must not compromise the objectives of any Protected Areas.

These tests are assessed using a Source-Pathway-Receptor framework, supported by a review of hydromorphological, physico-chemical, and ecological considerations. Only complete Source-Pathway-Receptor linkages are considered capable of resulting in impact.

2.4 Conceptual Site Model

A CSM represents the characteristics of the site and identifies the possible relationship and potential risk between contaminant sources (i.e., characteristics of the Proposed Development), pathways and receptors (receiving environment) These three essential elements of the CSM are described as:

- A **source** – a substance that is in, on or under the land and has the potential to cause harm or pollution.
- A **pathway** – a transport route or means by which a receptor can be exposed to, or affected by, a contaminant source.
- A **receptor** – in general terms, something that could be adversely affected by a contaminant, such as people, an ecological system, property, or a water body.

The term pollutant linkage is used to describe a particular combination of source-pathway- receptor. Each of these elements can exist independently, but they create a risk only where they are linked together so that a particular contaminant affects a particular receptor through a particular pathway (i.e., a pollutant linkage).

The preliminary CSM for the site of the Proposed Development is initially defined and this is then revised throughout the risk-based assessment process. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive and relevant national legislation. A CSM represents the site characteristics and identifies relationships between potential sources, pathways, and receptors.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

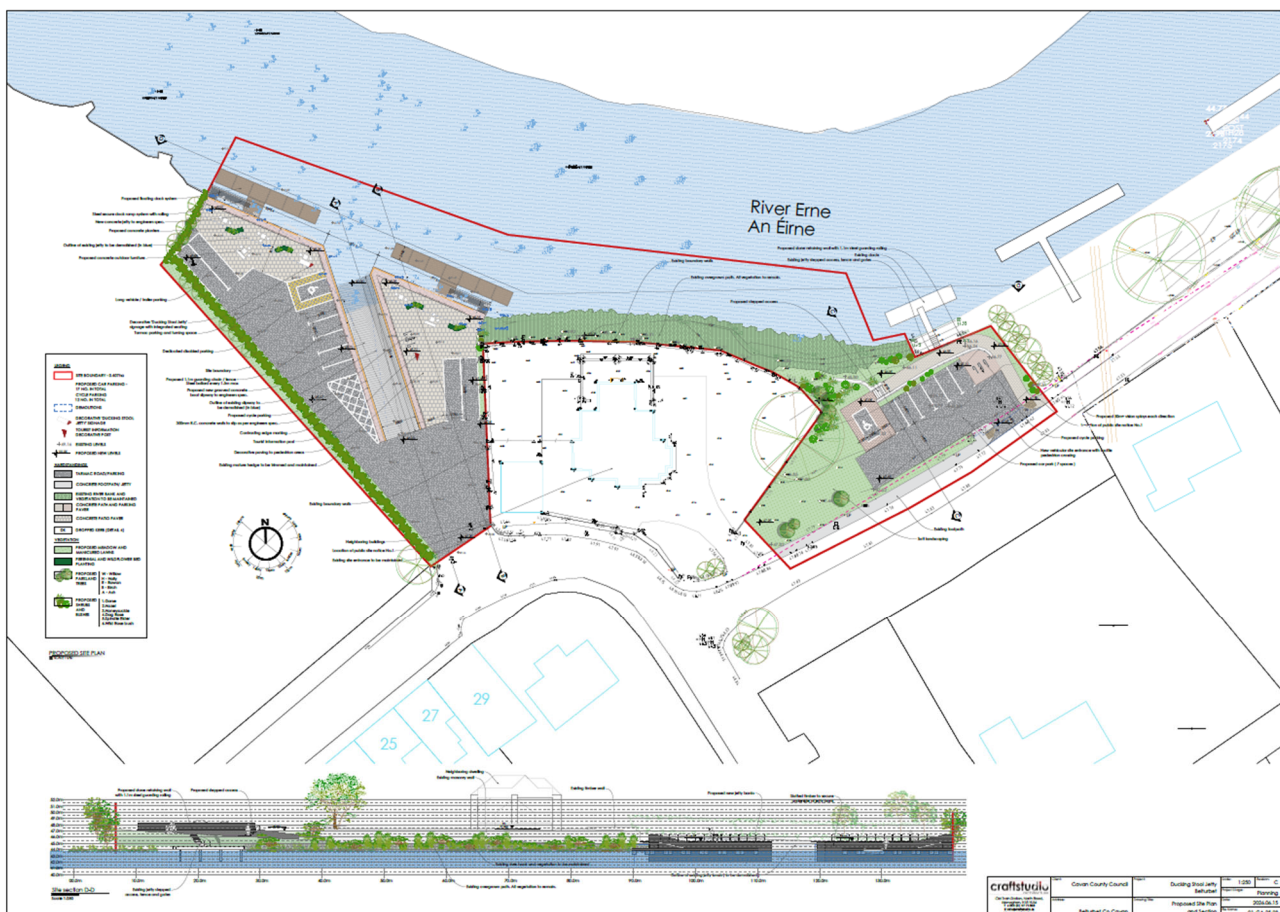
The proposal is for the upgrade and realignment of the existing jetty and slipway at the Ducking Stool Jetty and the creation of a carpark on lands at Willow Avenue

Details of the works include:

- removal of the existing timber jetties,
- realignment and widening of the slipway providing access to the River Erne,
- reconfiguration and extension of the existing pier, including amended levels,
- installation of floating jetties and jetty access ramp,
- construction of hard landscaped, public recreational open space,
- reconfiguration and upgrade of existing gravelled area to create new carpark (7no. spaces),
- installation of public lighting and refuse storage,
- installation of bike stands
- installation of wayfinding signage
- reconfiguration and upgrading of existing drainage and all associated site development works.

The proposed works aim to increase the amenity value of the current Ducking Stool Jetty area.

Figure 3.1: Proposed Site Layout



3.1 Construction Phase

There will also be earth removal (minimal) and piling works associated with the proposed development. A Resource Waste Management Plan (RWMP) will be submitted as part of the detailed design stage. Construction of the proposed development will initially involve the removal of the existing static jetty, walls and slipway, alongside "core drilling into the bedrock to facilitate the installation of new steel columns / piles. Concrete will be removed to facilitate the new concrete slipway. A method statement was developed by Alan Traynor Consulting Engineers outlines the proposed construction approach for the upgrade of the existing public marina.

Static Jetty Pile Installation

1. Structural Frame Installation
 - Install steel vertical columns
 - Fix steel cross beams and edge beams
2. Precast Decorative Concrete Panels
 - Lift decorative precast panels into position against marina face.
 - Secure panels into steel structure
3. Precast Jetty Deck Slabs
 - Lift and place precast slabs onto jetty framing
 - Construct required finishes as per structural drawings.
 - Install edge protection, bollards, ladders and services.

Floating Jetty Installation

- Floating pontoon constructed in factory conditions and delivered to site via lorry and Hiab crane.
- Pontoons fixed to new steel piles via guide brackets.
- Connection of services such as water and power is completed.
- Mooring cleats and safety ladders installed.

Slipway Construction

- Install formwork and reinforcing steel.
- Precast concrete slipway section to be installed in river basin to reduce site/water excavation and damming works.
- Insitu concrete slipway to be formed and cast into precast concrete unit and extended to carpark level.
- Apply non-slip finishes,

Carpark Works

- Strip existing surfacing where required
- Earthworks and grading
- Install new pavement layers
- Linemarking and signage installed
- Landscaping and drainage works completed

During the construction phase of the proposed new marina at the Ducking Stool jetty, the principal risks to water quality will arise from instream works associated with piling, bank modification and installation of pontoons, as well as from general construction activities on adjacent lands. These impacts have been addressed within the NIS where full mitigation measures are outlined.

