

Project: Boardwalk removal and rebuilding

Location: Scragh Bog Nature Reserve is located 5 kilometres north of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

The centre point of the proposal is located at 53.57650886166413, -7.356161274730813 in the townland of Ballynagall. Please see location maps 1-3.

Sensitivities: The site where works will take place is located mostly within a protected Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a National Nature Reserve and proposed Natural Heritage Area. A small section is on the adjacent Coillte land. The Statutory Instrument which covers the Special Area of Conservation designation can be found here <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/si/291/made/en>

ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS to be adhered to by the appointed contractor

General

- Please note that the lands are mostly located within the Scragh Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC Site Code: 000692) and are legally protected.
- Appointed contractor & their staff will be given a toolbox talk by NPWS staff prior to starting works to outline ecological and environmental requirements.
- Contractor must have the relevant environmental courses completed as required by Coillte for working on their lands.
- All timber used must have Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC). Payment will not be made until a declaration outlining the species and origin and FSC for all timber installed, is submitted to the local NPWS Ranger or District Officer.
- All work completed must be in compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976, as amended, and the EC Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended, and will be monitored and supervised by local NPWS Regional Staff.
- NPWS Regional Staff (Triona Finnen 087 6455258 and Therese Kelly 085 8009463) should be contacted immediately in the case of any incident relating to pollution or habitat damage.
- Machinery and vehicles used to access the forestry road which leads to the site access, should be in good mechanical order with no leaking oil or hydraulic fluid.
- Rutting or poaching of the ground is not permitted within or next to wetland or woodland habitats.
- Any damage or rutting caused to the existing forestry access road (Coillte land) or gravel trails (NPWS lands) or car park (Westmeath County Council) must be repaired and made good.
- Works or access during or following periods of high rainfall is not permitted. Works

may only recommence when ground conditions are suitable. Local NPWS staff will advise.

- No lighting of fires is permitted.
- A tracked excavator will be required to remove a tree stump which uprooted part of the old boardwalk on Coillte lands. Any excavator accessing the site may not be more than 6 ton and must access the site through Coillte forestry plantation.
- No dumping and no littering and all excess materials/ waste produced must be removed out of the site and disposed of appropriately and legally.

Hydrocarbon Storage and Refuelling

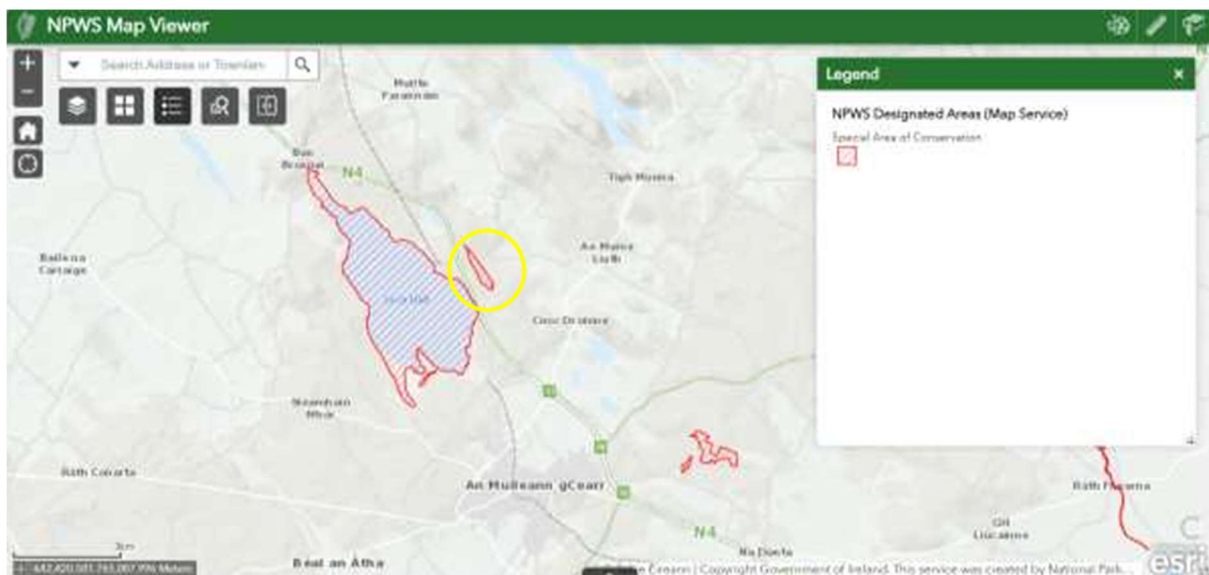
In relation to hydrocarbon storage and refuelling the following mitigation measures are required:

