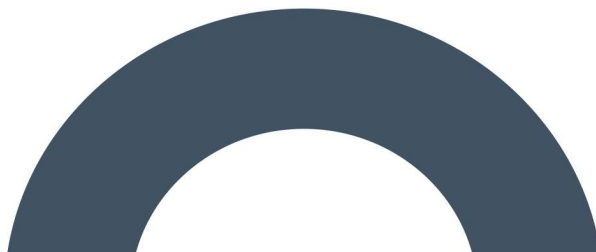


Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Forestry Harvesting
Operations at Merlin Park,
Galway City.





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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the harvesting of approximately 18.47 hectares of forestry .

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and field surveys undertaken during September 2026. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed works to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018)
- Department of the Environment's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin 7, Ireland OPR (2021).

1.2 Statement of Authority

This report and associated assessment have been prepared by [REDACTED] a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. [REDACTED] is a highly experienced in the undertaking of Biodiversity Chapters for Ecological Impact Assessment Reports and has over 20 years' post graduate experience in ecological consultancy.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Appropriate Assessment Process

Screening - The purpose of the screening stage is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

There is no necessity to establish such an effect; it is merely necessary for the Competent Authority to determine that there may be such an effect. The need to apply the precautionary principle in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of Appropriate Assessment has been confirmed by the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site may be excluded. The threshold at this first stage is a very low one and operates as a trigger in order to determine whether Appropriate Assessment of a project is required. Therefore, where significant effects are likely, uncertain or unknown at screening stage, an AA of the project will be required.

Appropriate Assessment - This stage of the process is a focused and detailed examination, analysis and evaluation by the Competent Authority of the implications of the plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a European site in view of that site's conservation objectives. Case law has established that such an Appropriate Assessment, to be lawfully conducted must:

- i. identify, in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field, all aspects of the proposed project which may, by itself or in-combination with other plans or projects, affect the conservation objectives of the European site;
- ii. contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions and may not have lacunae or gaps; and
- iii. may only include a determination that the proposed project will not adversely affect the integrity of any relevant European site where the competent authority decides (on the basis of complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions) that no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of potential adverse effects. If adverse impacts can be satisfactorily avoided or successfully mitigated at this stage, so that no reasonable doubt remains as to the absence of the identified potential effects, then the process is complete. If the assessment is negative, i.e. adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded, then the process must proceed to stage three (assessment of alternative) and, if necessary, stage four (IROPI).

1.3.2 Desk Study Methodology

In preparation of the report, the below sources were used to gather information.

- Review of Description of the proposed works including the Harvest Plan and associated maps
- Review of the Ecological Assessment and Constraints Report
- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for 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).
- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the Proposed Harvesting Operations.
- Review of relevant databases including National Biodiversity Data Centre database and available literature of previous surveys conducted in the area.
- Review of other plans and projects within the area.

1.3.3 Ecological Survey Methodology

Assessing the impacts of any project and associated activities requires an understanding of the ecological baseline conditions prior to and at the time of the project proceeding. Ecological Baseline conditions are those existing in the absence of proposed activities (CIEEM 2018).

The site was visited on the 10th and 11th of September 2026 to gather information on the baseline habitats on the site and to assess the potential for the proposed harvesting operations to result in likely significant effects on any European Sites. The particular focus of the visits was to assess the potential for the existence of source-pathway-receptor chains that could lead to Likely Significant Effects on European Sites as a result of the proposed works.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORKS

2.1 Site Location

The site is located within Merlin Park Woods that are in the eastern extents of Galway City (Grid Ref. to centre of the Site M 33794 25967). Merlin Park Woods are surrounded to the north, east and west, by residential and amenity developments in Doughiska and Ballybane along with some grasslands and to the south by Merlin Park Hospital and associated grounds.

The site location is shown in Figure 2-1.

2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Operations

2.2.1 Description of the Operations

The operations will involve selective timber harvesting, including timber extraction using existing forest infrastructure, temporary crossing points of a dry drain, timber stacking, machinery access and associated operational activities. Temporary site fencing will be erected around active work areas for the duration of the works. Replanting does not form part of this Appropriate Assessment.

- All proposed works will be undertaken in full accordance with:
- Standards for Felling and Reforestation (v. Oct 2019)
- Felling and Reforestation policy (DAFM 2017)
- Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM 2015)

Full details of the proposed operations are provided in the Harvest Plan and associated mapping that are provided in Appendix 1.

2.2.2 Description of the Baseline Ecological Environment

The baseline ecological environment is described in full in the Ecological Assessment and Constraints Report that is provided in support of the works. The description of the site from that report is provided below and the information was ground truthed during the site visit by [REDACTED] on the 10th and 11th September 2026.

Description of the site as per Section 2.2 of the Ecological Assessment and Constraints Report for the project:

The project area comprises mixed woodland within Merlin Park, Galway City. The woodland forms part of a larger urban park managed by Galway City Council and is characterised by a mosaic of mature broadleaved woodland, conifer plantation, mixed woodland, scrub, limestone pavement, grassland, drainage features and an extensive network of formal and informal walking paths. The site is a well-established recreational resource and is surrounded by residential development, Merlin Park University Hospital and associated public open space.