3.2 Operational Phase

Following the construction phase, natural processes will be restored at the section of river will function like a natural riverbed. Occasional maintenance and monitoring will be required post-flood to ensure that vegetation and bank stabilization measures are functioning as intended. The operational phase will involve ongoing use of the marina by private and commercial vessels alongside the local public as a viewpoint. Accordingly, the Natura Impact Assessment by Norreen McLoughlin has outlined operational control measures for the proposed jetty area which should be adhered to at all times. Potential impacts during the operational phase include discharge of polluted water from carpark, leaking fuel from vessel engines and accidental spills. Each impact has been assessed within the NIS and appropriate mitigation has been applied. On this basis, it is concluded that the proposed development will not result in deterioration in the status of the waterbody, nor will it compromise the achievement of the environmental objectives established under the Water Framework Directive, including the requirement to protect, enhance, and restore waterbodies to achieve at least good status.

3.2.1 Surface Water Drainage

During the operational phase, surface water runoff will be generated from impermeable and semi-permeable surfaces within the development, including the slipway, pier, car parking area and hard landscaped public realm. Runoff from these areas

may contain contaminants such as hydrocarbons, suspended solids and debris, particularly in areas associated with vehicular activity and boat launching. Surface water runoff from the proposed development will be managed through appropriate drainage measures to ensure no adverse impact on the receiving waters of the River Erne.

Figure 3.2 Surface water Drainage at the Jetty

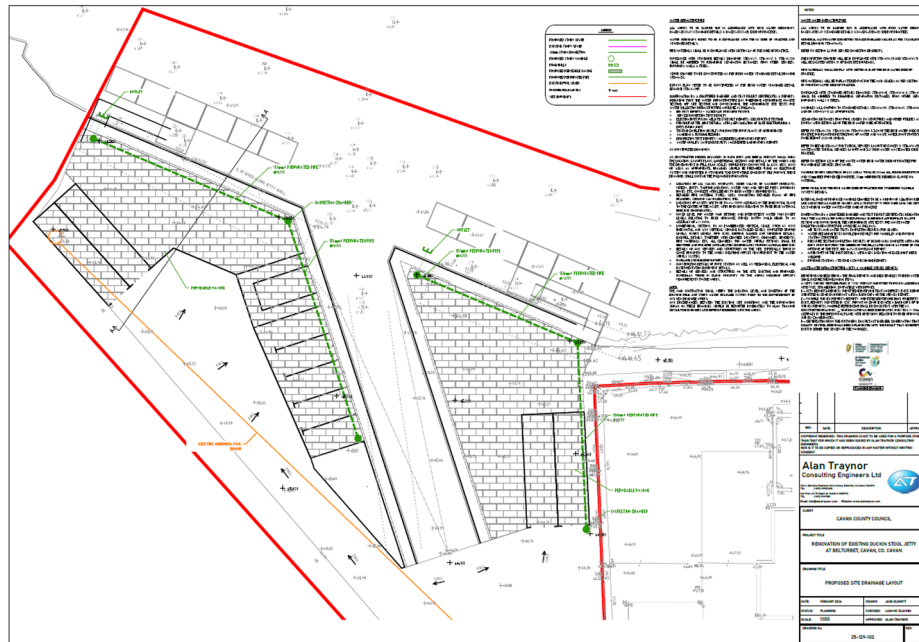
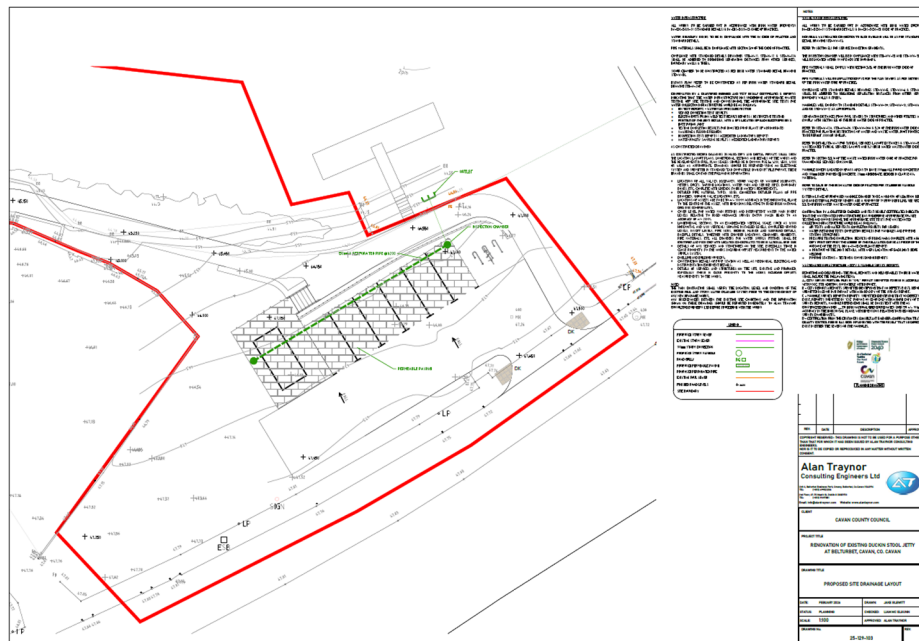


Figure 3.3 Surface water Drainage Car Park on Willow Avenue



3.2.2 Water Supply / Foul Drainage

No water supply, foul drainage, or wastewater infrastructure is required as part of the proposed development, and no operational demand for water will arise.

4.0 SITE SETTING AND RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Site Location and Description

The site in question is approximately 0.407 ha and is located within Belturbet town, approximately 155m north of the town centre. The site is accessed via Lana an Uisce just off the Main Street in Belturbet. The proposed works will take place at the Ducking Stool and the surrounding lands which is off the southern shore of Lough Erne. The site is zoned as 'Flood Zone A' & 'Flood Zone B' in the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028. Any developments within each flood zone are subject to the following: 'Undeveloped land in Flood Zone A&B that is the subject of any zoning objective shall only be developed for *water compatible uses* as identified in the Guidelines.' The proposed development at the Ducking Stool would be considered as water compatible in accordance with The Planning System and FLOOD Risk Management Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2009).

The land-use surrounding the application site is mixed. The urban/sub-urban lands of Belturbet town largely surround the wider area around the site to the south. These areas are predominantly residential, industrial and amenity and the dominant habitats associated with these areas include buildings and artificial surfaces, and amenity grasslands and gardens.

In the rural areas beyond Belturbet town, agriculture is the dominant land use and improved / semi-improved agricultural grasslands are the dominant habitats. Habitats immediately surrounding the site include the River habitats which is the transitional area where land and River Erne meet, functioning as an ecosystem that includes the water, the land (banks and shore), and the vegetation along the water's edge. It encompasses features like rocks, soil, aquatic and terrestrial plants, and various animal species. The overall topography of the surrounding area is generally flat, with the proposed marine works development situated at the edge, and within the extents of the ducking stool area.

