Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

A Fisheries Habitat Development Plan for The Nanny River at Drumaskin, Tuam. Co. Galway

Habitat Specialisation Unit

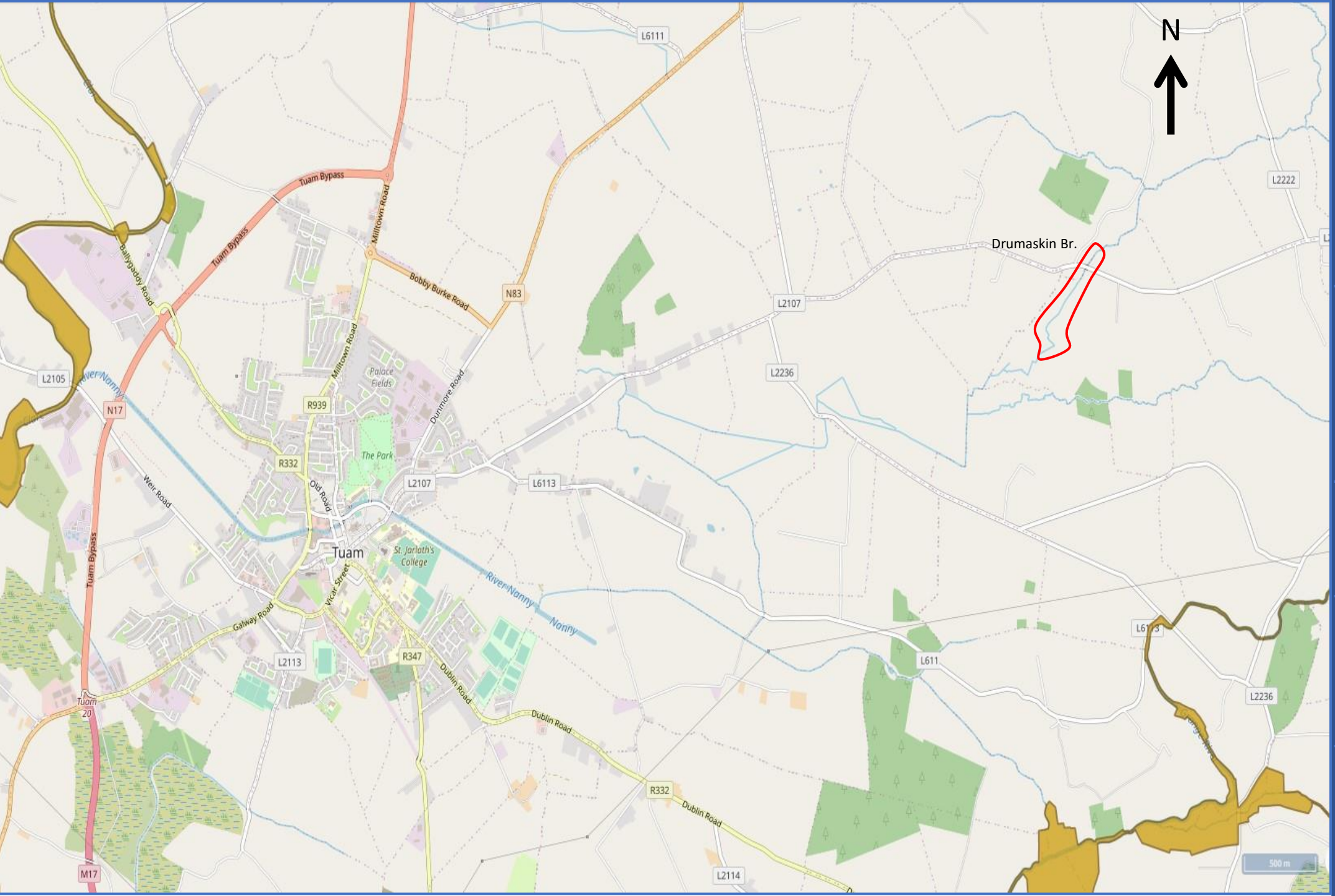
Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

The Nanny is a relatively short, spring fed stream which rises approximately 8km east of the town of Tuam, Co. Galway and confluences with the Clare river, the largest channel in the Corrib catchment, approximately 3km west of the town. It has some potentially good salmonid spawning and nursery habitat and successive WFD surveys have recorded an ecological status of "Good" for nutrient levels (NH_3, NH_4 Po_{4-}) and macroinvertebrates. However, the overall ecological status of the Nanny river is somewhat compromised by low ratings for hydromorphology and fish stocks which were rated as "moderate" in 2020.

