



Application for Derogation Licence

Supporting Document

Requested By:	Reeks Consulting Engineers Ltd. on behalf of Luke Moriarty
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1. Introduction

1.1 Objective of the proposed works

The objective of the proposed works for which this derogation license is sought is to demolish a derelict cottage and construct a new dwelling house served by septic tank and percolation area, as well as upgrade the existing entrance and access roadway in Scartinamackagh, Caragh, Killorglin, Co. Kerry. The cottage is currently in a state of dereliction, and is completely unsuitable for occupation. Additionally, the immediate area around the house will be converted into a garden for the house. Planning has already been granted for this application with the condition that a derogation licence is obtained ahead of the works (KCC Planning Ref: 20/1000).

1.2 Survey team members and relevant experience

Team Member	Relevant Experience
Colette Murray	Colette has a BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology received from University College Cork (UCC) as well as a Master's Degree in Marine Biology, also from UCC. Colette has undertaken and led several Kerry Slug surveys in Kerry for a variety of projects. Colette currently holds derogation licences relating to Kerry Slug as part of the South Kerry Greenway Project.
Timothy McCarthy	Timothy has a BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology received from University College Cork (UCC). Timothy has carried out a number of Kerry Slug surveys in Kerry for a variety of projects including South Kerry Greenway, quarries and construction.

2. Background to proposed activity

The proposed project is located at Scartinamackagh, Caragh, Killorglin, Co. Kerry, south of the N70 road and west of the River Caragh (see figure 1). The land is owned by Luke Moriarty, who has received planning permission to “(a) demolish derelict cottage (b) construct new dwelling house served by septic tank and percolation area (c) upgrade existing entrance and access and (d) all ancillary services and site works”. The proposed development is intended to act as a permanent dwelling for the applicant.