The woodland was extensively affected by Storm Éowyn (24 January 2025), with widespread windthrow throughout the conifer plantation. Much of the central and western conifer woodland has been blown down, resulting in extensive areas of fallen timber and deadwood. Scattered standing conifer stems remain throughout these areas, while larger intact blocks of conifer plantation persist towards the eastern part of the site. Broadleaved woodland has generally been less affected, although isolated windblown and damaged trees occur throughout.

The site supports a diverse range of habitats including broadleaved woodland (WD1), mixed broadleaved/conifer woodland (WD2), conifer plantation (WD4), recently windblown

woodland (WS5), scrub (WS1), immature woodland (WS2), exposed limestone pavement (ER2), dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2), small pockets of wet grassland (GS4), dense bracken (HD1), drainage ditches (FW4), ornamental planting (BC4), allotments (BC2), hardstanding and paths (BL3), together with the historic stonework of Merlin Castle (BL1).

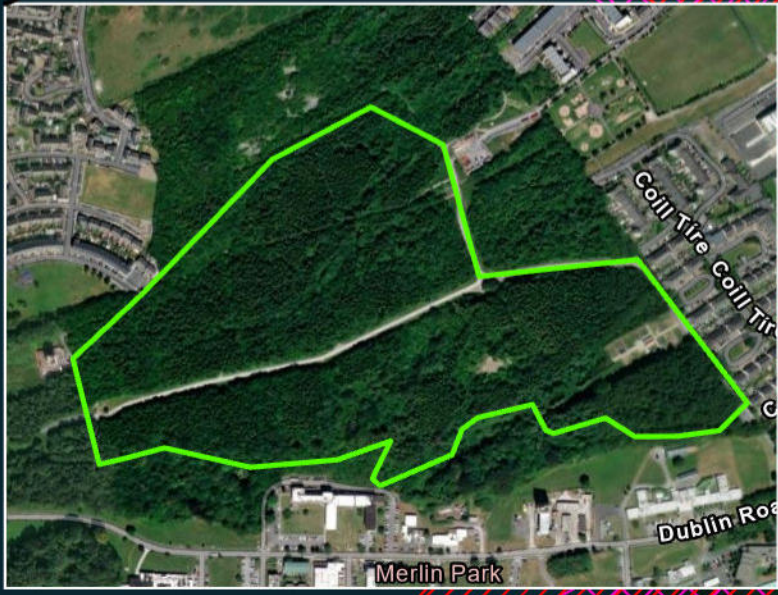
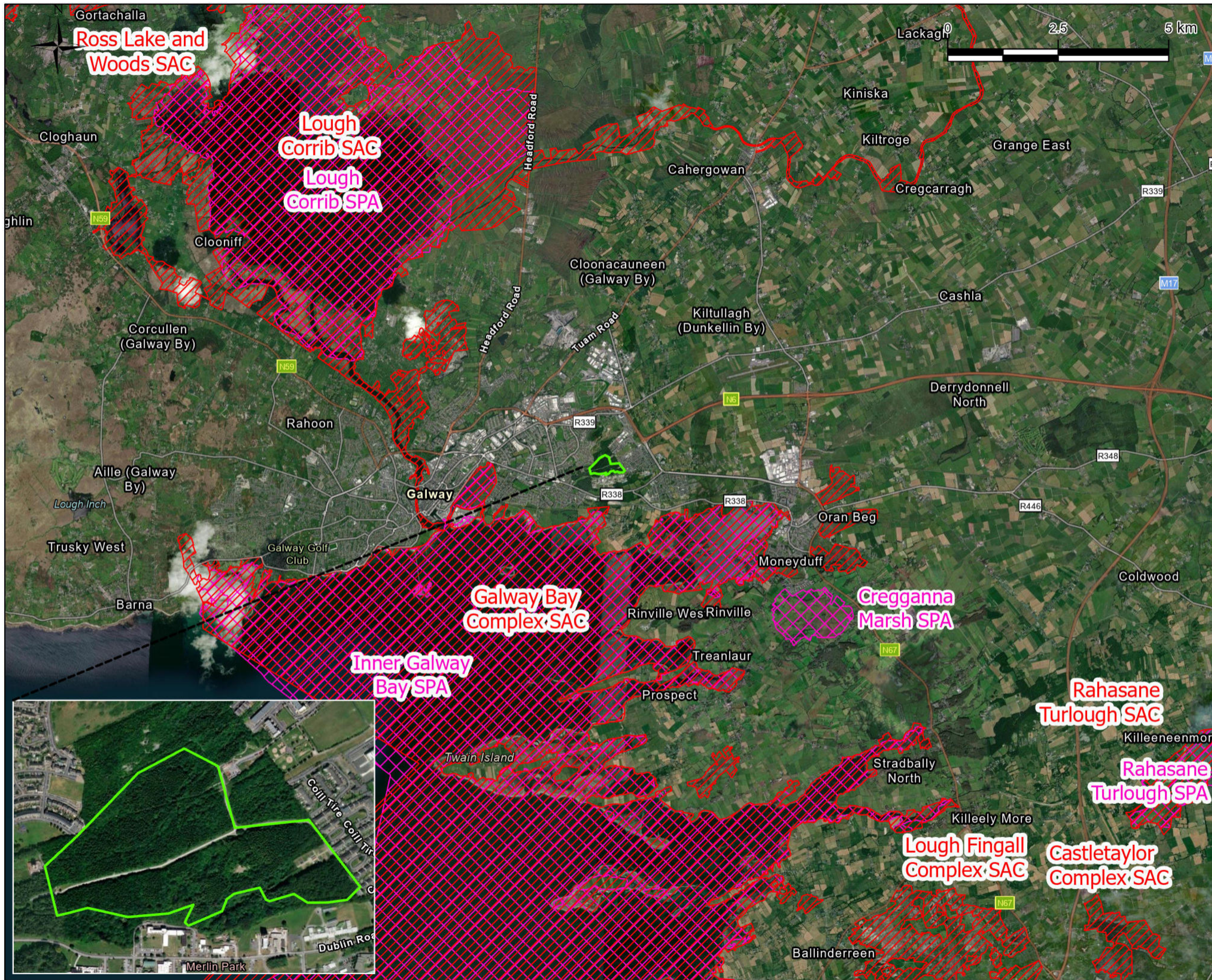
A network of historic limestone stone walls traverses the woodland, forming long-established landscape features that define former field boundaries and compartments. The walls support locally abundant mosses, lichens and ferns, while also providing habitat connectivity and refugia for invertebrates, small mammals and amphibians. These walls represent an important ecological and cultural heritage feature within the woodland.

