



**Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council**

**Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2013 and Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 to 2013.**

**Habitats Directive Screening Assessment Conclusion Statement**

**N60 Balla to Claremorris Road Project at HEATHLAWN**

A Habitats Directive Screening Assessment was carried out on the N60 Balla to Claremorris Road Project at HEATHLAWN. A review of the conservation objectives and threats to site integrity for the Natura 2000 sites in and within 15km of the Project Area was undertaken to identify sites that may be impacted by the scheme.

The N60 Balla to Claremorris Road Project at HEATHLAWN comprises the upgrading of approximately 3.6 km of roadway which will help in providing a high quality and sustainable road network and promote strategic development within County Mayo. The improvement of the N60 along the existing road corridor will be comprised of the following:-

- Widening of the existing road to a Type 2 Single Carriageway standard with Cycleway in accordance with the NRA's National Secondary Roads Needs Study,
- Widening of existing watercourse structures,
- Excavation of the existing road,
- Excavation of land adjacent to the existing road,
- Construction of a new road,
- Construction of culverts,
- Drainage works,
- Excavation of peat and unacceptable material,
- Excavation of rock,
- Disposal / Recovery of unacceptable roadwork's material, and
- Ancillary works.

Consideration has been given to the direct, indirect and secondary effects on the Natura 2000 network in the planning and design of the proposal. There are two locations where there is minor overlap between the proposal and the Balla Turlough cSAC. This will not result in any direct habitat loss for any Qualifying Interests habitat for the cSAC. Therefore there will not be any impacts on the site in view of its conservation objectives and there are no other Natura 2000 sites with the potential to be impacted by the proposed development.

The Habitats Directive Screening Assessment concludes that applying the precautionary principal it was determined that it was not possible to rule out significant impacts on the Qualifying Interests habitat to the Balla Turlough cSAC and therefore it was necessary to proceed to Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' – Natura Impact Statement.

A report (Natura Impact Statement) was prepared as part of the Appropriate Assessment process. The report outlines a suite of mitigation measures, which are binding on the contractor at construction stage and the local authority at operation phase that ensure there will be no significant impact from the proposal on the qualifying interests, integrity or conservation objectives of the Balla Turlough cSAC. This report is being submitted to An Bord Pleanála for an Appropriate Assessment (to be carried out by the Board) on the impact of the proposal.

This report has concluded that as a result of the appropriate design of the proposal and proposed mitigation measures there will be no adverse impacts to the integrity of the Balla Turlough cSAC as a result of the proposed development.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.



**Paddy Mahon,**  
**Director of Services.**