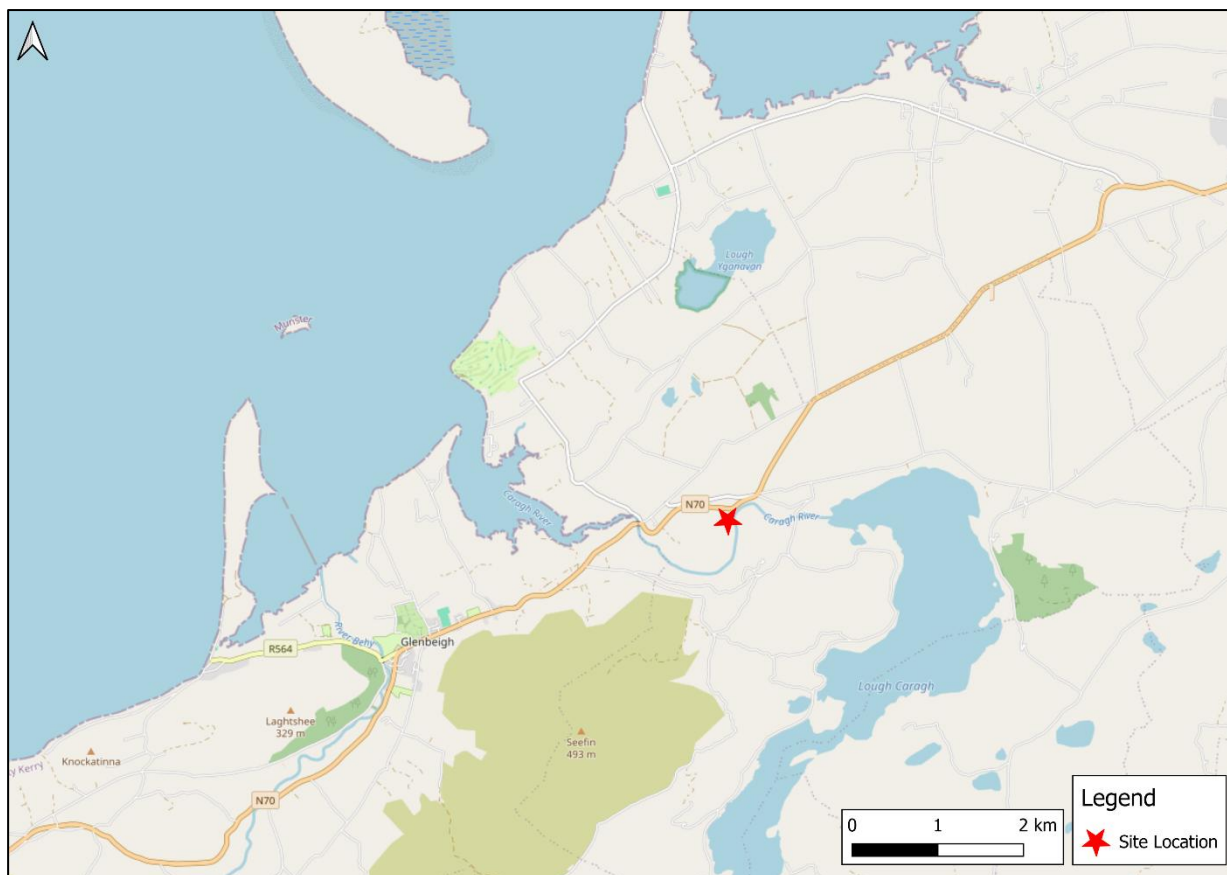


Figure 1: Site location

3. Proposed Activity to be covered by derogation

The project for which this derogation license is sought is to (a) demolish derelict cottage (b) construct new dwelling house served by septic tank and percolation area (c) upgrade existing entrance and access roadway and (d) all ancillary services and site works.

2. Ecological survey and site assessment

2.1 Aim of Survey

The objective of the survey carried out was to identify whether Kerry Slug was present onsite and determine whether a derogation license would be required for the proposed works to take place.

2.2 Site location

The survey area was a section of field south of the N70 road and east of the River Caragh (See figure 2). The survey area was primarily composed of Dry-Humid Acid Grassland (GS3), with an area of Scrub (WS1) and Dense Bracken (HD1) present in the east of the site. A derelict house (BL3) is present in the

west of the site, and a bridge (BL3) in the north-west of the site. Stone walls (BL1) were present along the west and southern boundaries of the site. Vegetation was present over stone walls onsite, with a hedgerow (WL1) and scrub (WS1) present along the western and southern boundaries respectively. The site is located entirely within the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365) for which Kerry Slug is a qualifying interest.

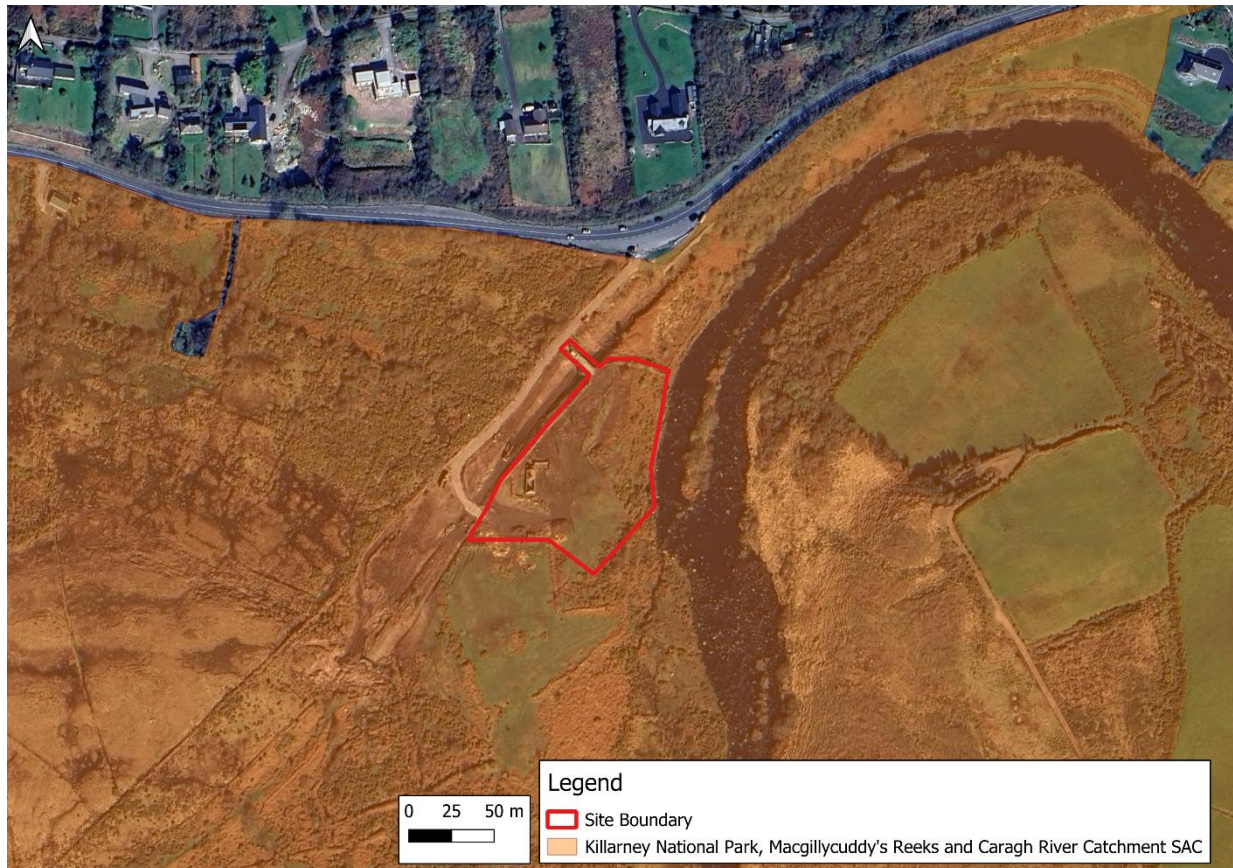


Figure 2. Project Location within the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC.