An extensive network of surfaced and unsurfaced paths provides public access throughout the site. Narrow bands of semi-natural neutral grassland and occasional wet grassland occur alongside many of these pathways, contributing to local habitat diversity. Several minor woodland tracks were partially obstructed by windblown trees at the time of survey, restricting access in places but remaining passable along the principal routes.

Numerous drainage ditches and ephemeral channels are present throughout the woodland. However, during the field survey (July 2026), all mapped drains and watercourses within the proposed operational area were dry, with no flowing surface water observed.

*Ground flora composition varies according to canopy cover and woodland type. Invasive Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites pyrenaicus*) was abundant along woodland paths, track margins and woodland edges throughout the site, but was notably less frequent beneath the closed woodland canopy. Other areas support a typical woodland ground flora together with bramble, ivy, regenerating woody species and locally dense scrub with neutral and wet grasslands along woodland edge.*

Overall, the site comprises a structurally diverse urban woodland with a high degree of habitat heterogeneity. The combination of mature broadleaved woodland, extensive storm-damaged conifer plantation, limestone pavement, historic stone walls, semi-natural grassland, scrub and associated recreational infrastructure contributes to the ecological, landscape and amenity value of Merlin Park Woods.



Map Legend

- Site Boundary
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)

Spatial Reference
Name: TM75 Irish Grid
Datum: TM75
Projection: Transverse Mercator

SITE LOCATION - NOT TO SCALE

Site Location in Relation to European Sites

Project Title GCiC Merlin Woods AASR		
Project No.	Drawing No.	Scale
	2-1	1:80,000
Drawn By BOC	Checked By PR	Date 11/09/2026

Email: info@mkoireland.ie / Website: www.mkoireland.ie

3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

The following methodology was used to establish any European Sites upon which there is a potential for a likely significant effect to occur either individually or in combination with other plans and projects as a result of the proposed works:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) and the EPA website (www.epa.ie).
- All European Sites that could potentially be affected were identified using a source-pathway - receptor model. To provide context for the assessment, European Sites surrounding the works site are shown on Figure 2-1. Information on these sites according to the site-specific conservation objectives is provided in Table 3-1.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed works and any European Sites.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, 'Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)' (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed works and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- Table 3.1, provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses the potential for likely significant effects on each.
- The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed works, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of criteria including the following: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this assessment.
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website (www.npws.ie), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report. The potential for the proposed works to result in cumulative impacts on any European Sites in combination with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment that is presented in Table 3.1.

Given the nature, scale and location of the proposed operations, no potential for any source-pathway -receptor chains for Likely Significant Effects on any sites was identified with the exception of those that are located within the same hydrological catchment. In the absence of further assessment, the potential for S-P-R chains to exist in the form of direct or indirect hydrological linkages could not be excluded. The operations are located within the Galway Bay South East WFD Catchment (29) and the underlying groundwater body is the Clarinbridge Groundwater Body (IE_WE_G_0008). The site ultimately drains towards Galway Bay. European Sites included the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA are located within Galway Bay and are further assessed in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie ²)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)				
Galway Bay Complex SAC [00268] Distance: Approximately 680m	➤ 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	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 2, June 2026), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There will be no direct Likely Significant Effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the European Site and separated from it by approximately 680metres in which are an existing hospital, woodlands, grasslands a busy regional road and active railway line. The potential for ex-situ effects to Qualifying Interest Species was considered. However, the site of the proposed operations does not provide suitable habitat for any such species. The potential for indirect effects was considered and a potential pathway for Likely Significant Effects in the form of surface and ground water was identified. However, following the site inspection and review of the relevant information as provided in the Harvest Plan, Ecological Assessment and Constraints Report and associated	No

² Accessed at <<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>>

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)
	➤ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ➤ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ➤ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) ➤ 1355 Otter Lutra lutra ➤ 1365 Harbour Seal Phoca vitulina ➤ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) ➤ 3180 Turloughs ➤ * 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ➤ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates		mapping and reporting, no pathways for effect were identified. No surface water pathways were identified with all drains and historic waterways being dry and non functioning (not just during summer).In addition, no excavations are proposed and the works methodologies ensure that there is no potential for significant effects on ground water. Since no complete S-P-R chain was identified between the proposed operations and the European Site, they cannot result in any effect on the site. Therefore, they cannot contribute to any cumulative effect when considered in combination with other plans or projects. No pathway for Likely Significant Effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects.	