Frequent arterial drainage maintenance is carried out on the channel often in a rather unsympathetic manner whereby stone and gravel from the river-bed are removed, further compromising its already damaged instream conditions and this highlights the Nanny as a channel where habitat restoration and enhancement at suitable locations is desirable. The main focus of restoration work should be to replace lost substrates of stone and gravel where it has been removed and to introduce variability in depth and flow patterns where the channel has been highly modified by drainage.

There are extensive wetland habitats of fen and raised bog associated with the lands close to the river upstream of Birmingham bridge and these lands appear unlikely to be rendered more productive for agricultural purposes by further drainage. This plan would urge the relevant stakeholders to consider a cessation on drainage works in these upper reaches and to focus on the restoration of natural habitats on both land and watercourses in this sub-catchment. Alteration of current drainage practices would be subject to an evaluation of flood risk to housing in the immediate vicinity, but appropriate modification to lands in this area could also have flood alleviation potential upstream of Tuam which could also be of benefit to the town and its environs as natural floodplain areas.

Habitat works have already been carried out at three sites on the Nanny river under the Corrib 5 year development plan. These are Poolaphuca, Tuam and Birmingham. The works proposed here at the Drumaskin site are similar to previous projects except that the riparian zone at Drumaskin is in good condition with plenty of bankside cover and shade in most places. Instream works will primarily involve the creation of meanders and pools and the addition of spawning gravel where it has been depleted by drainage. Fencing does not appear to be necessary as there is no sign of encroachment by livestock except for one location (see image p.7) where a short fence and drinking trough are proposed.



Legend

Development Site

Lough Corrib SAC

Scale 1: 20,000

0.5 1km

Compiled by: Habitat Specialisation Unit

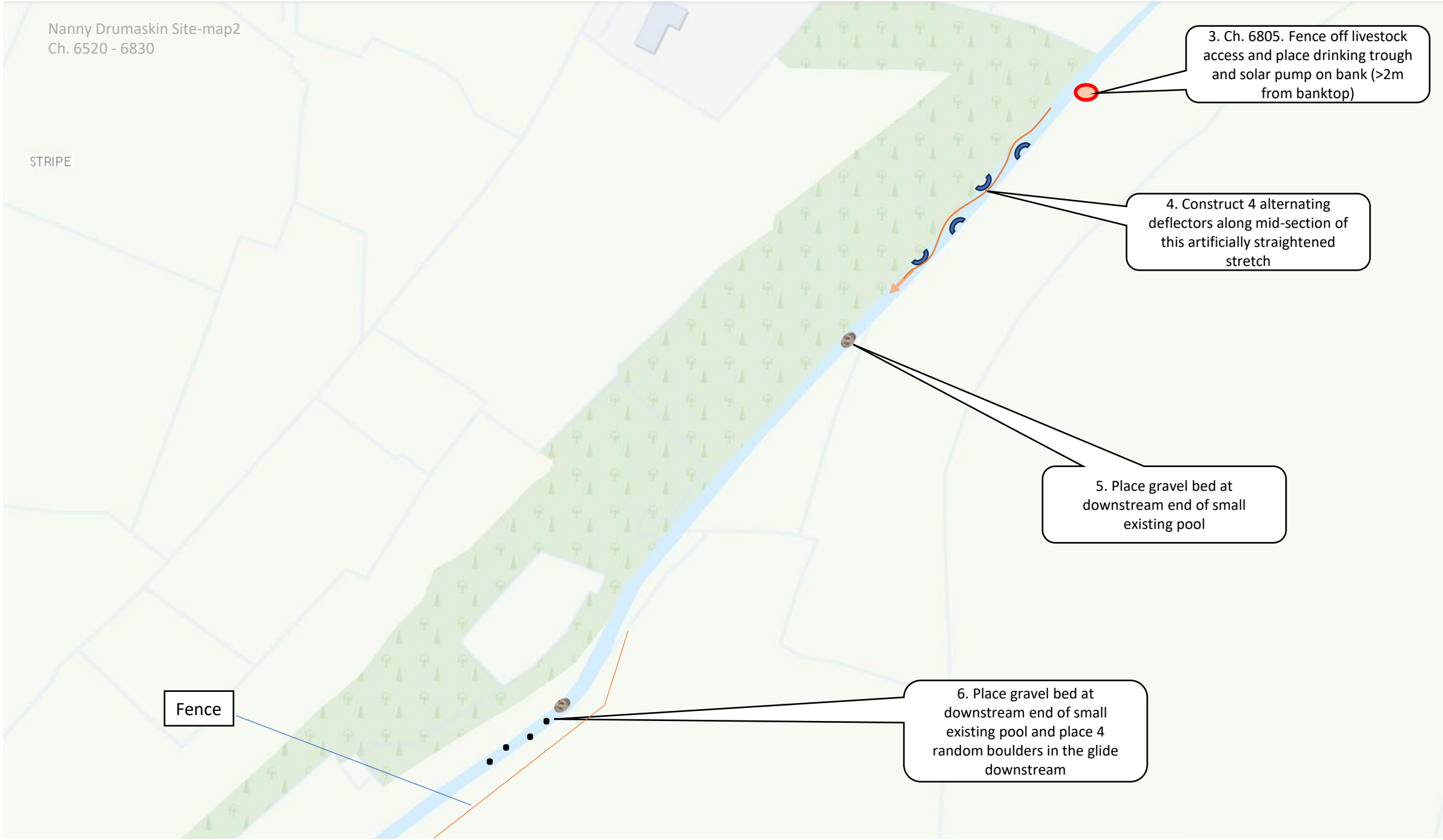
Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/