2.3 Relevant legislation

“The Kerry Slug, *Geomalacus maculosus* is listed on Annex II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC. The slug is also protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) having been added under Statutory Instrument No. 112 of 1990. In Ireland, seven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated for its conservation. The core range of *G. maculosus* is located within the Devonian Old Red Sandstone strata of West Cork and Kerry (Kearney, 2010).

2.4 Kerry Slug in the local area

G. maculosus typically occurs in three general habitat types; deciduous woodland (usually *Quercus* dominated), blanket bog or unimproved oligotrophic open moor, and lake shores (NPWS, 2010; Platts

& Speight, 1988). Within these habitats, the species tends only to be present if there is outcropping of Devonian Old Red Sandstone (NPWS, 2010), humid conditions and lichen, liverwort and/or mosses to provide the species with shelter and food (Platts & Speight, 1988). Individuals living within open habitats are usually grey/black with white spots (Appendix III, Plate1), while those within woodlands tend to be brown with yellow spots (McDonnell and Gormley, 2011a). Another distinguishing characteristic of this species is its ability to roll into a ball when disturbed. *G. maculosus* is a crepuscular animal and will take refuge in crevices in rocks or under the bark of trees during the day. However, following rain the Kerry slug may emerge and be seen during the day (Platts & Speight, 1988; Taylor, 1906).

The main threats to the Kerry slug include afforestation, agricultural reclamation, the invasive species *Rhododendron ponticum*, and infrastructure development (NPWS, 2010). The overall conservation status of the species has been reported as favorable and it is not currently considered threatened within its range (NPWS, 2013).” (Mc Auliffe, 2019).

Review of the National Biodiversity database shows records of Kerry Slug within the 10km OS grid square (V79) containing the project site. No records of Kerry slug are present within either the 1km (V7092) or 2km (V79B) OS grid squares intersecting the project site. The site is located entirely within the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365) for which Kerry Slug is a qualifying interest.

2.5 Methodology

Initial site survey was carried out on the 3rd of September 2025. A site walkover was carried out to identify any potential areas of suitable Kerry slug habitat present onsite. The survey was carried out at dawn on a damp rainy day to increase the chances of encountering Kerry Slug on site. A second survey was carried out on the 7th of October 2025. This survey was conducted in the area directly south of the project, outside of the project's footprint. The aim of this survey was to establish whether Kerry Slug was present in this area with the aim of identifying potential translocation areas. As with the initial survey, this subsequent survey was carried out at dawn on a damp rainy day to increase the chances of encountering Kerry Slug on site. Both surveys involved a careful hand search of features on which the animals are likely to be feeding, especially moss-covered timber close to water, and lichen covered boulders and outcrops.

