

Schedule of Mitigation Updates 28/09/2022

	<p><b>Amphibians and Reptiles</b></p> <p><i>At Newton there is an existing pond where frogs have been recorded and which contains suitable habitat for newts Enhancement of this feature should be included as part of the landscape plan, including planting around the edges to enhance this feature.</i></p> <p><b>Invertebrates (white-clawed crayfish)</b></p> <p><i>Hand searches will be conducted and any crayfish found will be removed and moved upstream of the dammed area</i></p> <p><b>Bats</b></p> <p><i>Mitigation measures for the loss of habitat at Thomastown have been detailed above. These measures will also protect bat species from loss of foraging and commuting habitat. Pre-construction checks for bats will be carried out as required along with bat surveys as needed using standard survey methodology as detailed Chapter 7 of the EIAR. This will be carried out at all sites.</i></p> <p><b>Translocation Mitigation Points</b></p> <p><i>Information from the site assessments will be used to inform a detailed translocation Method Statement / Strategy which will be consulted on and approved by NPWS.</i></p> <p><i>The loss of an area of 40m<sup>2</sup> Hydrophilous tall herb and an area of 300m<sup>2</sup> of Lowland hay meadows, both corresponding to Annex I habitat, lost under the footprint of the proposed Project will mitigated through the translocation of turves from the area to be lost to receptor sites. The extent of the receptor site at Ballycoskery is based on a like for like area basis and will be contiguous with the existing habitat. The site at Buttevant will be the same size or larger and will be includes an additional area that will be enhanced for invertebrates and birds.</i></p> <p><i>A pre-construction detailed site inspection will be carried out by a botanical expert, including condition assessment, at donor and receptor sties. Sites will be surveyed by an experienced botanist in June and the existing habitat mapped in detail. The substrate will be assessed by digging soil pits to determine rooting depth to aid the design of the translocation. Any constraints present at the donor and receptor sites will be identified, e.g. soil testing to identify soil pH along with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK) values for the soils. Each site will</i></p>	



*be assessed for any issues such as nutrient seepage and any issues that may carry implications for further management of this habitat.*

*At Ballycoskery from a hydrological perspective the proposed location for the translocation of the flora may not currently provide the conditions where it can grow, however under the proposals for the drainage system and design of the embankment and swales; local conditions can be augmented, as necessary. Preparation of receptor site and translocation of turves (seed bank, above ground vegetation and below ground roots) will be undertaken in early autumn when vegetation is dying back and the ground is still dry enough to disturb. Turves will not be removed and stored prior to translocation to increase potential of success. Where this is not possible an alternative method will be developed to ensure the viability of the turves to be translocated.*

*The entire donor site area will be removed to an appropriate depth, to be determined by detailed site inspection and pre-construction survey, and moved to the cleared receptor site as noted above. Under the direction of an experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoW), turves will be laid by hand or with the use of specialist plant on the pre-prepared bare ground and staked-in to prevent movement. Turves will not be translocated when the ground is water-logged or frozen. Translocation of the habitat at Ballcoskery will be completed within one day where possible.*

*At Ballycoskery stock fencing will be installed to prevent grazing and poaching by livestock. Where present overhanging vegetation, scrub comprising small bushes and trees, will be trimmed back to reduce leaf litter.*

*At Buttevant the existing wall between the adjacent field and the receptor site will be retained. An area corresponding to that which will be lost, or greater as directed by the experienced ECoW, will be cleared of dense vegetation using hand-tools. The receiving ground will be prepared by stripping back and removing all vegetation to a suitable depth.*

*The grassland should be mown when the plants become dormant (August/September) and the hay should be retained. Once the ground is prepared at the receptor site turves will be removed by hand or with the use of specialist plant and to an appropriate depth. The hay from the meadow will be scattered over the receptor site. Correct depth of turves and scattering of hay will ensure that the entire seed bank is removed and will reduce the impact to ground-living insects. Turves will not be removed when the ground is frozen or water-logged. Mowing, preparation of the receptor site and translocation of the grassland will be completed within three days where possible. Receptor sites will be monitored for a period of three years post construction. The monitoring will provide for a feed-back loop informing corrective measures such as enhancement using, for example, seedlings cultivated from harvested seeds to enhance the Ballycoskery receptor site, vegetation trimming or annual mowing that may be required to maintain conditions at Buttevant. At Buttevant the receptor site is currently dominated by scrub which will need to be managed for the translocation to succeed. Management should include the removal of scrub species fully through clearance of scrub to ground level and maintenance of scrub at this level. This site should be mowed yearly initially, and every second year once it has established and its condition has been assessed as good.*



	<i>The culverts will be embedded and the natural beds of the waterbodies allowed to re-establish naturally following installation and the removal of the upstream dam. The culvert will be fitted with a mammal ledge, ledges shall be at least 500mm wide, constructed at least 150mm above the 1 in 5 year flood event, and allow at least 600mm headroom.</i>	
	<p><i>Consideration shall be given to the design of guarding to the new bridge to match the surviving historic railing site</i></p> <p><i>Stone removed from any historic boundary walls will be reused in the proposed Project for the cladding of any necessary retaining walls where possible. Works to historic structures within the area of intervention shall be specified and supervised by a suitably qualified conservation engineer/architect.</i></p>	
	<i>In respect of Dr. Kennedy and Dr. O'Reilly's property, CIE will undertake additional planting of semi mature native species (which will be carried out with the co-operation and in conjunction with the owner's) so as to deal with the issue of delay in maturity and to provide for improved screening</i>	

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