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)
	(Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) ➤ 7210 Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae* ➤ 7230 Alkaline fens ➤ 8240 Limestone pavements*			
Special Protection Area (SPA)				
Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Distance: Approximately 815m	➤ A003 Great Northern Diver Gavia immer ➤ A017 Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo ➤ A028 Grey Heron Ardea cinerea ➤ A046 Brent Goose Branta bernicla hrota ➤ A050 Wigeon Anas penelope ➤ A052 Teal Anas crecca	Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, May 2013), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie	There will be no direct Likely Significant Effects as the project footprint is located entirely outside the European Site and separated from it by approximately 815metres in which are an existing hospital, woodlands, grasslands a busy regional road and active railway line. The potential for ex-situ effects to Special Conservation Interest Species was considered. However, the site of the proposed operations does not provide suitable habitat for any such species. The potential for indirect effects was considered and a potential pathway for Likely Significant Effects in the form of surface and ground water was identified. However, following the site inspection and review of the relevant information as provided in the Harvest Plan, Ecological Assessment and Constraints Report and associated	No

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)
	> A056 Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> > A069 Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> > A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> > A140 Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> > A142 Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> > A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> > A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> > A160 Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> > A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> > A169 Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> > A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		mapping and reporting, no pathways for effect were identified. No surface water pathways were identified with all drains and historic waterways being dry and non functioning (not just during summer). In addition, no excavations are proposed and the works methodologies ensure that there is no potential for significant effects on ground water. Since no complete S-P-R chain was identified between the proposed operations and the European Site, they cannot result in any effect on the site. Therefore, they cannot contribute to any cumulative effect when considered in combination with other plans or projects. No pathway for Likely Significant Effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects.	

European Sites and distance from proposed works	Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, www.npws.ie)	Conservation Objectives	Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)
	> A182 Common Gull Larus canus > A191 Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis > A193 Common Tern Sterna hirundo > A999 Wetlands			

4. **ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 **Concluding Statement**

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 operations, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site.

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APPENDIX 1

HARVEST PLAN AND ASSOCIATED MAPPING

Harvest Plan Submitted in Support of Felling: Merlin Park

Proposed Felling & Reforestation Methods	
Thinning (incl. CCF)	☒ N/A ☐ Harvester ☐ Chainsaw ☐ Forwarder ☐ Tractor/Quad ☐ Skyline ☐ Other (specify):
Clearfelling	☐ N/A ☒ Harvester ☒ Chainsaw ☒ Forwarder ☒ Tractor/Quad ☐ Skyline ☐ Other (specify):
Reforestation	☐ N/A ☒ Windrowing ☒ Pit planting ☐ Mounding ☒ Scrap mounding ☐ Scarification ☐ Other (specify):
Site access (i.e. via forest road)	☒ Present ☒ Planned ☐ Not required ☐ Other (e.g. temporary roading/forest track):

Social & Environmental Features & Considerations		
Social	Habitat & Biodiversity	Soil & Water
☒ Recreational usage	☒ Designated area (SAC, SPA, etc.)	☒ Aquatic zone(s) on/adjoining site
☒ Adjoining dwelling(s)	☒ Broadleaves/diverse conifers	☒ Relevant watercourse(s)
☒ Right(s)-of-way present	☒ Hedgerows	☐ Water-related 'hotspots'
☒ Utilities (power lines/water main)	☒ Old/veteran trees	☐ Water abstraction point
☒ Sensitive landscape	☐ Large scale deadwood	☐ Peaty or peaty/gley
☐ Important viewpoint(s)	☒ Badger sett, rookery, etc.	☐ Steep slope(s)
☒ Archaeological site(s) & feature(s)	☒ Protected fauna	☐ Water setback(s) present & intact
☒ Cultural feature(s)	☒ Protected flora	☐ Supply of brash limited
☒ Anti-social (dumping, fire, etc.)	☐ Wetland habitat	☐ Other:
☐ Other (specify):	☐ Other (specify):	☐ Other:

Proposed Measures to Protect Social & Environmental Features & Considerations	
☒ Consult with local residents	☒ Establish excl. zones around arch. sites/features
☒ Erect safety signage	☒ Temporary bridging points (TBPs) required
☒ Onsite briefing of all operators, pre-commencement	☒ Install water setback at refor.
☒ Carefully selected refuelling/repair/storage depot	☐ Install dwelling setback at refor.
☒ Measures to protect right(s)-of-way	☐ Install public road setback at refor.
☒ Measures to protect service features	☒ Install archaeological setback at refor.
☒ Measures to protect habitats & biodiversity features	☒ Install biodiversity setback at refor.
☐ Limit operations to dry weather	☐ Install landscape setback at refor.
☒ Daily visual monitoring of ground conditions	☐ Inclusion of Refor. Objective 'CCF'
☒ Daily visual monitoring of water	☐ Inclusion of Refor. Objective 'BIO'

Proposed Measures to Protect Social & Environmental Features & Considerations (Cont..)