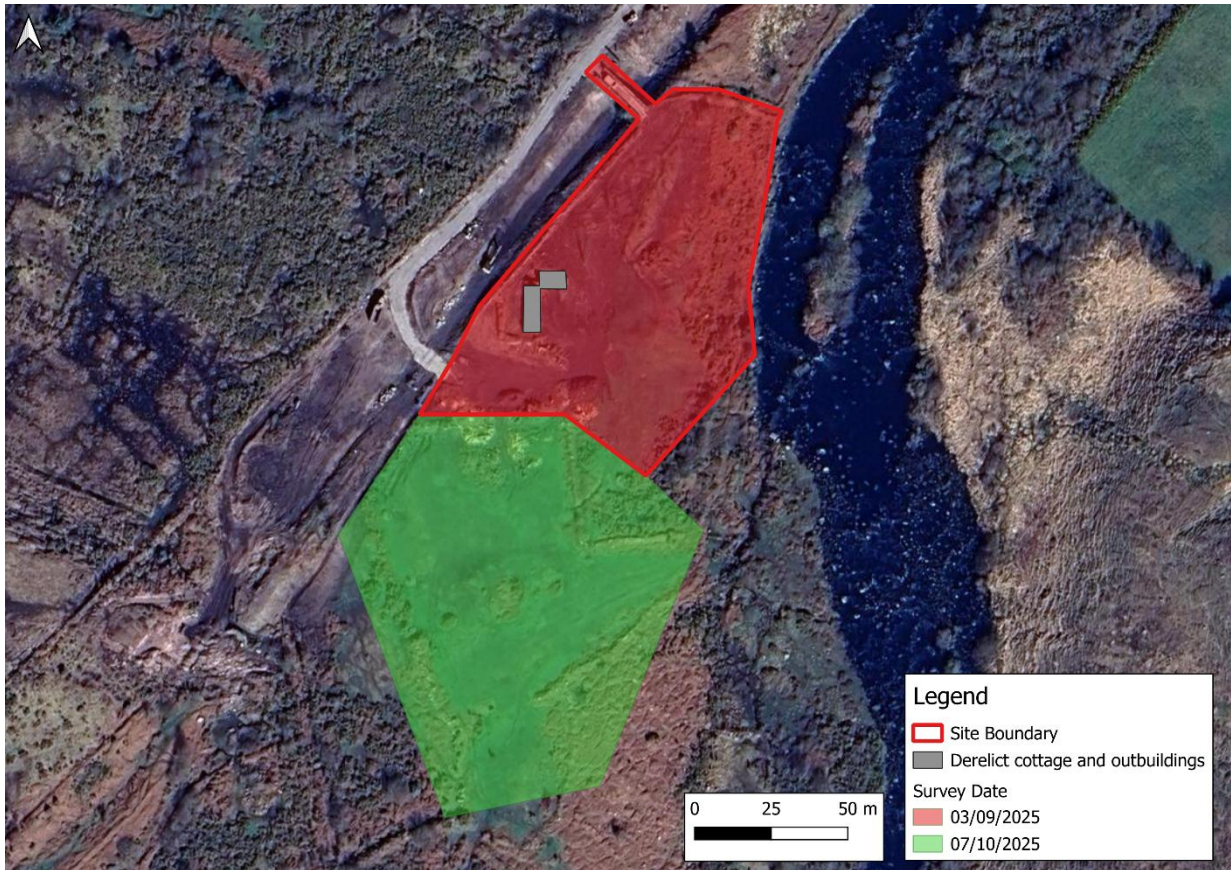


Figure 1 Map of site boundary and areas surveyed.

2.6 Results

During the first survey on the 3rd of September 2025, one Kerry Slug was identified onsite, present on the wall of the derelict building to be demolished (Figure 2 and Image A and C). This was the only Kerry Slug present within the boundaries of the project site.