Figure 4.1: Site Location

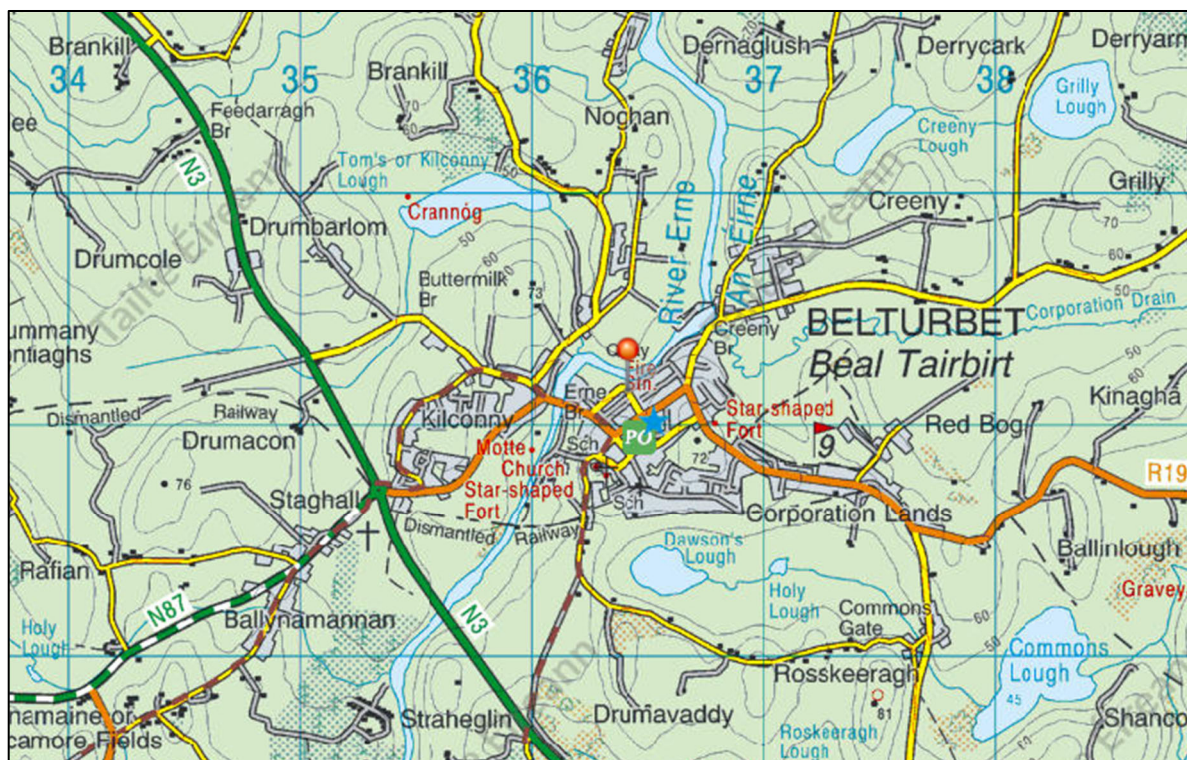


Figure 4.2: Aerial Photography of Site



4.2 Topography

A topographical site survey was carried out and incorporated into the site layout plan. All elevations are relative to Malin Head Datum.

Based on the surveyed information and proposed layout drawing, the site levels generally range from approximately 41.0mOD at the lower areas adjacent to the river to approximately 50.6mOD at higher ground within and surrounding the site boundary. The majority of the proposed development levels fall within the range of approximately 45.00mOD to 48.00mOD, reflecting the gently varying topography across the site.

The site slopes gradually towards the River Erne to the north, with lower elevations recorded along the riverbank and higher ground located towards the southern and eastern extents of the site. Proposed finished levels for paths, parking, and hardstanding areas are generally set between circa 45.0mOD and 47.5mOD, ensuring suitable drainage and integration with existing ground levels.

4.3 Hydrology

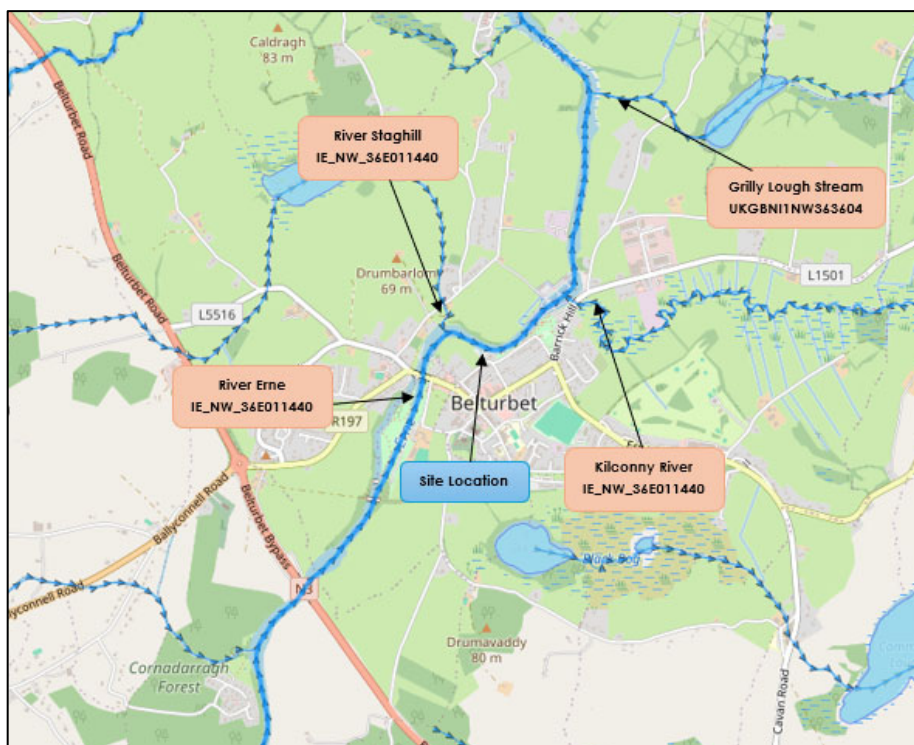
The site is mapped by the EPA (EPA, 2026) to be within the WFD Catchment of the Erne Hydrometric Area (36), Catchment (36), Sub- Catchment (030) and the Erne Sub-Basin. The following rivers/lakes occur within the vicinity of the proposed project:

- River Erne
- Lough Erne Upper

4.3.1 Water Quality

In accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD), each river catchment within the SIRBD was assessed and a water management plan detailing the programme of measures was put in place for each. For the River Erne WMU (Water Management Unit) the main pressure preventing achievement of 'Moderate Status' is diffuse agricultural pollution. The closest surface water feature to the site is the River Erne, which corresponds to the EPA WFD River waterbody ERNE_100 (IE_NW_36E011440), which bounds the northern boundary of the site. The River flows eastwards past the site until it flows into Lough Erne Upper at a point 6.28km downstream of the application site.

Figure 4.3 Site Location in the Context of the Wider Surface Water Environment (Site Located at +).



According to the EPA Maps, the application site is located within the WFD Catchment of the Erne Hydrometric Area (36), Catchment (36), Sub- Catchment (030) and the Erne Sub-Basin. The EPA refer to the river that flows across the northern boundary of the site as the Erne (IE_NW_36E011440– Seg Code 36_1905). The River Erne flows in an easterly direction along the site until its confluence with Lough Erne Upper (IE_NW_36_672 - Seg Code 36_672) approx. 6.28km downstream. There are numerous contributing rivers to the River Erne upstream of its confluence with Lough Erne; however, it remains the primary river channel.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2026) on-line mapping presents the available water quality status information for water bodies in Ireland. The Erne (IE_NW_36E011440– Seg Code 36_1905) that bounds the site to the north achieved "moderate" status in the latest available EPA WFD classification (Cycle 3, 2019–2024; EPA datasets assessed 2026). This eventually discharges into the Lough Erne Upper (IE_NW_36_672 - Seg Code 36_672) which is also achieved as 'Moderate' status in the latest round (2019-2024). All contributing rivers to the River Erne within the study area likewise achieved 'Moderate' status in the same assessment cycle.

4.3.2 River Levels

A review of hydrometric data from the Office of Public Works (OPW) monitoring station at Belturbet (Station No. 36019) was undertaken to characterise water level conditions in the River Erne. Recorded data indicate that typical river levels range from approximately 0.423 m at the 95th percentile (low flow conditions) to 1.930 m at the 10th percentile (high flow conditions), with a median level of approximately 1.279 m. The median flood level is approximately 2.231 m, with the highest recorded flood level of 3.050 m occurring in 2009. These data demonstrate the variability in river levels and reflect a regulated river system influenced by upstream lake levels.

