



Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Project reference	240263-Proposed Boreholes, Tory's Hill, Co. Limerick
Date	30/03/2026
Statement of Authority	Template prepared by Pat Roberts (Principal Ecologist, B.Sc., MCIEEM), report written by Caitrin Farren (Practitioner Ecologist, B.Sc.) and approved by Emily Fair (Project Ecologist, B.Sc., M.Sc.).

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment for Part 8 application to drill and install two groundwater monitoring boreholes at Killenoughty, Co. Limerick, adjacent to the L1408 Toryhill. The purpose of the boreholes is to monitor groundwater levels and variability.

Site Location
The proposed works area includes a yard and a public laneway located in Killenoughty, Co. Limerick (Grid Ref: R 53296 43392). Tory Hill SAC [000439] is located approx. 35 metres east of the proposed works at the closest point. There are no watercourses within, or within the vicinity of, the proposed works. The site is accessed via the L1408 Tory hill local road. The site location is shown in Figure 1 below.
Description of Proposed Works
It is proposed to drill and install two groundwater monitoring boreholes in a yard at Killenoughty, Co. Limerick (Plate 1), adjacent to the L1408 Toryhill: ➤ one shallow bedrock borehole drilled to a depth of max 30m ➤ one deep bedrock borehole drilled to a depth of max 70m. Materials to be used are steel casing, unplasticized polyvinyl chloride (uPVC) casing and screen, sand, cement, bentonite pellets and water which is of potable quality.

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The purpose of the boreholes is to monitor groundwater levels and variability. The boreholes will be used solely for environmental monitoring and not for abstraction. The proposed works will take a maximum of two weeks to complete, with drilling planned to commence in May 2026. Upon completion, the site will be reinstated, and no permanent structures other than the two groundwater monitoring boreholes and borehole heads will remain.



Plate 1 Yard in which the groundwater monitoring boreholes are proposed to be drilled and installed

Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- Review of 2025 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).

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- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the proposed works
- Review of relevant databases including National Biodiversity Ireland Database
- Review of other relevant plans and projects within the area.
- Review of ARC report submitted to the NPWS for the proposed works
- Site visits conducted by MKO on 17/02/2026 and 20/09/2025

Identification of Relevant European Sites

All European Sites that could potentially be affected by the proposed works were identified using a source-pathway - receptor model and are listed and assessed below. No potential for the proposed works to result in likely significant effects on any other European Site was identified.

European Sites and distance from proposed development	Qualify Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie on the 01.04.2026)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain and Likely Zone of Influence Determination
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)			
Tory Hill SAC [000439] Distance: approx. 36m	➤ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ➤ [7210] <i>Calcareous fens</i> with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> ➤ [7230] Alkaline fens	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, August 2018)¹ were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There will be no direct effects as the proposed works are located entirely outside the designated site. The boreholes will be drilled within the proposed works footprint. This European site is separated from the site of proposed works by agricultural grassland. No watercourses were identified within the proposed works or within the areas surrounding the proposed works. Therefore, no surface water connectivity exists between the proposed works area and the designated site.

¹ NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Tory Hill SAC 000439. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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			No groundwater abstraction or dewatering is proposed, and the boreholes will not impact the geohydrological regime. The nearest groundwater dependant habitats which are designated as part of the SAC are Alkaline fens [7230] and Calcareous fens [7210], which are located approx. 135m and 210m east of the proposed works. The separation distance of approx. 135 to 210m, combined with the temporary and localised nature of works, ensures that there is no direct or indirect hydraulic connection that could give rise to impacts on the groundwater dependant habitats designated as part of Tory Hill SAC. Therefore, there will be no impact on groundwater levels or hydraulic gradients that could affect the groundwater dependent QI habitats of this SAC. Based on the nature and scale of the works, lack of hydrological connectivity and the separation in distance from this SAC, there is no potential for significant effects on this SAC as a result of the proposed works. No potential for deterioration of water quality within the SAC exists. The proposed works are temporary in nature and do not have the potential to result in habitat deterioration of any QI habitats of this SAC. No complete source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and this SAC. The SAC is not within the zone of likely influence and therefore no further assessment required.
Lower River Shannon SAC [002165] Distance: approx. 6.4km	➤ [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ➤ [1095] Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ➤ [1096] Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, August 2012)² were reviewed as part of the assessment and are	There will be no direct effects as the proposed works are located entirely outside the designated site. The boreholes will be drilled within the proposed works footprint. No watercourses were identified within the proposed works or within the areas surrounding the proposed works. Therefore, no surface water

² NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



➤ [1099] River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ➤ [1106] Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ➤ [1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time ➤ [1130] Estuaries ➤ [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ➤ [1150] Coastal lagoons ➤ [1160] Large shallow inlets and bays ➤ [1170] Reefs ➤ [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks ➤ [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ➤ [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ➤ [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ➤ [1349] Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) ➤ [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ➤ [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ➤ [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ➤ [6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	available at www.npws.ie	connectivity exists between the proposed works area and the designated site. Based on the nature and scale of the works, lack of hydrological connectivity and the separation in distance from this SAC, no potential for deterioration of water quality within the SAC exists. The proposed works are temporary in nature and do not have the potential to result in likely significant effects on the QIs of this SAC. No complete source-pathway-receptor chain for likely significant effect was identified between the site of proposed works and this SAC. The SAC is not within the zone of likely influence and therefore no further assessment required.
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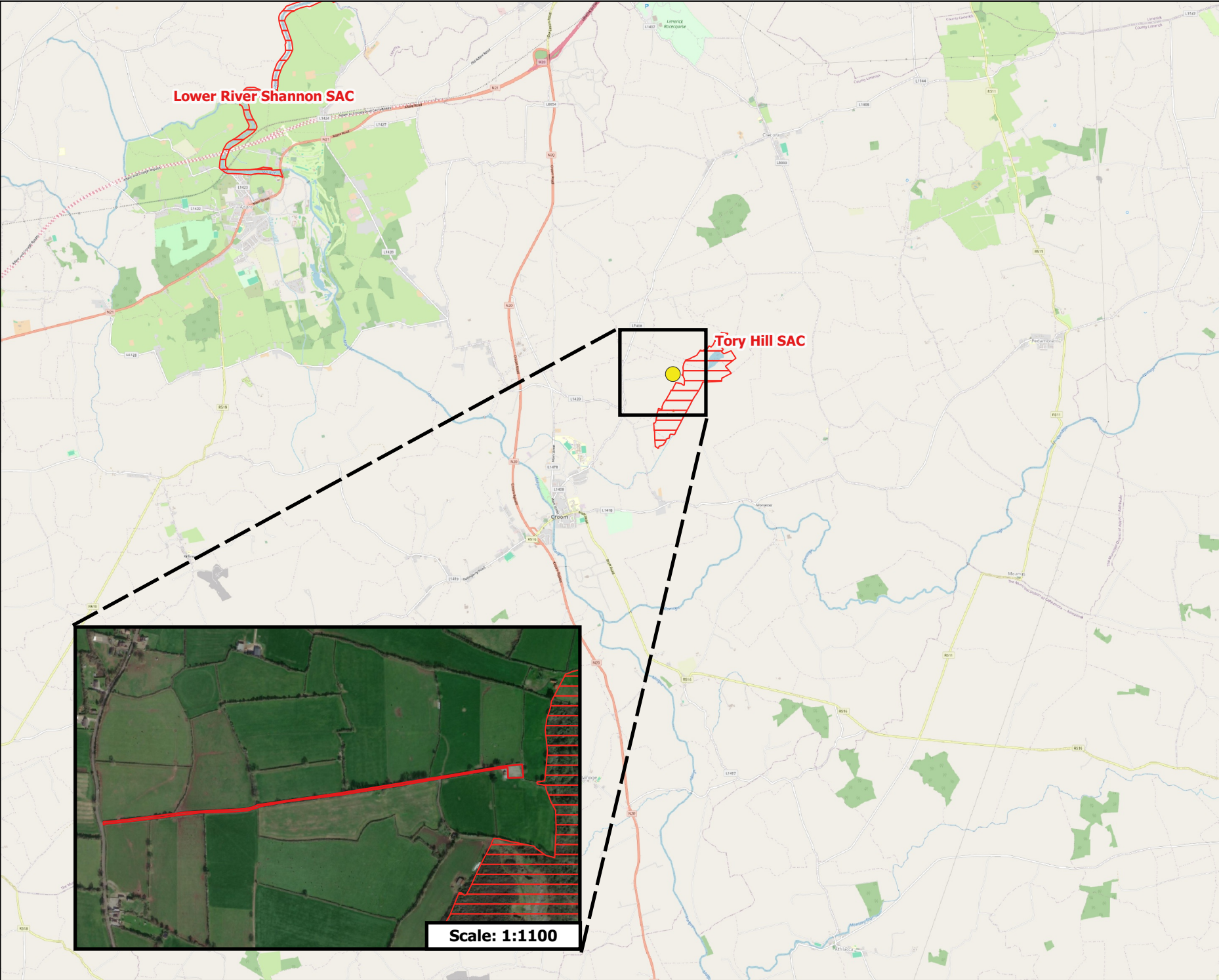


	➤ [91E0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicamn albae</i>)		
Special Protection Area (SPA)			
There are no SPAs within the Likely Zone of Influence			
Likely Cumulative Impacts			
The potential for the internal conservation works to contribute to a cumulative impact on European sites was considered. Due to the limited scale and nature of the proposed works, no additional projects were considered likely to contribute to a cumulative impact. The following plans have been reviewed and are taken into consideration as part of this assessment: ➤ Limerick County Development Plan 2022-2028 ➤ Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region ➤ 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 No pathway for the proposed works to result in any significant effect on any European site was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and therefore there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effect when considered with other developments.			
Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion			
After comprehensively assessing the location, connectivity, nature and scale of the works, no European Designated Sites are considered to be at risk of likely significant effects as a result of the proposed works. It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site.			

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Map Legend

- Proposed Works Location
- Proposed Works Boundary
- ▨ Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- ▨ Special Protection Area (SPA)



Drawing Title

Site Location

Project Title
Proposed Boreholes, Tory's Hill,
Co. Limerick

Drawn By	CF	Checked By	EF
Project No.	240263	Drawing No.	Figure 1
Scale	1:80,000	Date	30.03.2026



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