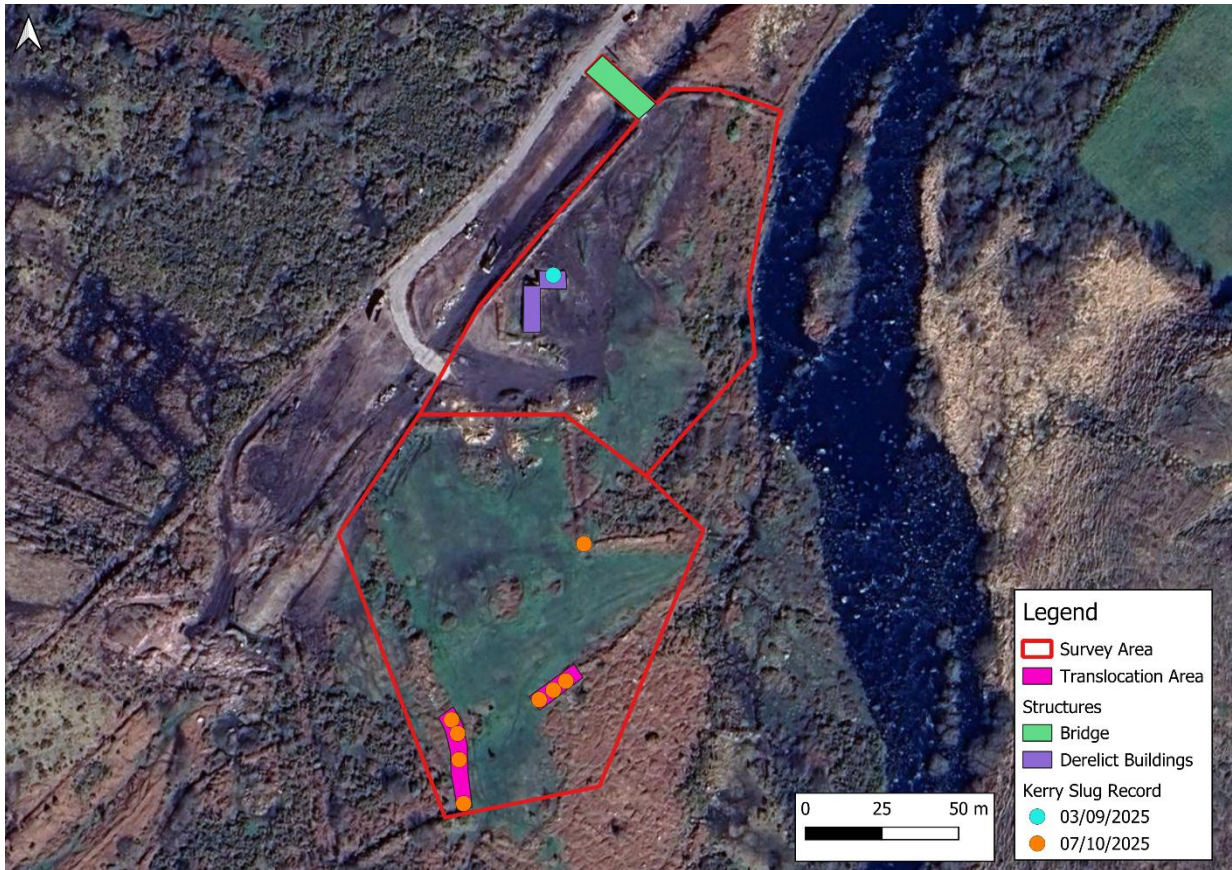


Figure 2 Location of Kerry Slug sightings and translocation area.



Image A - Kerry Slug identified on the wall of a derelict building within the survey area.



Image B - Several Kerry Slug identified on an old stone wall within the second survey area (translocation area).



Following the sighting of a Kerry Slug on the wall of the derelict building within the site boundary, it was necessary to identify a translocation area within close proximity of the site, where Kerry Slug could be moved to ahead of demolition/construction works. An area directly south of the site was identified (see Figure 1), primarily comprised of dry-humid acid grassland (GS3), with areas of stone walls (BL1) and scrub (WS1), extending further south into more heath-like habitat. Several Kerry Slug (30+) were identified along an old stone wall in 2 areas within the second survey area (see Figure 2 and Image B and D).

The stone bridge that forms the original entrance to the site also contained some suitable Kerry Slug habitat in the form of lichen covered sandstone rock, however, no Kerry Slug were reencountered during either walkover survey. Additionally, this stone wall will be retained as part of the development and, therefore, will not result in loss of potential Kerry Slug habitat. See Appendix I for additional site photographs. Other areas of stone wall were identified along the western and southwestern boundaries of the site, however, vegetation (bracken etc) was more dominant in these areas leaving little space for lichen growth and therefore were unsuitable for Kerry Slug. No Kerry slug were encountered along these walls during either survey.

2.7 Discussion

Kerry Slug was identified on site during a site visit on the 3rd of September 2025. Consequently, it was necessary to identify a translocation area where any Kerry Slug could be relocated ahead of demolition/construction works. A second survey was, therefore, conducted on the 7th of October 2025

where a translocation area accommodating over 30 Kerry Slug was identified on an old stone wall south of the site.

Overall, the development site area is deemed to be sub-optimal for Kerry Slug with limited suitable foraging habitat present within the boundaries of the project. The building to be demolished contained limited amounts of suitable habitat, while exposed rock was present, lichen & moss was only present in small amounts, reducing the overall suitability of the building. The bridge present in the north of the project site, was considered suitable habitat and this will be retained as part of the development.

Due to the limited availability of foraging habitat onsite, and the low number of Kerry slug identified onsite during surveys, it can be determined that the Kerry slug population within the site boundaries is limited in size, and not significant at a local or regional level.

Additionally, due to the large number of Kerry slug identified in the areas of suitable habitat south of the project site, it is likely that the single slug identified during the first survey was a case of attempted colonisation into the surrounding area, rather than an active population within the project site.

2.8 Mitigation

Given the presence of Kerry Slug on site, it is recommended that the following mitigation be implemented.

Subject of Mitigation Measures	Measure	How the measure will avoid/prevent/reduce impacts	Confidence in the likely success of the measure	Timescale for Implementation	Monitoring requirements
All aspects relating to Kerry Slug and the proposed development.	<p>An appropriately qualified and experienced contractor will be appointed to undertake the work and will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • required to take account of the environmental sensitivities of the site; • required to comply with obligations to protect qualifying interests/special conservation interests of Natura sites • required to implement all aspects of the derogation licence conditions and Kerry Slug Survey reports. 	<p>Measure will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the qualifications and experience of the appointed individual will be expected to understand and adhere to environmental regulations, ensuring that construction activities minimise negative impacts of the project and comply with relevant laws. • will have the expertise to identify potential environmental risks associated with the construction activities and implement the measures to 	<p>Measures prescribed is best practice as prescribed by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association.</p>	<p>Measure will be in place from the commencement of works to the end of the construction phase.</p>	<p>The Developer is responsible for the appointment of a suitable qualified Contractor. The appointed Contractor shall undertake the work.</p>