- Fuels, oils, greases, and hydraulic fluids must be stored in bunded compounds away from water.
- Any refuelling of plant must be carried out in a designated area at least 50 metres from any watercourse.
- Filling should be done only using pumped hoses with fuel filling nozzle (Garage Forecourt type filling handheld nozzle) and all fuelling should be manned at all times during filling.
- Hydrocarbon drip trays will be in place below all filling locations. An oil spill boom must be kept on site for deployment if an oil spill enters the aquatic environment
- A fuel spill kit shall be retained on the site for the period of construction
- Any spillages on site should be reported to NPWS staff and be cleaned up immediately.
- Any Drip Trays or absorbent pads should be suitably disposed of into sealed drums for approved treatment/disposal by a licensed contractor. Hydrocarbon clean up equipment should never be disposed of into skips or direct to bins/landfill.
- All plant, machinery and fuel lines should be inspected daily to check for leaks and damage, with faulty (leaking) equipment being removed off site for repair without delay.

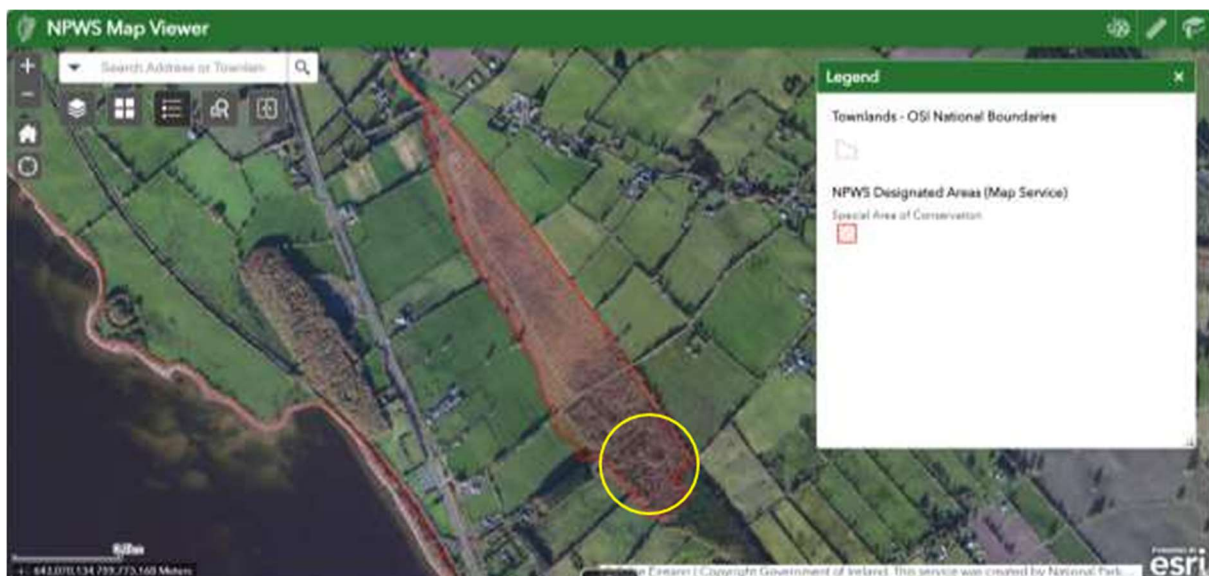
Biosecurity

- All machinery, vehicles, equipment and tools should be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to arrival on the site.
- Machinery and vehicles which have recently been used in any areas infected with invasive species will require additional measures as follows:
- Thoroughly clean and dry and disinfect all machinery prior to arrival on site using Virkon 1% biocide to prevent the spread of invasive species such as Asian Clam, Zebra Mussel, Crayfish plague. This process will be completed as follows:
 - Thoroughly cleared (Steam Cleared/Hot Pressure wash above 60 Degrees)
 - Also thoroughly dried out
 - Sprayed with a disinfectant e.g. Virkon 1% solution.
 - A "Boot-Bath" with a Virkon Solution should also be in place at the entrance to the site and all those entering and leaving the site should dip their boots into the disinfectant Virkon Solution, which should be replenished each week.

