

**Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment
Screening Determination**

Proposed Burial Ground at Templemartin, County Cork.



Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Completed by: Mairead Maguire, Assistant Planner

Approved by: Sharon Casey, Ecologist

Cork County Council.

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This document contains the Habitats Directive Screening Determination of Cork County Council in respect of a proposed Burial Ground at Templemartin, Co. Cork. The assessment is based on project drawings and details prepared by the Municipal Districts Operations & Rural Development Directorate.

In accordance with Regulation 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations, Local Authorities are required to carry out screening for appropriate assessment of proposed development to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on one or more European¹ sites. The Local Authority is required to determine that appropriate assessment of the proposed development is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on one or more European sites.

These requirements derive from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive which states that

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

EU and National Guidance sets out two main stages to the assessment process which are as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies what might be likely impacts arising from a plan or project on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. No further assessment is required where the risk of significant impacts on European sites can be objectively ruled out during the screening stage.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an Appropriate Assessment and requires the compilation of a **Natura Impact Statement** by the project proponent, which is a report of scientific evidence and data relating to European sites for which significant negative impacts have not been previously screened out. This is used to identify and classify any implications of the plan or project for these sites in view of their Conservation Objectives. The Appropriate Assessment must include a determination as to whether or not the project would adversely affect the integrity of any European site or sites. The plan or project may only be consented if adverse effects on the integrity of European sites can be objectively ruled out during the Appropriate Assessment process. The plan or project may not be consented on foot of an Appropriate Assessment, if it is found that it will give rise to adverse impacts on one or more European sites, or if uncertainty remains in relation to potential impacts on one or more European sites.

¹“European Site” means— (a) a candidate site of Community importance; (b) a site of Community importance; (c) a candidate special area of conservation; (d) a special area of conservation; (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area.

Name of the project

Proposed burial ground at Templemartin Co, Cork.

Description of the project

The proposed project is for a burial ground on the townlands of Templemartin, County Cork.

Site Context

The site is located to the west of a narrow minor road, L-6244, just off the R590 in Templemartin, County Cork. The proposed development is located on a greenfield site. Adjoining the site to the north is St. Martins Church of Ireland Church and graveyard. There are five national monuments associated with the Church. To the west and south of the site are agricultural fields. Templemartin is located c. 10kms north of Bandon. There is no planning history on this site.

The site is located within the Bandon-Ilen WFD catchment. There are no watercourses on site. The nearest watercourse is the Brinny River, approximately 1.5km northwest of the site. The Brinny River is a tributary of the Bandon River. The River Brinny has been assigned good water quality status.

The land is described to comprise of Improved Grassland, per the National Landcover Map.

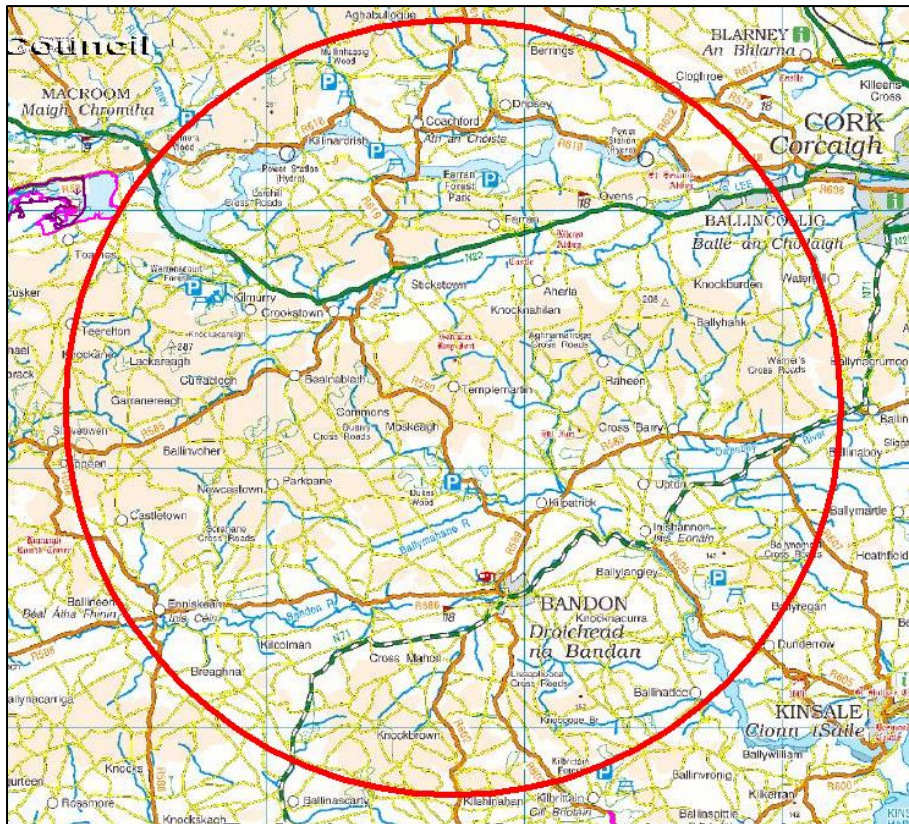
The site is not identified to be located within an area susceptible to flooding according to the Cork County Development Plan 2022 or the draft PFRA Flood Maps available for the site. Therefore, there are no issues in relation to flood-risk associated with the proposed development.

Figure 1: Site Context (Site Location)



Name and location of EU sites subject to screening

Figure 2: Red buffer indicates all European sites within 15kms of the proposed development location.



The subject site does not overlap with any European sites. However, there is one Natura 2000 (European) sites located within a 15km radius of the site;

The Gearagh SAC (Site Code: 000108) lies approximately 15km north west from the site. The qualifying interests of this site are:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitans* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]
- Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodium rubri* p.p. and *Bidenton* p.p. vegetation [3270]
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion*)

The Conservation Objectives for this site require the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition of its qualifying interests. The main threats to freshwater habitats within this SAC are human induced changes in hydraulic conditions and diffusing pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities. Activities which could cause disturbance to Otter or which could impede its movement through aquatic and terrestrial territorial habitats could have the potential to interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objective which has been established for this species.

Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites listed above?

No.

Describe how the project (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site

There is no hydrological or other ecological connection linking the development area to any EU site and no interventions are proposed within any European site. The site is located sufficiently distant from designated sites to be satisfied that there is no risk of activities associated with the project causing disturbance to species which are qualifying interests of the SAC and SPA.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the project does not pose a risk of significant adverse effects to the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Are there other projects or plans that together with the project being assessed that could affect these sites (provide details)?

No potential for impacts identified, therefore the proposed project does not pose a threat of contributing to effects which could be significant when considered in combination with other impact sources.

Cork County Council evaluation and overall conclusion that there are no significant effects on European Sites foreseen as a result of the proposal.

In accordance with Section 177S of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in this report, it is concluded that the proposed project does not pose a risk of causing significant negative any EU site for the following reasons:

- No works are proposed within any EU sites;
- No direct loss, alteration or fragmentation of habitats will occur within any EU sites;
- The proposed site for development has no hydrological linkage to any EU site;
- The site is located sufficiently distant from any EU site to be satisfied that there is no risk of activities associated with the project causing disturbance to qualifying habitats or species.

It is therefore determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 is not required.