		mitigate outlined in this report.			
All aspects relating to Kerry Slug and the proposed development.	A suitably qualified Project Ecologist will be appointed to undertake all survey, monitoring and reporting works relating to Kerry Slug and the development.	The measure will ensure that all mitigation measures outlined are understood, implemented and recorded.	Measures prescribed is best practice as prescribed by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association.	Measure will be in place from the commencement of works to the end of the construction phase.	The appointed Project Ecologist will be responsible for the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this report.
Kerry Slug identified on site	A derogation license will be required in order to carry out works on the derelict buildings on site.	An Annex II species has been confirmed to utilise the derelict buildings within the development site boundary and, therefore, a derogation license will be required from National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) to allow works to take place within this habitat.	Required by Law.	This license is to be applied for and received prior to any works on site.	The works are to be supervised by the Project Ecologist. On completion of the works a report is to be submitted to NPWS detailing results of works and the success of applied mitigation measures. This is to be done by the Project Ecologist.
Kerry Slug identified on site	Immediately prior to undertaking works, the Project Ecologist will check for the presence of Kerry slug using metric traps and hand searches. Traps will be placed in areas of suitable Kerry Slug habitat on site according to methodology outlined by McDonnell and Gormally (2011). These will be left in-situ for 2 weeks and checked weekly. Any Kerry Slug found in the traps will be translocated to a suitable translocation area. The construction works will not progress without the express permission of the Project Ecologist.	Kerry Slug have been identified on site, and this measure is to ensure that no Annex II Kerry Slug are harmed or killed during the works.	Measures adapted from previous surveys/ works agreed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and as best practice and are proven technologies/methods (NRA, 2008).	Prior to the commencement of works on site.	The Project Ecologist will carry out the surveys.
Kerry Slug identified on site	Any Kerry slugs found during the pre-construction surveys described will be translocated under a 'Section 23 and 34 –	Kerry Slug have been identified on site, and this measure is to ensure	Measures adapted from previous surveys/ works agreed by National Parks	Prior to the commencement of works on site.	The Project Ecologist will carry out the surveys and

	<p>licence to capture or humanely kill a protected wild animal for education or scientific purposes' under supervision of the Project Ecologist. Any Kerry slugs found, along with any suitable refuge boulders/rocks will need to be translocated to the translocation area identified (Figure 2).</p> <p>This location is within the land ownership and Kerry Slug have been confirmed to be present during the survey on 07/10/2025 showing the habitat is suitable to support translocated Kerry Slugs. The location is outside the works footprint and is in relatively close proximity to the area that will be the subject of the surveys it will minimise the level of disturbance to any specimens found. There are no plans to develop the proposed translocation area in the future.</p> <p>Any Kerry slugs captured will be temporarily stored in a plastic container lined with moss and with sliced carrots to feed on, until they are translocated to suitable habitat on the same day (Reich et al., 2012).</p>	<p>that no Annex II Kerry Slug are harmed or killed during the works.</p>	<p>and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and as best practice and are proven technologies/methods (NRA, 2008).</p>		<p>translocation of any Kerry Slugs found.</p>
<p>Kerry Slug in the wider area.</p>	<p>Exclusion zones to prevent any incursion or damage will be established to ensure that the areas of suitable habitat outside of the footprint of the development are conserved. The area south of the exclusion zone line (Appendix III) will be avoided during the course of construction in order to minimise the loss and disturbance of Kerry Slug habitat. Using appropriate fencing, or equivalent, and signage the Project Ecologist will delineate the extent of the protected habitat and will explain, during a toolbox talk, the access restriction to personnel and machinery beyond the</p>	<p>A translocation area has been identified south of the development site. This measure ensures that the translocation area and inhabiting Kerry Slugs are not harmed or disturbed during the construction works.</p>	<p>Measures adapted from previous surveys/ works agreed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and as best practice and are proven technologies/methods (NRA, 2008).</p>	<p>Measure will be in place from the commencement of works to the end of the construction phase.</p>	<p>The Project Ecologist is responsible for the implementation of this mitigation measure.</p>

	boundary. The Project Ecologist will be on-site to oversee the implementation of these controls and will regularly inspect that they are maintained and that the exclusion zones are being adhered to.				
All aspects relating to Kerry Slug and the proposed development.	<p>Following the translocation of Kerry slugs and refuge boulders a monitoring and reporting programme shall be undertaken, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>Monitoring the presence of Kerry slugs within the translocation site will be carried out using a combination of hand searching and metric trap surveys by the Project Ecologist.</p> <p>The timing and duration of this post-work monitoring will be agreed with NPWS.</p>	<p>Kerry Slug may be translocated as part of this development and an area of Kerry Slug habitat will be removed. This measure ensures that the survey and translocation procedures are reported and the effectiveness of the work is communicated with NPWS.</p>	<p>Measures adapted from previous surveys/ works agreed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and as best practice and are proven technologies/methods (NRA, 2008).</p>	<p>After works are complete on site, for a duration agreed with NPWS.</p>	<p>The Project Ecologist is responsible for the implementation of this mitigation measure.</p>

2.9 Conclusion

Southern Scientific Services Ltd was commissioned by Adrian Sheehan of Reeks Consulting Engineers on behalf of Liam Moriarty to carry out a Kerry Slug survey and derogation licence application for a planning application (ref: 20/1000). Planning has already been granted for this application with the condition that a derogation licence is obtained ahead of the works. The site is located entirely within the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365) for which Kerry Slug is a qualifying interest.