A topographical survey of the site and adjoining section of the River Erne, undertaken between February and March 2026 by Alan Traynor Consulting Engineers Ltd., indicates that invert levels along the site boundary range from approximately 40.84 mOD to 41.43 mOD, while proposed finished ground levels along the river frontage range from approximately 45.15 mOD to 46.55 mOD. This indicates that the proposed development will be set above typical river levels, providing adequate freeboard. The levels are consistent with the gently sloping topography towards the River Erne and reflect the existing hydraulic regime. The proposed works will not alter the existing flow characteristics or water levels within the River Erne.

4.4 Hydrogeology

4.4.1 Groundwater Body

The bedrock aquifer beneath the site is mapped by the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI, 2026) as part of the Clones Groundwater Body (GWB) (EU Code: IEGBNI_NW_G_063). The Clones GWB extends across parts of County Cavan and surrounding areas and is characterised by a predominantly low-lying, drumlinised landscape typical of the region.

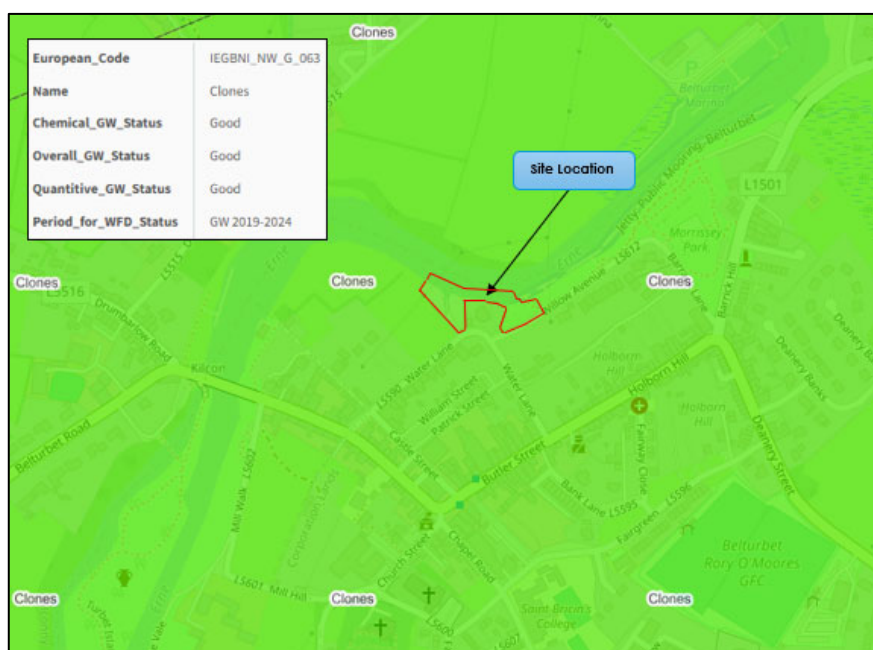
Groundwater recharge in the vicinity of the site is described as diffuse, occurring primarily through the overlying subsoil. The recharge potential is estimated to be between approximately 101-150mm per year (GSI, 2026). The underlying bedrock aquifer is classified as a Locally Important Aquifer, which is generally moderately productive. Such aquifers can support local water supplies and may exhibit moderate permeability, allowing for locally significant groundwater flow pathways. Groundwater within the groundwater body predominantly discharges to surface water features, particularly rivers and streams, which act as key groundwater receptors and contribute to maintaining baseflow within the catchment.

The GSI Clones Groundwater Body report identifies that groundwater flow within the aquifer is primarily controlled by local topography and drainage patterns, with groundwater generally flowing towards nearby rivers, streams, and surface water features. Groundwater movement within the Clones GWB typically occurs through fractures, joints, and bedding planes within the bedrock. Flow paths within the groundwater body are generally short to moderate in length, reflecting the heterogeneous nature of the bedrock and the variability in permeability across the aquifer. Locally, groundwater flow in the vicinity of the site is anticipated to follow the prevailing topographic gradient, discharging towards adjacent surface water features, including the River Erne.

The Clones Groundwater Body is underlain by bedrock of variable composition, with groundwater flow occurring primarily within fractures, joints, and bedding planes in the upper zones of the bedrock. Groundwater circulation is generally concentrated within the shallow subsurface, where weathering and fracturing enhance permeability. As a result, shallow groundwater may respond relatively quickly to rainfall recharge and potential sources of contamination, particularly in areas of higher groundwater vulnerability.

There are no EPA monitoring points located within this GWB; however, available data from similar bedrock types in the wider region indicate that groundwater is typically moderately hard, with relatively low electrical conductivity. Hydrochemical analysis generally indicates a calcium bicarbonate signature, with some variability reflecting local geological conditions. Alkalinity values are variable but commonly fall within a moderate range, and groundwater is typically neutral to slightly acidic, with no significantly low pH values recorded.

Figure 4.5 Groundwater Body Map (Clones Groundwater Body (GWB) (EU Code: IEGBNI_NW_G_063)



Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), groundwater bodies are classified based on their chemical and quantitative status, with each groundwater body assigned an overall status of either "Good" or "Poor." The classification is determined based on a range of factors, including groundwater chemistry, groundwater levels and the interaction between ground water and dependent surface water or ecosystems.

The groundwater body underlying the site is the Clones Groundwater Body (GWB) (EU Code: IEGBNI_NW_G_063). According to the most recent Water Framework Directive assessments, this groundwater body has been assigned an overall status of "Good."

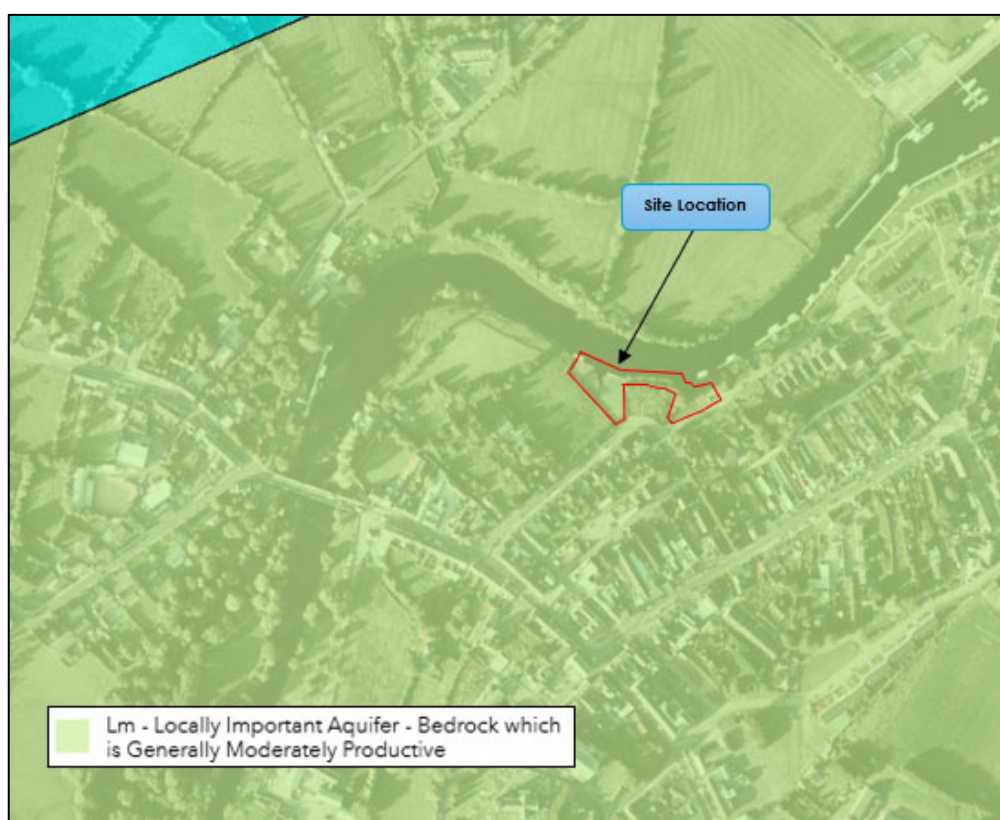
4.4.2 Aquifer Classification

The GSI provides a methodology for aquifer classification based on resource value (regionally important, locally important, and poor) and vulnerability (extreme, high, moderate, or low). Resource value refers to the scale and production potential of the aquifer whilst vulnerability refers to the ease with which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities (vulnerability classification primarily based on the permeability and thickness of subsoils).