Nanny Drumaskin Site Map 1
Ch 6830 - 7190

1. Ch. 6975 Place gravel bed (approx. 1 t.) Mixed and washed.

Approximate gravel mix:
10mm 20%
20mm 50%
30mm 30%


Nanny Drumaskin Site-map2
Ch. 6520 - 6830
STRIPE
3. Ch. 6805. Fence off livestock access and place drinking trough and solar pump on bank (>2m from banktop)
4. Construct 4 alternating deflectors along mid-section of this artificially straightened stretch
5. Place gravel bed at downstream end of small existing pool
Fence
6. Place gravel bed at downstream end of small existing pool and place 4 random boulders in the glide downstream

3. Livestock access is causing severe damage to the riparian land and Releasing sediment and nutrients To the watercourse.

Fence off drinking slipway and provide solar pump & trough.

4. Ch 6750 - 6775 This stretch of stream is Artificially straight and featureless. Create sinuosity by constructing 4 alternating deflectors as shown here and place 5 random on the stream bed.

Each deflector should occupy approximately $^{1}/_{3}$ of the current Channel width.

Dredge spoil has been deposited on the left bank in the upper part of this site. This plan Recommends exploring the possibility of extracting appropriate material for the construction and fill of deflectors

Boulders should be 200 – 250 kg and Spaced appropriately along the thalweg