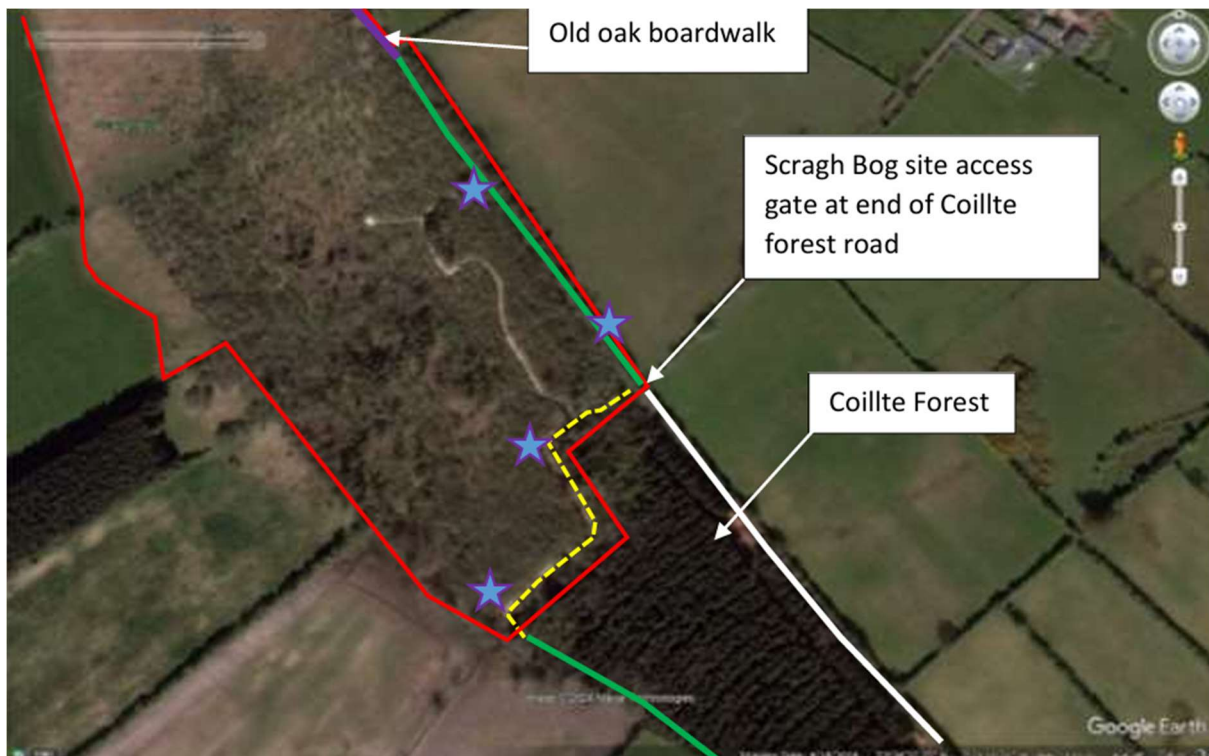
- Any quarried stone required on the site must be sourced from a stock that has been approved by NPWS and washed and screened for the presence of any invasive species.



Map 1 showing location of Scragh Bog SAC (yellow circle)



Map 2 showing general location of proposed boardwalk removal/ rebuilding (yellow circle)



Map 3 showing line of existing boardwalk which is proposed to be removed and replaced (yellow broken line). SAC boundary outlined in red. White line indicates Coillte forestry road. Other gravel access trails indicated as green lines. Blue stars indicate locations where seating is required.