☐ Water sampling	☐ Forest edge planting
☒ Install silt traps/barriers	☒ Environmental setback planting
☐ Drain blocking/slow-water dams	☐ Other (specify)
☒ Utilise brush mats along extraction routes	☐ Other (specify)
☒ Exclude machinery in areas adjoining aquatic zones, water abstraction points & water-related 'hotspots'	☐ Other (specify)

Ancillary Information (include relevant information to expand on above & to detail important aspects such as the sequencing of operations, the width of environmental setbacks & contingency planning. Ensure accurate cross-referencing and consistency with maps) *

Introduction

Site Description:

The proposed site is found in the townlands of Merlin Park, found inside Galway city, Co. Galway. The site is 18.47ha in size, the site was planted in 1946. Terrain is graded as flat- gently sloping gradients. The highest point on site is 37m and the lowest point on site is 26m. The site sits on Renzinas/Lithosol soil. The site has housing estates running along the western and eastern border. Merlin Park University Hospital runs along the southern border of the site. There are multiple archaeological features found across the site, with the most prominent being Merlin castle and a Midden just north of the castle which sits at the western boundary of the site . A 30m exclusion zone will be applied to both Merlin Castle and the Midden. There is an underground water pipeline running parallel to the forest run until it leaves the by the south border of the County council depot. There are also overhead powerlines running into the county council depot. Overhead powerlines also run from the public allotments along the south east border of the site. Where machines must pass underneath overhead powerlines goal posts will be erected. There is an old aquatic zone that has been diverted from the park, that once ran from the eastern boundary to the south western boundary. A 10m exclusion zone will be applied to this. There are numerous old stone wall running across the entire site. A 5m exclusion zone will be applied to all old stone walls on site. Temporary bridging points will be required to cross old stone walls in places for timber extraction. In both the south and northern area of the site there is exposed limestone areas found. These will be marked on the ground and avoided by machinery.

The following operations are proposed:

Clearfell 2026

Harvesting

Operations carried out on site will include:

- Selection of suitable machinery which will minimise ground disturbance and compaction.
- All plant and equipment including harvesting and forwarding machinery used within the harvest areas carry the required spill and clean up kits.
- Only competent individuals will undertake operations onsite.
- Timing of operations to ensure site will not be worked in adverse weather conditions.
- Creation and maintenance of effective brash mats.
- Machine lines to always be in a direction away from any watercourses and to follow the best ground conditions available on site
- Use of exclusion zones from sensitive areas on the site. Trees outside reach of harvester will be felled manually by chainsaw and processed outside exclusion zone.
- Broadleaf veteran trees to be retained where windfirm and safe to do so. Existing gaps in hedgerows will be used during harvesting and extraction, where appropriate and safe to do so.
- Harvesting in wetter areas are to be prioritised when ground conditions are suitable and is to be avoided if ground conditions are unsuitable.
- All timber to be stacked in a responsible manner.

Reforestation

- No ground cultivation to take place in water setback areas.
- Filling in & vegetation control for first 4 years until successful establishment.
- Herbicide use will be minimised and will not be applied if not required.
- Fertilisers will only be applied if needed.

Onsite supervision to be present during operations to ensure that these are implemented.

All proposed works will adhere to:

- Standards for Felling and Reforestation (v. Oct 2019)
- Felling and Reforestation policy (DAFM 2017)
- Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM 2015)

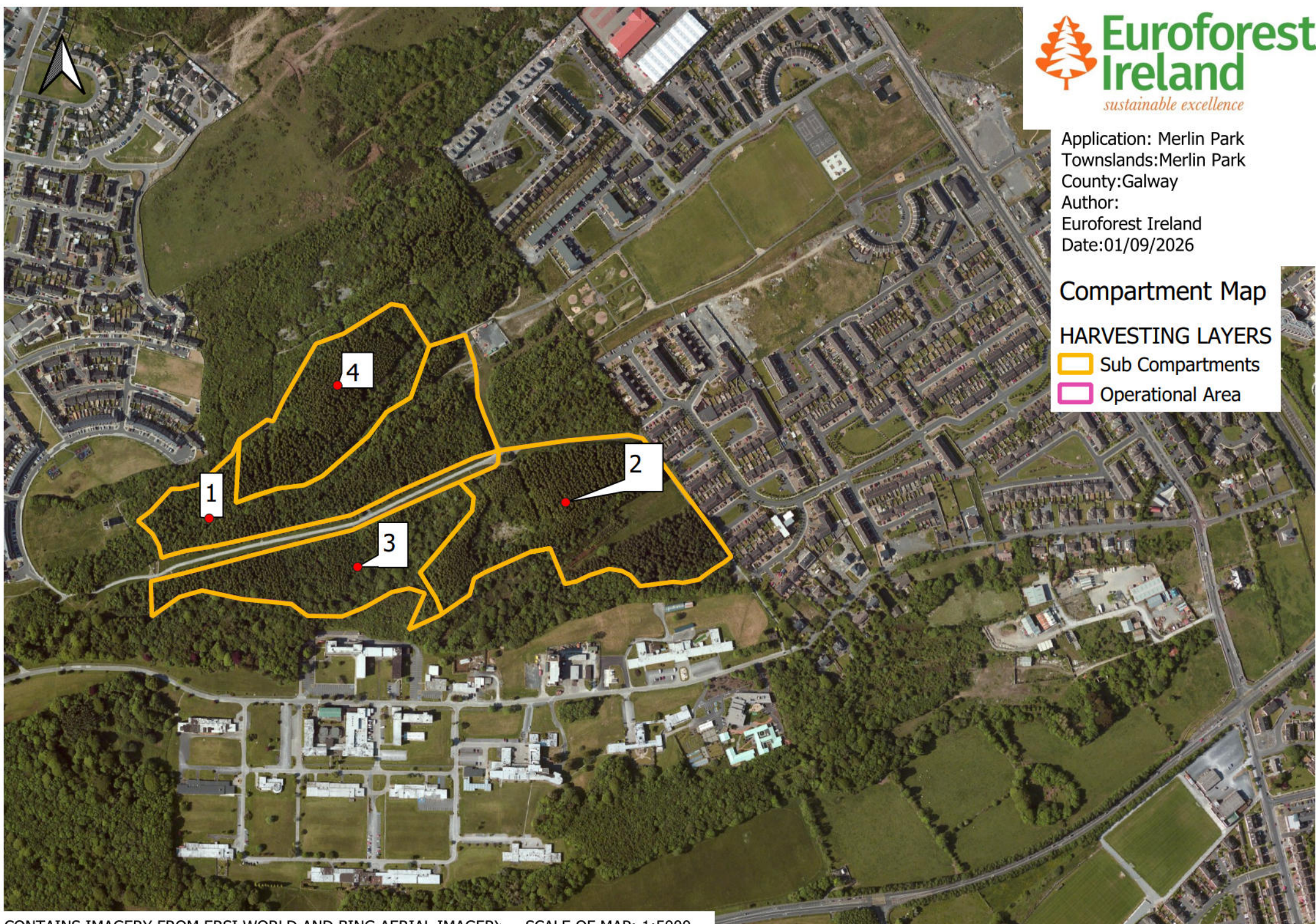
***See also Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines for further information**