The GSI has classified the bedrock aquifer of the Drumgesh Shale Formation area and within the surrounding areas as a Locally Important Aquifer which is generally moderately productive (Lm).

Locally Important aquifers, classified as Lm by the Geological Survey Ireland, are generally moderately productive. Groundwater flow within these aquifers typically occurs through fractures, fissures, and joints within the bedrock, with yields that are typically low to moderate and spatially variable. There are no regionally important sand and gravel aquifers mapped within a 2 km radius of the site. The bedrock aquifer classification for the site is presented in Figure 4.6.

Figure 4.6 Aquifer Map



4.4.3 Groundwater Vulnerability

The vulnerability categories, and methods for determination, are presented in the Groundwater Protection Schemes publication (DEHLG/EPA/GSI, 1999) and summarised in Table 4.1. The publications state that 'as all groundwater is hydrologically connected to the land surface, it is the effectiveness of this connection that determines the relative vulnerability

to contamination. Groundwater that readily and quickly receives water (and contaminants) from the land surface is considered to be more vulnerable than groundwater that receives water (and contaminants) more slowly and in lower quantities. The travel time, attenuation capacity and quantity of contaminants are a function of the following natural geological and hydrogeological attributes of any area.'

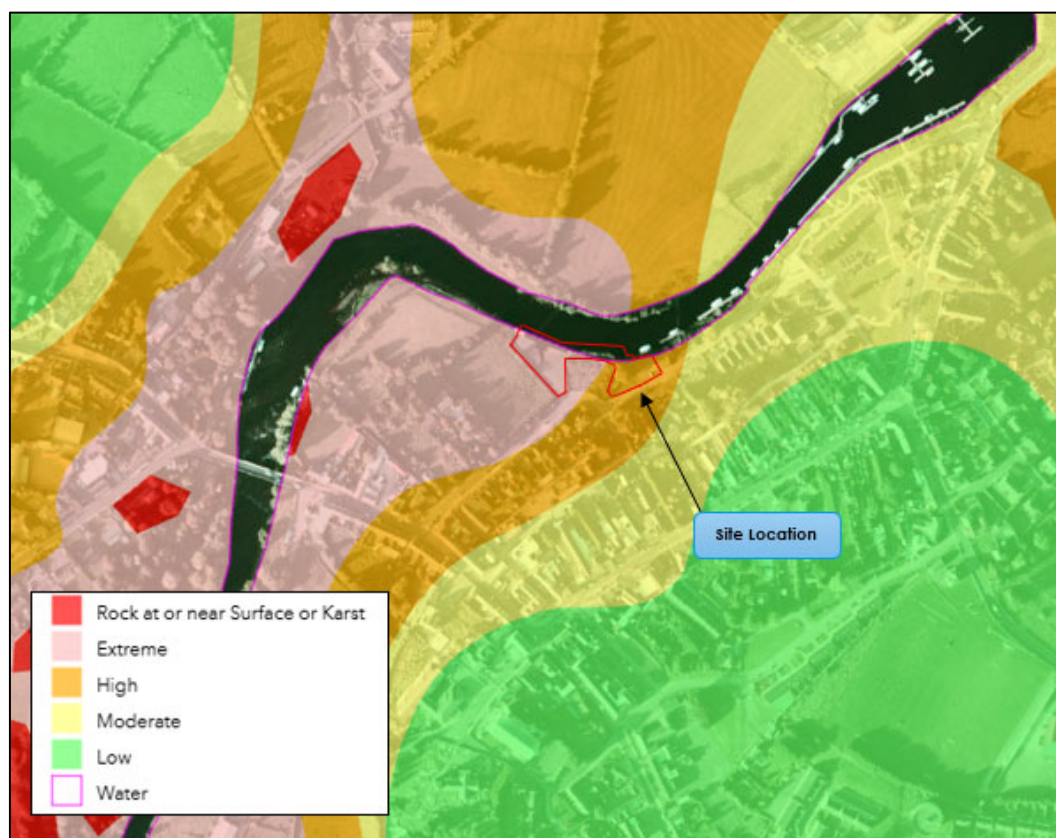
Table 4.1 Vulnerability Mapping Criteria

Hydrological Requirements					
Subsoil Thickness	Diffuse Recharge			Point Recharge	Unsaturated Zone
	Subsoil Permeability & Type			(Swallow holes, losing streams)	(sand & gravel aquifer only)
	High Permeability (Sand & Gravel)	Moderate permeability (sandy subsoil)	Low permeability (clayey subsoil. Clay, Peat)	(Swallow holes, losing streams)	(sand & gravel aquifers only)
0-3m	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme (30m radius)	Extreme
3-5m	High	High	High	N/A	High
5-10m	High	High	Moderate	N/A	High
>10m	High	Moderate	Low	N/A	High

Notes: (i) N/A= not applicable (ii) Permeability classification relate to the material characteristics as described by the subsoil description and classification method.

Based on GSI vulnerability mapping and site investigation data, the majority of the site is classified as Extreme vulnerability where subsoil thickness is limited, and bedrock may be encountered at shallow depth. Towards the east of the site is classified as High vulnerability.

Figure 4.7 Groundwater Vulnerability - (Extreme - High)



4.5 Site Walkover and Water Sampling

No site-specific water quality sampling was undertaken as part of this assessment. Baseline water quality has been characterised using publicly available data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitoring network and Water Framework Directive (WFD) classifications (EPA, 2026).

The closest monitored surface waterbody to the site is the River Erne (ERNE_090), which has been assigned a Moderate ecological status under the most recent WFD classification cycle (2019–2024). EPA biological monitoring data (Q-values) for stations within the vicinity of the site indicate a Q-value of Q3–4, corresponding to Moderate status, which is consistent with the overall WFD classification.

The EPA Water Maps database provides long-term monitored data which is considered representative of baseline water quality conditions in the receiving environment. These data indicate that the waterbody is influenced by diffuse pressures, including agricultural inputs, as identified in the River Basin Management Plan.

No evidence of significant localised pollution sources was identified during the site walkover. The EPA datasets are considered sufficient to characterise baseline conditions for the purposes of this assessment.

4.6 Flood Risk

A Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) has been undertaken by Traynor Environmental Ltd. (2026) to assess the potential flood risk associated with the application site at the Ducking Stool Jetty, Belturbet, Co. Cavan. The assessment considered potential sources of flooding including fluvial, pluvial, groundwater, and infrastructure-related risks, in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2009).

The assessment identifies that the primary flood risk at the site is associated with fluvial flooding from the River Erne, which is located immediately adjacent to the site. Flood mapping (OPW and MyPlan) confirms that the site lies within Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B and therefore forms part of the natural floodplain of the river. No significant pluvial or groundwater flood risk has been identified based on available mapping, historical records, and site-specific information.

