



In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, the Office of Public Works (OPW) has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European Sites, if the Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme Ground Investigations, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

<b>Gort Lowlands FRS – Ground Investigations</b>	
Description of Works	<p>The works consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 50 boreholes</li><li>● 18 geobore boreholes</li><li>● 76 rotary core boreholes</li><li>● Two slit trenches</li><li>● 134 trial pits</li><li>● 7 archaeological trenches</li></ul>
European Site within the zone of influence of the proposed works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Lough Coy SAC (002117)</li><li>● Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC (002293)</li><li>● Peterswell Turlough SAC (000318)</li><li>● Coole-Garryland Complex SAC (000252)</li><li>● Cahermore Turlough SAC (002294)</li><li>● East Burren Complex SAC (001926)</li><li>● Termon Lough SAC (001321)</li><li>● Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)</li><li>● Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)</li><li>● Ballinduff Turlough SAC (002295)</li><li>● Caherglassaun turlough SAC (000238)</li><li>● Coole-Garryland SPA (004107)</li></ul>

This determination is based, on information supplied by Mott MacDonald, Consultants, provided in the 'Gort Lowlands FRS- Ground Investigations - Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment'.

From this screening exercise it has been determined that no likely significant effects may arise on any European sites as a result of the Ground Investigation works in combination with other plans and projects. This assessment is, undertaken in the absence of mitigation measures. The project screened out for Appropriate Assessment based on the location of the works, the nature and the scale of the works.

As required under Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, OPW has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required. The Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites and as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme Ground Investigations, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites.

**Signed:**

*Nathy Gilligan* \_\_\_\_\_

Nathy Gilligan  
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