Application: Merlin Park
Townlands: Merlin Park
County: Galway
Author:
Euroforest Ireland
Date: 01/09/2026

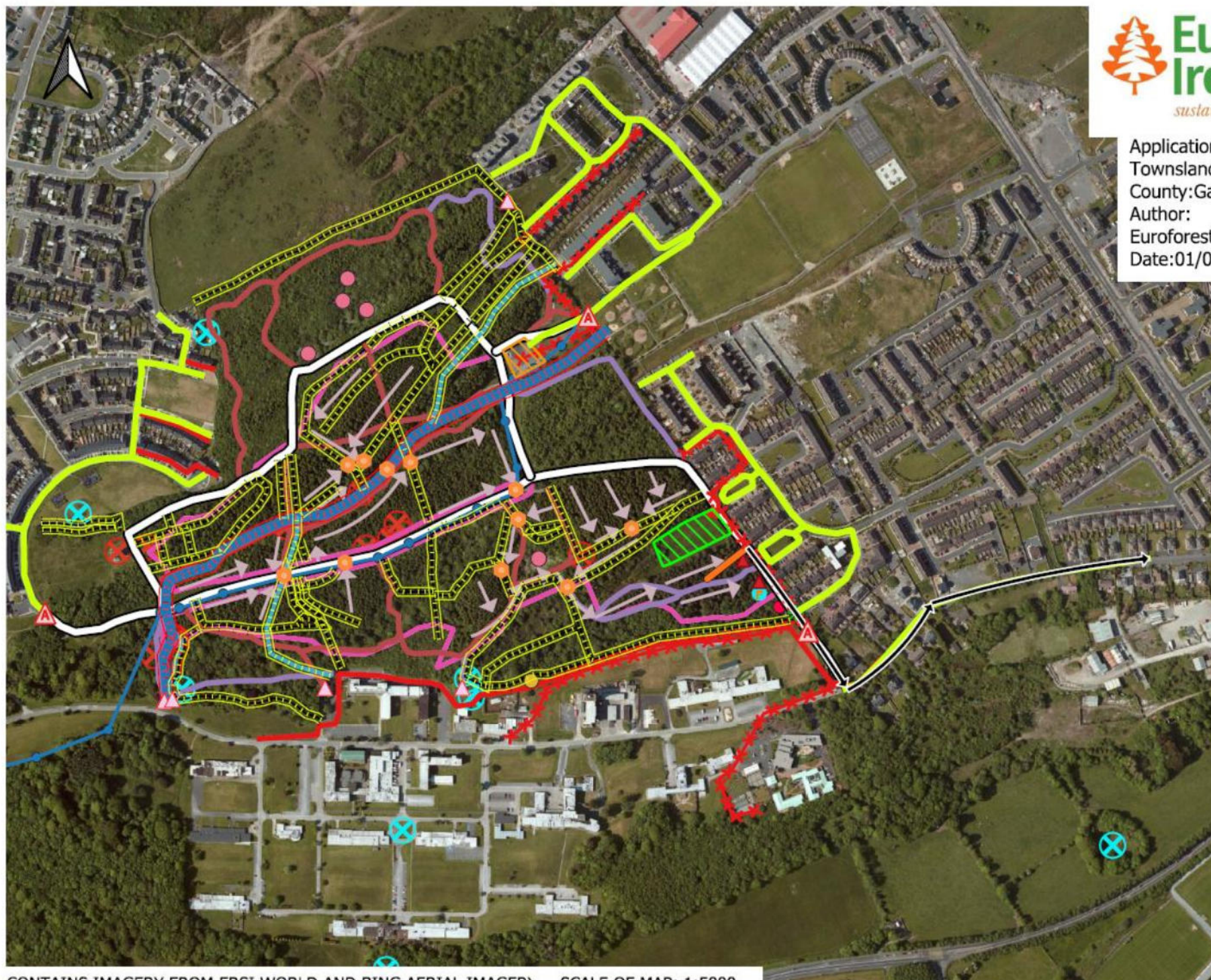
Compartment Map

HARVESTING LAYERS

-  Sub Compartments
-  Operational Area



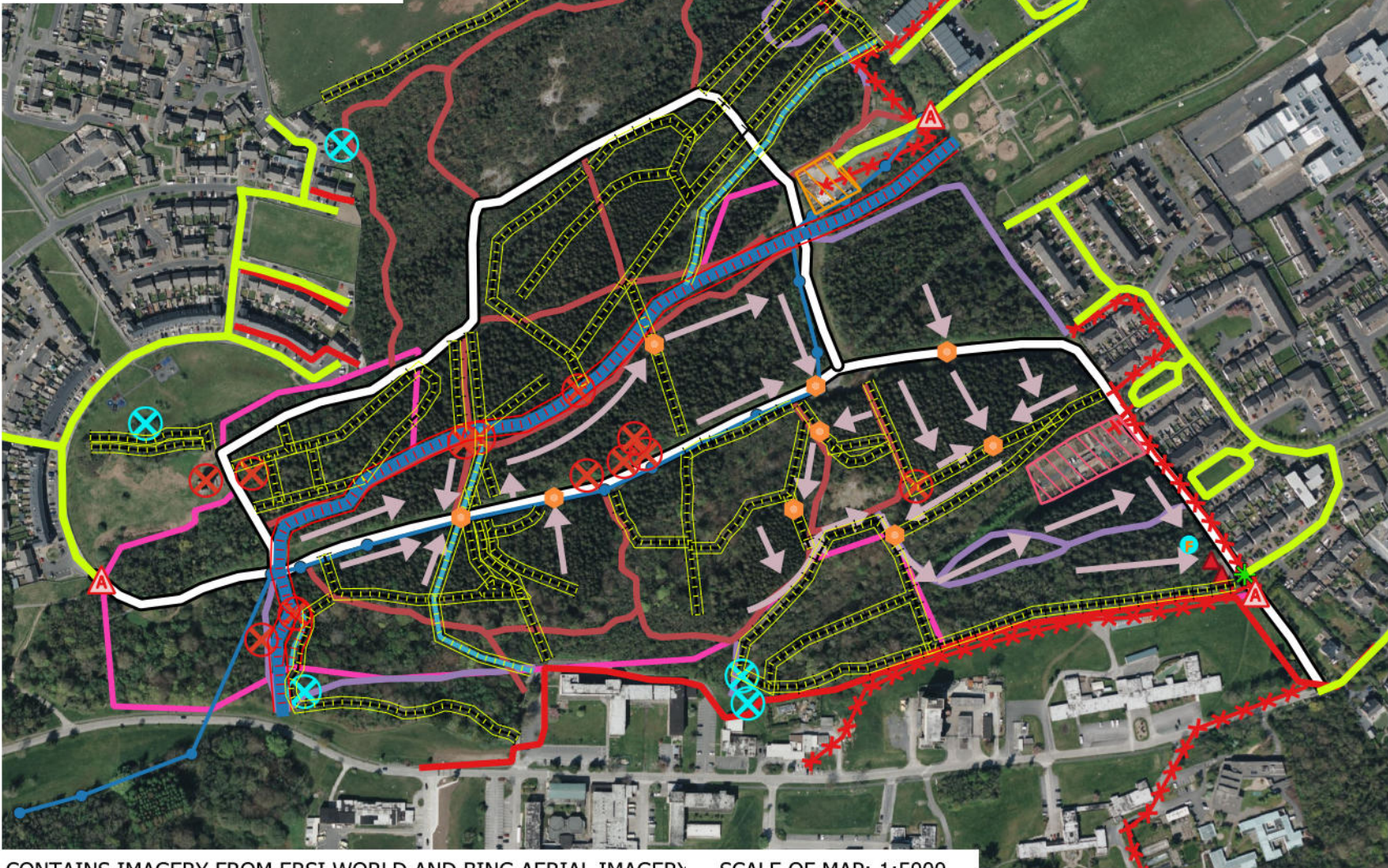
Application: Merlin Park
Townlands: Merlin Park
County: Galway
Author:
Euroforest Ireland
Date: 01/09/2026



Harvest Map

- △ Foot Access
- △ Access
- Haulage route
- Public road
- Temporary bridging point
- 5 metre Exclusion Zone
- 10 metre Exclusion Zone
- Veteran Tree
- Alotments
- City Council Depot
- Watercourses
- Aquatic Zone
- Relevant Watercourse
- Old stone wall
- Goal Post
- Utilities
- OH Powerline
- Gas Pipeline
- Water Pipeline
- HARVESTING LAYERS**
- Proposed Truck Turning Area
- Stacking Areas
- Fuel Storage
- Forest road
- Timber extraction direction
- Forest Track
- Exposed Limestone area
- Forest Trail
- Operational Area
- Welfare Unit/ Site Office
- Archaeology
- On site- Possible Archaeology
- Off site