5. Ch. 6760 Place gravel bed C. 1.5t. At tail end of existing pool

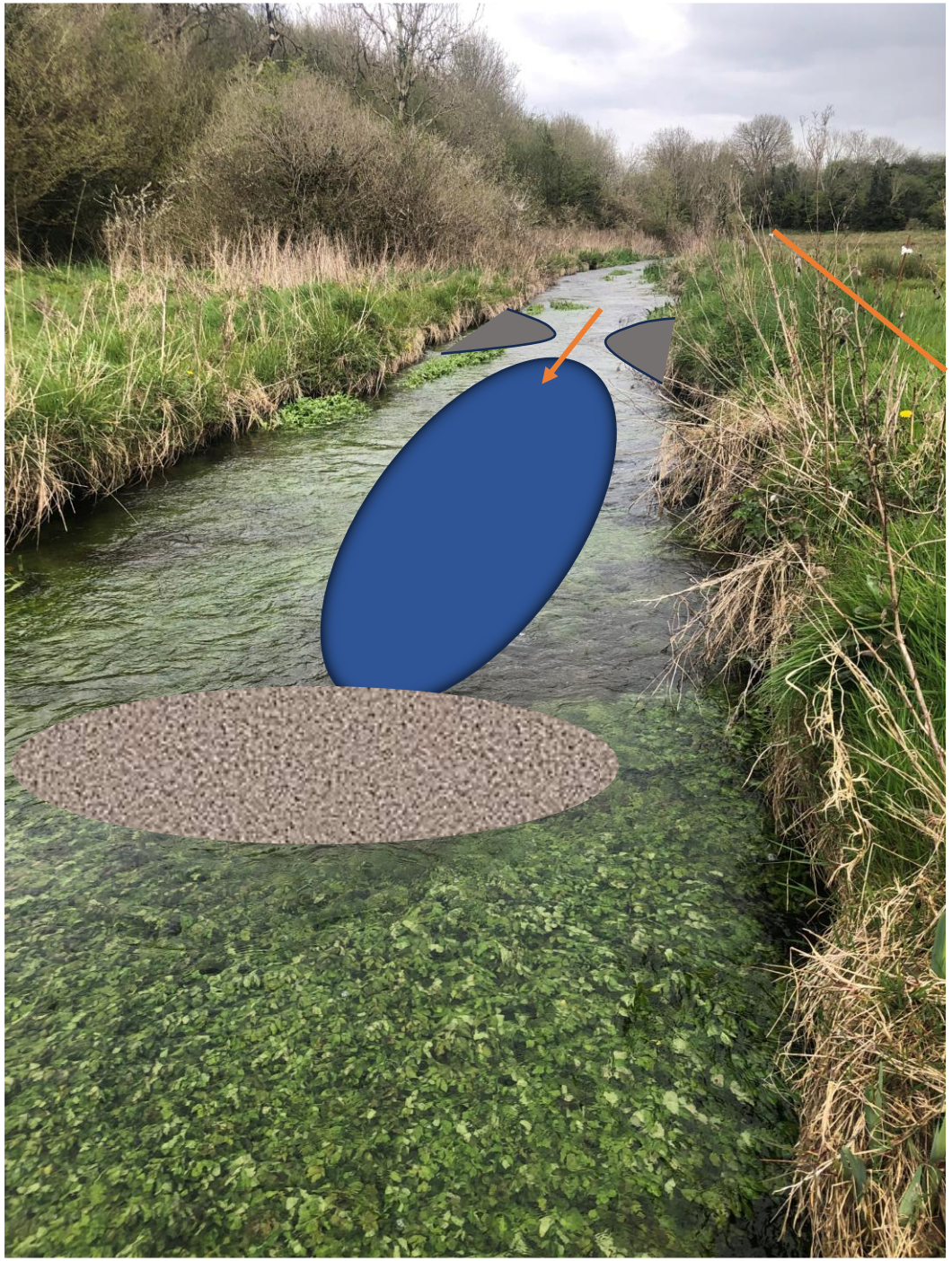
6. Ch. 6760 Place gravel bed
C. 1.5t. At tail end of existing pool .

Place 4 random boulders in glide Downstream and fence lower 20m of this stretch

Nanny Drumaskin Site-map 3
Ch 6610 – Downstream (offline)

7. Ch. 6520-6530 This shallow broad stretch supports excessive weed growth.
Create pool by constructing paired deflector and deepening a section of 6m downstream.

Place gravel bed at downstream end of new pool



Commence fencing and Planting of left bank 25m upstream of paired Deflector

Recommend sparse planting (1 stem/3m^2) use birch & whitethorn to replace moribund ash.

Downstream of this section
Is off-line for chainage.

8. ITM. 548435 : 753165
Place gravel bed C. 1.5t. At tail end of existing pool

Place #3 random boulders in pool upstream – Source from dredge spoil upstream – if possible

Continue with tree planting on both banks in this stretch

Fence already in place here

- 9. ITM 548452 : 753412 :

Place gravel bed C. 2t. At tail end of existing pool

Add #2 random boulders and continue with tree planting

10. ITM 548473 753097

Place gravel bed C. 2t. At tail end of existing pool

Place #3 random boulders in channel upstream of gravel bed.

Continue with fencing (—) on LHB and planting on both banks