Given the absence of detailed hydraulic modelling or site-specific CFRAM data, a qualitative assessment has been undertaken. The proposed development comprises water-compatible uses, including the upgrade of existing jetty and slipway infrastructure, installation of floating jetties, and associated public amenity works. No habitable buildings or vulnerable receptors are proposed as part of the development.

On this basis, while a degree of fluvial flood risk exists, it is considered acceptable having regard to the nature of the development. Furthermore, the proposed works will not give rise to an increase in flood risk elsewhere and are considered appropriate from a flood risk management perspective.

4.6.1 Flood Mitigation Measures

As part of the design and assessment process, a range of embedded mitigation measures have been incorporated to ensure that the proposed development does not adversely affect the existing flood regime:

- The proposed works are localised in nature and will not alter the hydraulic characteristics, flow regime, or conveyance capacity of the River Erne.
- No encroachment into the active river channel or reduction in floodplain storage will occur as part of the development.
- Existing ground levels will be maintained where practicable to preserve natural overland flow paths and floodplain function.
- Surface water runoff from the development will be managed through appropriate drainage measures to ensure no increase in runoff rates or downstream flood risk.
- No structures or features are proposed that would obstruct flood flows or impede flood conveyance.
- No vulnerable development or habitable structures are proposed within the flood risk area.

- Construction activities will be managed in accordance with best practice and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to avoid any temporary increase in flood risk.

On the basis of the above, it is concluded that the proposed development will not adversely impact the existing flood regime and will not increase flood risk within or beyond the application site.

4.6.2 Summary

All available information has been reviewed in relation to flood risk at the application site, including flood mapping, historical records, and site-specific assessment. The SSFRA confirms that the primary flood risk is fluvial in nature and associated with the River Erne.

The proposed development has been designed to be compatible with this flood risk setting and will not introduce new receptors or increase flood risk elsewhere. Accordingly, the development is considered to be in compliance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2009) and is appropriate from a flood risk management perspective.

4.7 Subject Site Designations

The proposed development is not located within any European designated Special Protection Area (SPA). However, it is located along the River Erne, which forms part of the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs Special Area of Conservation (SAC). A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the proposed development was prepared by Noreen McLoughlin, Ecologist. The closest European site is the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Site Code: 000007), which partially overlaps the proposed development area, with an approximate overlap of 1,280 m².

The proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European site. However, given its location in proximity to the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC and the potential for effects to arise, it was determined that the project should proceed beyond Stage 1 screening to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. Accordingly, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the integrity of the European site.

4.8 Water Quality

4.8.1 Published Regional Groundwater Quality

The EPA groundwater monitoring data (EPA, 2026) was reviewed and there are four National Monitoring Stations within a 2km radius of the site or that are hydraulically connected to the site.

Table 4.3 Groundwater Quality Results

No.	Distances	Station ID	Station Name	River Basin District	Station Type
1	301m Southwest	RS36E011400	Kilconny Belturbet (RHS)	Northwestern	PreWfd
2	260m Southwest	RS36E011410	ERNE - Kilconny Belturbet (LHS)	Northwestern	PreWfd
3	500m Northeast	RS36E011440	ambient u/s TPEFF0200D0084SW001	Northwestern	RIVER_STATION
4	767m Northeast	RS36E011450	ambient d/s TPEFF0200D0084SW001	Northwestern	RIVER_STATION

4.8.2 Published Regional Surface Water Quality

The EPA surface water quality monitoring database (EPA, 2026) was consulted. A summary of the most recent published EPA water quality monitoring data (EPA, 2026) for waterbodies which have a potential hydraulic connection to the site is presented in Table 4.4.

No.	Station Code	River Waterbody Name	Year	Q Value Score	Q Value Status
1	RS36E011400	ERNE_090	2025	3-4.	Moderate

The WFD status for river, lake, groundwater, transitional and/or coastal water bodies that have a potential hydraulic connection to the subject site as recorded by the EPA (EPA, 2025) in accordance with European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (SI no. 722/2003) are provided in Table 4.5 and presented in Figure 4-6 and Figure 4-7.

Waterbody Name	Waterbody EU Code	Location from Site	Distance from Site (km)	WFD Status (2019-2024)	WFD Risk	Hydraulic Connection to the Site
Surface water Bodies						
River Erne	IE_NW_36E011440	North	Adjacent	Moderate	Under Review	Yes, via groundwater and surface water drainage from the proposed development.
Lough Erne Upper	IE_NW_36_672	Northeast	6.28km	Moderate	At Risk	Indirectly, via downstream surface water pathways (River Erne); no significant direct groundwater linkage expected.
Groundwater Bodies						
Clones Ground water Body	IEGBNI_NW_G_063	N/A	N/A	Good	Good	Yes, underlying the Site.

[illegible]

4.9.1 Nature Conservation

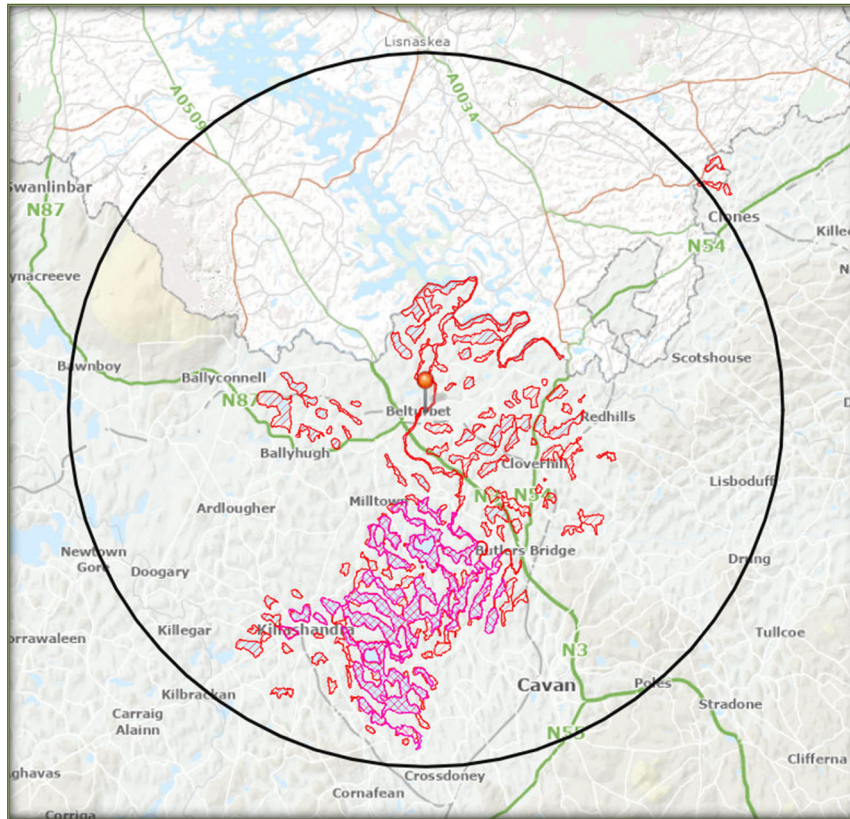
The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) seeks to conserve natural habitats and wild fauna and flora by the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) seeks to protect birds of special importance by the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SACs and SPAs are collectively known as Natura 2000 or European sites (referred to hereafter as Natura 2000 site). National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designations under the Wildlife Acts to protect habitats, species, or geology of national importance.

The boundaries of many of the NHAs in Ireland overlap with SAC and/or SPA Sites. Although many NHA designations are not yet fully in force under this legislation (referred to as 'proposed NHAs' or pNHAs), they are offered protection in the meantime under planning policy which normally requires that planning authorities give recognition to their ecological value. There are three Natura 2000 sites within 15 km of the application site.