Application:
Townlands:
County:
Author:
Euroforest Ireland
Date:03/06/2026



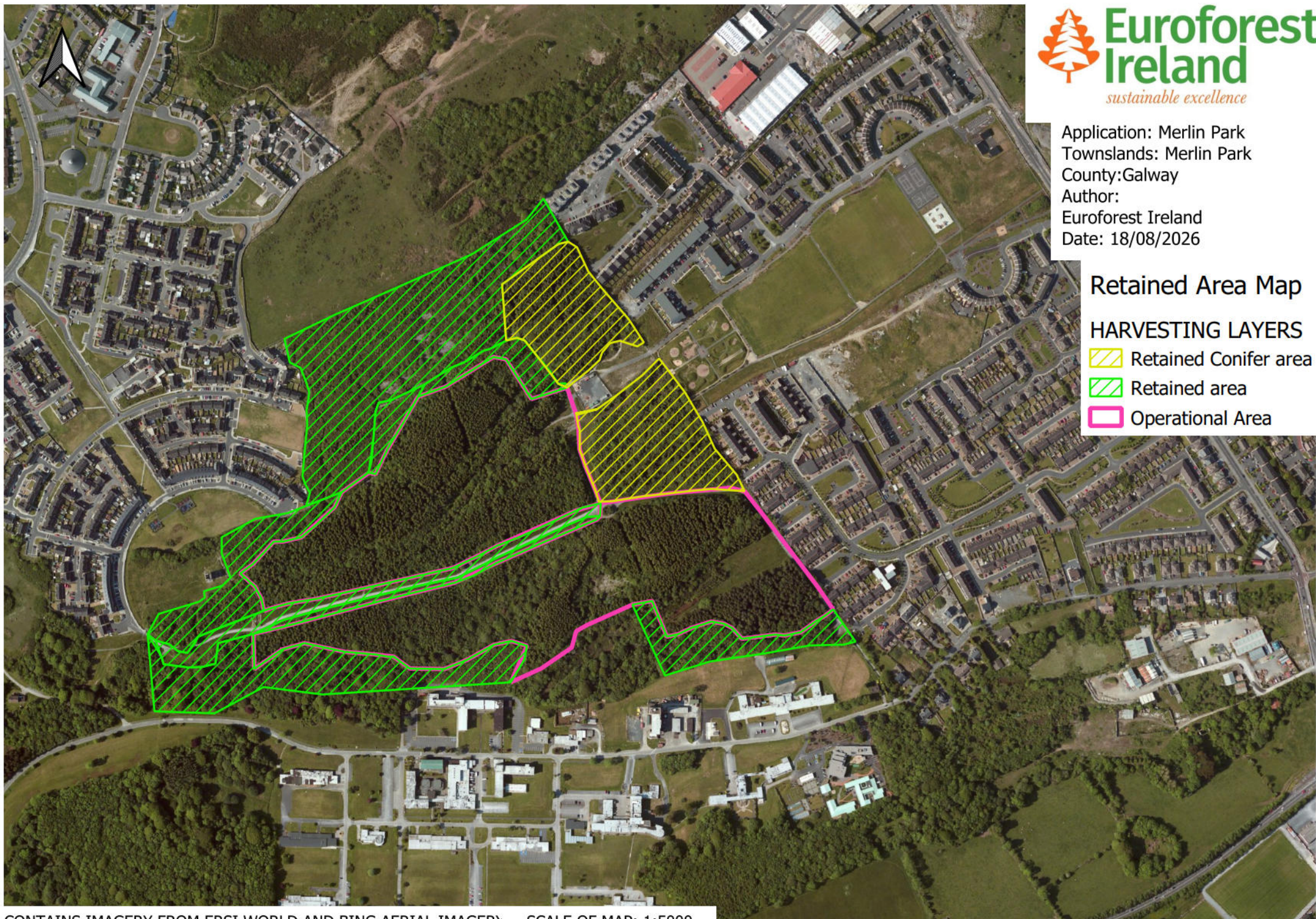
- △ Access
- Public road
- Temporary bridging point
- 5 metre Exclusion Zone
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- Archaeology
 - ⊗ On site- Possible Archaeology
 - ⊗ Off site
- Allotments
- City Council Depot
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- HARVESTING LAYERS
 - △ Stacking Areas
 - Fuel Storage
 - Forest road
 - Timber extraction direction
 - Forest Track
 - Forest Trail
 - Operational Area

Application: Merlin Park
Townlands: Merlin Park
County: Galway
Author:
Euroforest Ireland
Date: 18/08/2026

Retained Area Map

HARVESTING LAYERS

-  Retained Conifer area
-  Retained area
-  Operational Area



Application: Merlin Park
Townlands: Merlin Park
County: Galway
Author:
Robert Rivers Briscoe
Date: 26/08/2026

Bio map

-  Access
-  Temporary bridging point

Watercourses

-  Aquatic Zone
-  Relevant Watercourse
-  Old stone wall

HARVESTING LAYERS

-  Cherry Laurel
-  Winter Heliotrope
-  Exposed Limestone area
-  Operational Area