An initial walkover of the site revealed the presence of Kerry Slug (one specimen) on the wall of the derelict building earmarked for demolition as part of the development. A subsequent survey identified a suitable translocation area where 30+ Kerry Slugs were recorded. Habitat within the development site boundary was not considered optimal for Kerry Slug, and no Kerry Slug were recorded on site during the second survey, despite many being recorded within the translocation area. Another area of potential Kerry Slug habitat was noted on the original entrance bridge, however, no Kerry Slug were recorded during either survey and the bridge will be retained as part of the development.

The mitigation provided in Section 2.8 will ensure that the Kerry Slug population in the area are not adversely impacted as a result of the proposed development.

3. Evidence to support the derogation tests

3.1 Test 1 – Reason for derogation

The objective of the proposed works for which this derogation license is sought is to demolish a derelict cottage and construct a new dwelling house served by septic tank and percolation area, as well as upgrade the existing entrance and access roadway in Scartinamackagh, Caragh, Killorglin, Co. Kerry. The cottage is currently in a state of dereliction and is completely unsuitable for occupation. Additionally, the immediate area around the house will be converted into a garden for the house. Planning has already been granted for this application with the condition that a derogation licence is obtained ahead of the works.

Following a survey in optimal conditions, a single Kerry Slug was recorded on a stone wall forming part of the cottage for which demolition is required as part of the planning application. Two walkover surveys were carried out and although one Kerry Slug was recorded on one occasion, the site is classed as sub-optimal overall due to the dominance of certain habitats on site i.e. dry-humid acid grassland (GS3),

scrub (WS1), dense bracken (HD1). A derogation licence is required to allow demolition of the derelict cottage and progression of the development.

3.2 Test 2 – Absence of alternative solutions

Do Nothing:

The first considered alternative is “Do-Nothing” which results in the building being retained in a derelict condition, preventing its use as a dwelling house. This option is considered unsuitable as conditional planning permission has already been granted for the proposed development. Furthermore, the proposed project site has been determined to be of limited suitability for Kerry Slug, and not significantly important due to the sub-optimal habitat within the development site boundary. If this option were to be selected, and the proposed development were not to occur, it would not result in any significant conservation benefits for Kerry Slug.

Proceed without mitigation:

The next potential alternative for the proposed project is to proceed without mitigation. This option was deemed unsuitable, as while the project site was generally considered sub-optimal for Kerry Slug, small areas of potentially suitable habitat were identified, and one Kerry Slug was recorded on one occasion within the development site boundary. As such, there is potential for direct harm and/or disturbance to Kerry Slugs if the proposed project were to take place without mitigation.

Translocation of Kerry Slug:

The final potential alternative considered is to translocate any Kerry Slugs encountered within the site boundary to a location within close proximity of the site where the species is known to in-habitat. This requires pre-construction surveys using metric trapping and handsearching methodology and the translocation of any Kerry Slugs found to a translocation area (see Section 2.8 for full methodology). This has been deemed unsuitable as, the proposed development requires demolition of the derelict building, which, while sub-optimal, is potentially suitable. The proposed development cannot proceed if all areas of potentially suitable habitat are retained.

3.3 Test 3 – Impact of derogation on conservation status

The proposed derogation will have an insignificant impact on the conservation status of Kerry Slug. From the surveys carried out, and elaborated upon in Section 2 of this report, it can be determined that the site is generally sub-optimal for Kerry Slug, and that only a limited number (1) of Kerry slug are present onsite.

To mitigate potential impacts on the species, prior to the commencement of works onsite, metric traps will be placed on site and hand searches will be undertaken. Kerry slugs discovered within the survey

area, will then be transferred to suitable habitat present south of the project site, along with any suitable refuge rocks, as per planning conditions. Any Kerry Slugs captured will be temporarily stored in a plastic container lined with moss and with sliced carrots to feed on, until they are translocated to suitable habitat on the same day (Reich et al., 2012). Kerry Slug identified during surveys will be translocated to an area of suitable habitat present within close proximity, south of the project site (see Figure 2).

Given the above, with the aforementioned mitigation measures in place (Section 2.8), the proposed derogation will not significantly impact the conservation status of Kerry slug.

4. Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

Derogations require the submission of a report to the NPWS on the activity carried out and details of numbers and species affected. To this effect, a report will be prepared addressing all conditions specified in the derogation licence, confirming that all mitigation measures were adhered to and implemented as specified in Section 2.8.

Following the translocation of Kerry slugs and refuge rocks a monitoring and reporting programme shall be undertaken, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures. Monitoring the presence of Kerry slugs within the translocation site will be carried out using a combination of hand searching and metric trap surveys by a suitably qualified ecologist. This monitoring will be carried out on an annual basis for a period specified by NPWS.

5. References

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Appendix I Site Photos



Plate 1 Kerry Slug found in translocation area.



Plate 2 Kerry Slugs found in translocation area.



Plate 3 Kerry Slug found in translocation area.



Plate 4 Kerry Slug found in translocation area.

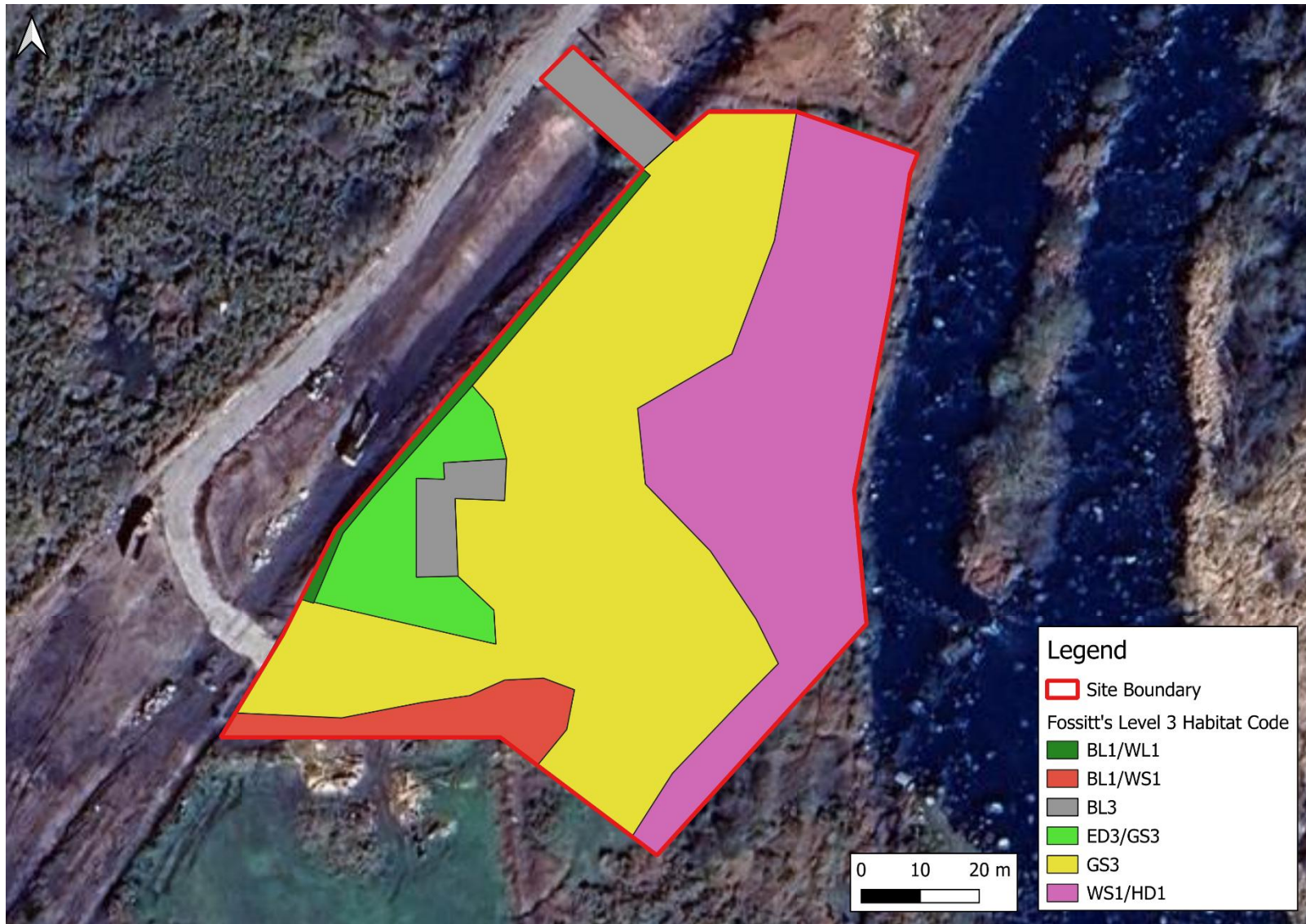


Plate 5 Kerry Slug found in translocation area.



Plate 6 Overview of translocation area facing southeast.

Appendix II Habitat Map



Appendix III Exclusion Zone