There is direct hydrological connectivity between the application site and the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (000007) via the River Erne. While indirect downstream connectivity also exists to Lough Erne Upper, the separation distance and the presence of intervening waterbodies reduce the likelihood of any significant effects arising.

Table 4.6 European Sites within 15km of the development site (EPA, 2026).

Name of Site	Approximate Distance	Direction	Potential Risk
Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC 000007	Site is Partially Within, Overlapping Area c 1,280m ²	Surrounding Area	Yes- Due to the proximity of the site to the SAC, potential effects upon the QIs of this site cannot be ruled out. Effects could arise due to pollution, habitats loss, noise, anthropogenic effects and species disturbance.
Lough Oughter Complex SPA 004049	3.9km	South	No- Having regard to the separation distance and the fact that there is no hydrological connectivity between the application site and the SPA as the site is downstream of this SPA, potential significant effects can be ruled out. This SPA is hydrologically upstream of any influence from the application site. The bird survey carried out by Joe Adamson in November 2025 confirmed that no QI species were observed within or close to the application site on the day of the survey.
Magheraveely Mark Loughs SAC UK0016621	15.8 km	North	No- Having regard to the separation distance and the fact that there is no hydrological connectivity between the application site and the SPA as the site is downstream of this SPA, potential significant effects can be ruled out.

Figure 4.10 European Sites within 15km of the development site


4.9.2 Drinking Water

The river drinking water protected areas (DWPA) are represented by the full extent of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) river waterbodies from which there is a known qualifying abstraction of water for human consumption as defined under Article 7 of the WFD. A surface water Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA), designated under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive, is present at the River Erne waterbody (ERNE_090; EU Code: IE_NW_36E011440; EU_PA_Code: IEPA1_NW_36E011410), located approximately 300 m upstream of the site.

4.9.3 Shellfish Areas

Although the Shellfish Waters Directive (SWD) has been repealed, areas used for the production of shellfish that were designated under the SWD, are protected under the WFD as 'areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species. The requirement from a WFD perspective is to ensure that water quality does not impact on the quality of shellfish produced for human consumption. In Ireland, 64 areas have been designated as shellfish waters (S.I. No. 268 of 2006, S.I. No. 55 of 2009, S.I. 464 of 2009). The closest designated Shellfish Area location is Sligo Bay (IE_WE_470_0000) located approximately 73.46km east of the site.

4.9.4 Nutrient Sensitive Areas

EU member states are required under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) to identify nutrient-sensitive areas. These have been defined as "natural freshwater lakes, other freshwater bodies, estuaries, and coastal waters which are found to be eutrophic or which in the near future may become eutrophic if protective action is not taken. The closest designated nutrient sensitive area is the Lough Oughter, County Cavan, located approximately 6.3km south of the site.

4.9.5 Bathing Waters

Bathing waters are designated under Regulation 5 of Directive 2006/7/EC. Designated Bathing Waters exist under S.I. No. 79/2008 and S.I. No. 351/2011 Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011. EC Bathing Water Profiles - Best Practice and Guidance 2009. The closest designated Bathing Water location is the Keeldra Lough (IESHBWL26_624_0100) located approximately 29.56km from the site. This site has a bathing water quality status of excellent.

4.9.6 Water Action Plan (WAP) 2024-2027 Programme of Measures

The Water Action Plan sets out the actions planned for implementation between now and the end of 2027. With only 52% of rivers; 48% of lakes and 63% of coastal waterbodies currently reaching the required water quality standard set by EU and national law, immediate and comprehensive action is essential to succeed in this Plan and achieve improvements. The Water Action Plan (WAP) provides information on the status and planned actions for various water bodies in Ireland.

These entries offer insights into the specific measures being considered or implemented to improve the ecological status of this watercourse. The main pressures on the Clones Groundwater Body are dominated by agriculture (approximately 55%), followed by domestic wastewater (18%), urban wastewater (14%), forestry (7%), and minor contributions from industry and other sources (6% combined).

5.0 WFD ASSESSMENT

5.1 Screening of Potential Effects to Waterbody Status

5.1.1 Surface Waterbodies

The proposed works are localised in extent and do not involve culverting, impoundment, abstraction, or the introduction of barriers to flow, and therefore do not constitute a significant hydromorphological pressure at a scale that would affect WFD status. The proposed development has been assessed against Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive and is considered compliant with its objectives.

The development comprises the upgrade and reconfiguration of the existing jetty and slipway, installation of floating jetties, and associated public realm and car park infrastructure. The works do not involve any alteration to the natural course, morphology, or hydraulic regime of the River Erne.

The potential effects of the proposed development on the status of surface waterbodies, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), have been considered.

During the construction phase, there is potential for temporary impacts on surface water quality arising from works in proximity to the River Erne, including sediment mobilisation, increased turbidity, and the accidental release of pollutants. These potential impacts are short-term, localised, and will be effectively mitigated through the implementation of measures set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

The River Erne has been considered as the primary receptor due to its direct hydrological connectivity to the application site. Downstream waterbodies, including Lough Erne Upper, have also been considered in the context of indirect connectivity via surface water pathways. Upstream waterbodies have been screened out, as there are no pathways for impacts to propagate upstream from the proposed works.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed development, the absence of operational discharges, and the implementation of best practice mitigation measures during construction, the proposed development is not predicted to result in deterioration in any element of waterbody status, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this report.

The proposed development does not introduce any new pressures identified under the Water Action Plan (e.g. agriculture, wastewater, urban runoff, or hydromorphological modification). The works do not involve land use intensification, pollutant loading, abstraction, or discharge. Accordingly, the proposed development will not contribute to existing pressures affecting the waterbody.

5.1.2 Groundwater bodies

The Clones Groundwater Body has been considered in this assessment due to its underlying presence beneath the application site. No other groundwater bodies are considered to be sufficiently close or hydraulically connected to be impacted by the proposed development.

Potential impacts on groundwater are limited to the construction phase and may include localised and temporary risks such as sediment mobilisation, accidental spillages of fuels or oils, and minor disturbance to shallow subsurface conditions during excavation works.

These potential risks will be mitigated through the implementation of standard best practice construction measures, including appropriate storage and handling of fuels, use of designated refuelling areas, and the implementation of sediment and runoff control measures. Excavations will be temporary and controlled, and works will be undertaken in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

During the operational phase, limited interaction with groundwater may occur via natural infiltration of rainfall and drainage from hardstanding areas. However, no direct discharges to groundwater are proposed.

Given the nature, scale, and duration of the works, and the absence of significant operational pressures, the proposed development is not expected to result in any deterioration of groundwater quality or status, nor will it affect the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives for the Clones Groundwater Body.

5.2 Risk Evaluation of Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkages

A risk-based assessment of the Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model and the potential risk linkages associated with the construction and operational phases of the proposed development has been undertaken.

The assessment demonstrates that all identified risks are either incomplete pollutant linkages or are effectively controlled through embedded design measures and the implementation of standard best practice construction measures as set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

No viable pollutant linkage has been identified that would result in deterioration of surface water or groundwater status. Accordingly, the proposed development is considered compliant with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

Table 5-1. Conceptual Site Model (Source- Pathway Receptor) and Risk Evaluation

Source	Pathway	Receptor	Risk Evaluation
Construction Phase			
Accidental release of fuels, oils, or chemicals	Infiltration to shallow soils and potential migration to groundwater and adjacent surface waters	Clones GWB and River Erne	Low to Moderate Risk (prior to mitigation) During construction, there is potential for accidental release of contaminants which could infiltrate soils and migrate to groundwater or the adjacent River Erne. Given the shallow nature of works, any impact would likely be localised. With the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (e.g. bunded storage, designated refuelling areas, spill kits), the residual risk is Low, and no deterioration in groundwater or surface water status is anticipated.
Mobilisation of sediments during excavation and earthworks	Surface water runoff to River Erne	River Erne	Low to Moderate Risk (prior to mitigation) Excavation works in proximity to the watercourse have the potential to mobilise sediments, resulting in increased turbidity within the River Erne. With the implementation of standard best practice mitigation measures (e.g. silt fencing, sediment control measures, and controlled working practices), any potential impacts will be temporary and localised in nature. The residual risk is therefore considered to be Low, and no deterioration in Water Framework Directive (WFD) status is anticipated.
Construction phase foul water (welfare facilities)		None (no direct receptor)	Low Risk No discharge to surface water or groundwater will occur during the construction phase. Welfare facilities for construction personnel will be provided via existing facilities associated with the nearby

			development, thereby eliminating the need for temporary on-site foul drainage. As such, no impact on the water environment is anticipated.
Operational Phase			
Surface water / hydrology (post-construction channel)	Natural flow through re-aligned channel	River Erne and downstream catchments	No / Low Risk The proposed channel has been designed to replicate the hydraulic capacity and flow characteristics of the existing watercourse. No significant increase in runoff that would affect water quality, subject to drainage controls. No deterioration in WFD status or impact on hydrology is anticipated.
Groundwater interaction	Limited interaction via natural infiltration and surface water drainage	Clones GWB	No / Low Risk Limited interaction with groundwater may occur via natural infiltration of rainfall through permeable areas and drainage from hardstanding surfaces. However, no direct discharges to groundwater are proposed as part of the development. Given the scale and nature of the works, no significant impact on groundwater quality or status is expected.
Foul water	No pathway (no foul water generated)	None	No Risk No foul water will be generated during the operational phase of the proposed development. Therefore, there is no pathway for impact on surface water or groundwater receptors.

6.0 DESIGN AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION

The assessment of potential impacts on the receiving environment has taken account of embedded design measures and standard best practice construction methods incorporated into the proposed development. The design of the upgraded jetty, slipway, and associated works has been developed to maintain existing hydraulic conditions within the River Erne, thereby avoiding any increase in flood risk or adverse impact on the existing hydrological regime.

Potential impacts on surface water and groundwater are primarily associated with temporary construction activities, including works in proximity to the river and the potential for sediment mobilisation or accidental release of contaminants. These risks are considered to be localised and short-term in nature.

Standard best practice construction measures, as outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), will be implemented to prevent impacts on the water environment.

In addition to these embedded measures, specific mitigation measures have been identified, where necessary, to ensure the protection of water quality and compliance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

6.1 Construction Phase

During the construction phase, all works will be undertaken in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prepared by Traynor Environmental Ltd. (January 2026), which accompanies the planning application. The CEMP outlines the standard good practice construction methods, environmental controls, and mitigation measures required to manage and prevent potential impacts on surface water and groundwater during the construction of the proposed development at Ducking Stool Jetty, Belturbet.

The CEMP will be implemented for the duration of the construction phase and will address all activities with the potential to impact the water environment. Key measures include the control and management of surface water runoff, sediment control, management of excavations, appropriate handling and storage of fuels and chemicals, and procedures for the prevention and response to accidental spillages.

Surface water runoff will be carefully managed to prevent sediment-laden water entering the River Erne. This will include the use of silt fences, and where necessary, silt curtains to intercept and contain suspended solids during instream and near-water works. These measures will be installed in advance of construction and maintained throughout the construction phase.

Excavation and construction activities will be carried out in a controlled manner, with works scheduled, where practicable, during suitable weather conditions to minimise runoff. Any water arising from excavations will be managed appropriately, including settlement or off-site removal where required, and no untreated water will be discharged directly to surface water or groundwater.

All fuels, oils, and chemicals will be stored in designated bunded areas, located away from watercourses, with secondary containment provided in accordance with best practice guidance. Refuelling will be undertaken in controlled areas, and spill kits will be available on-site at all times. All personnel will be trained in environmental protection measures and spill response procedures.

Instream works will be undertaken in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidelines and will incorporate strict controls to prevent deterioration in water quality, including sediment and pollution control measures and ongoing visual monitoring of the River Erne.

With the implementation of the measures outlined in the CEMP, no significant impacts on surface water or groundwater quality are anticipated during the construction phase.

6.2 Operational Phase

The proposed development comprises the upgrade and reconfiguration of the existing jetty and slipway, installation of floating jetties, and associated public realm and car park infrastructure. There will be no direct discharges to surface water or groundwater associated with the operational phase.

Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas will be managed via a drainage network incorporating a petrol interceptor prior to discharge to ground via soakaways. No foul water will be generated as part of the development.

Accordingly, no significant operational pathways exist for impacts on surface water or groundwater, and the development will function within the existing hydrological regime of the River Erne.

6.3 Residual Risk to Waterbody Status

Potential impacts on waterbody status have been assessed taking into account the embedded design measures and the implementation of mitigation measures set out in the CEMP. Potential risks during the construction phase are temporary and localised in nature and relate primarily to sediment mobilisation, accidental spillages, and short-term disturbance associated with instream and near-water works.

The CEMP incorporates a comprehensive range of mitigation measures, including sediment control (e.g. silt fencing and silt curtains), pollution prevention procedures, controlled refuelling practices, and emergency response planning, all of which are designed to protect the water environment.

With the implementation of these measures, no significant impacts on surface water or groundwater quality are anticipated. The residual risk to waterbody status is therefore considered to be negligible, and the proposed development is not expected to result in any deterioration in Water Framework Directive (WFD) status. Upstream waterbodies have been screened out of the assessment, as there are no pathways for impacts to propagate upstream from the proposed works.

6.4 Potential Impact on Protected Areas Objectives

Having regard to:

- the presence of direct hydrological connectivity to the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC via the River Erne,
- the limited scale and nature of the proposed development,
- the localised and short-term nature of potential construction impacts, and
- the implementation of mitigation measures as set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP),

No significant effects are predicted given mitigation. Accordingly, the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site and will not compromise the objectives of protected areas under the Water Framework Directive.

6.5 Potential Impact on Water Action Plan Programme of Measures

Based on the findings of this assessment, and applying the precautionary principle, the proposed development will not adversely affect the implementation of the Water Action Plan Programme of Measures. Potential impacts during the construction phase are temporary and localised in nature and will be effectively managed through the implementation of standard mitigation measures. As such, the proposed development will not interfere with the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives or associated Programme of Measures.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and relevant national legislation, applying a source–pathway–receptor-based risk assessment methodology.

The proposed development comprises the upgrade and reconfiguration of the existing jetty and slipway, installation of floating jetties, and associated public realm and car park infrastructure at Ducking Stool Jetty, Belturbet. The development does not involve any abstraction, discharge, or modification to the hydromorphological regime of the River Erne.

Potential impacts are limited to the construction phase and relate primarily to temporary and localised risks such as sediment mobilisation, accidental spillages, and disturbance associated with works in proximity to the waterbody. These risks will be effectively managed through the implementation of standard best practice construction measures as set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

The assessment demonstrates that:

- No significant pollutant linkages exist that would give rise to deterioration in surface water or groundwater status;
- The proposed development will not prevent the achievement of good status or compromise the objectives of the Water Framework Directive;
- The proposed development will not introduce new pressures or contribute to existing pressures identified under the Water Action Plan;
- The proposed development will not adversely affect any protected areas, including the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC.
- No new pressures of a scale that would affect WFD status.

Surface water runoff from the proposed development will be managed through appropriate drainage measures to ensure no adverse impact on the receiving waters of the River Erne.

On the basis of this assessment, and subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined, the proposed development is considered to comply with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and is not predicted to result in deterioration of waterbody status or prevent the achievement of good status.

8.0 REFERENCES

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