Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report & Screening Determination

Proposed R572 Castletownbere Gateway, Pedestrian Enhancement and Traffic Management Proposal

Completed by Ecology Office
Planning Department
Cork County Council

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HDA Screening Report – Proposed Upgrade R572
1 Introduction

This document includes the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Screening Determination of Cork County Council to upgrade the R572 at Castletownbere. The assessment is based on project drawings and the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by Aecom on behalf of Cork County Council.

Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act as amended, provides for the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, and Section 177 of the Act, requires Planning Authorities to assess the impacts of land use plans and on proposed developments on sites that are designated for the protection of nature (European Sites) prior to the giving consent for development of such projects. This is to determine whether or not the projects could have negative consequences for the habitats, or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA). The requirements emanate from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive which states

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 project or a plan on a Natura 2000 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 if no significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are identified to be likely to arise during the screening stage. The findings of the screening assessment are normally contained in a Habitats Directive Screening Report.

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 is completed by the Competent Authority, being authority delegated to give consent for the project. It involves 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 by the Competent Authority to identify and classify any implications of the 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 project may only be consented if adverse effects on the integrity...
of European sites can be ruled out during the Appropriate Assessment process. The 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.

The directive provides for a **derogation procedure** which can allow a plan or project to proceed in spite of a finding that the plan or project could / would give rise to adverse effects on the overall integrity of one or more Natura 2000 sites. Derogation procedures can only be progressed in very limited circumstances which are set out in Article 6(4) of the Directive (see below).

**Habitats Directive Article 6(4)**

*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*

EU and National Guidance identifies the procedures which must be followed in circumstances where a derogation from the Habitats Directive is sought to allow a project or a plan to proceed, despite a finding that it will give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of one or more Natura 2000 sites. These procedures can only be invoked where it has been shown that there are no alternative ways to implement the plan/project which avoid adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites, where it has been demonstrated that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for which the plan/project must proceed and where measures have been developed and provided to compensate for any losses to be incurred. These further stages are described below.

**Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions**

In circumstances where the potential for a plan or project to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of a European site or sites has not been ruled out during the appropriate assessment process, it can only be considered for authorisation where it is demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions and that there Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) which can allow the plan or project to proceed. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

**Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain**

The fourth stage of the Habitats Directive Assessment process involves demonstrating that Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest exist, and the assessment of the compensatory measures which are proposed to be implemented. In every case in which a local authority envisages approving or proceeding with a plan or project on grounds of IROPI, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht must be consulted.

The assessment may stop at any of the above stages if significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.
Regulation 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations requires the Local Authority to complete Habitats Directive Screening in respect of development it proposes to progress.

This document presents the outcomes of the screening assessment of Cork County Council in respect of the proposed upgrade of the regional road the R572. All European sites within or close to the proposed works site, or that might have an ecological linkage to the proposed development have been identified and screened to determine whether there is potential for this project to give rise to significant impacts on the qualifying features of these sites.

2 Proposed Works

It is proposed to upgrade the R-572 regional road extending from the townland of Rodeen west into and through Castletownbere. The works will involve the provision of a 3m wide shared use footway/cycleway, 2m wide footways, junction improvements, a ‘gateway’ approach, pedestrian crossings, localised on-street parking, drainage, landscaping, signage and road markings.

Surface water is to be designed in accordance with SuDS principles, and all surface water will pass through hydrocarbon interceptors before outfall to Bantry Bay. These measures have been devised to comply with drainage policy as set out in the Cork County Development Plan, they have not been introduced to avoid or reduce potential impacts on European sites.

Waste arisings will be disposed of at local licensed landfills

Standard environmental protection measures, including water protection measures will be implemented during the works phase. These will be implemented in order to protect water quality in the receiving environment. They are not required in order to protect European site interests.

3 Site Details

The project site is approximately 2,230m in length and averages 11m wide. The proposed works area comprises roadside verges and includes small areas of amenity grassland and shrubberies on roadside verges, and occasional immature native and non-native stree trees on either side of the road within residential properties. All habitat features within the proposed development site are stated to be heavily influenced by management and are of relatively low ecological value. The Derrymihin West River is located west of Derrymihin junction and enters Bantry Bay downstream. Several other small watercourses are also culverted under the R-572.

4 Proximity of the Proposed Development Site To European Sites

The site does not overlap with any European site. There are a number of European Sites within 15km of the site where works are proposed. These are set out in Table 1 and shown on Figure 1.
Consideration is given to potential for the proposed works to give rise to negative effects on these sites below. No other sites have been identified which could be affected by the proposed development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Code</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Distance from proposed works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0093</td>
<td>Caha Mountains SAC</td>
<td>&gt;10km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0102</td>
<td>Sheep’s Head SAC</td>
<td>&gt;10km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Glanmore Bog SAC</td>
<td>&gt;4km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2158</td>
<td>Kenmare River SAC</td>
<td>&gt;7km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4155</td>
<td>Beara Peninsula SPA</td>
<td>&gt;3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4156</td>
<td>Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA</td>
<td>&gt;10km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Screening Assessment

Caha Mountains Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 0093
This is a large upland site supporting habitats and species typical of upland peatland ecosystems.
The site is designated for the protection of the following habitats and species:

Qualifying Interests:

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
- Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
- Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]
- Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]

Conservation Objectives:

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
- Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
- Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]
- Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]

To restore the favourable conservation condition of

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]
The main threats to the habitats and species of this SAC are overgrazing, water abstraction, and small scale land uses including peat cutting.

**Screening Assessment:**
The proposed works site is over >10km from the SAC. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to the SAC. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SAC, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SAC as part of this project. No element of the proposed works has been identified which could have the potential to impact on this SAC.

**Screening Conclusion Caha Mountains SAC:**
No potential to cause effects and therefore no potential to contribute to in-combination negative effects. No potential for significant effects to arise. No further assessment required.

**Sheep’s Head Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 0102**
This is a coastal heathland site supporting habitats and species typical of coastal heaths. The site overlaps with the Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA. It is designated for the protection of the following habitats and species:

**Qualifying Interests:**
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- *Geomalacus maculosus* (Kerry Slug) [1024]

**Conservation Objectives:**
*To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.*

**Screening Assessment:**
The proposed works site is over 10km from the SAC. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to the SAC. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SAC, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SAC as part of this project. No element of the proposed works has been identified which could have the potential to impact on this SAC.

**Screening Conclusion Sheep’s Head SAC:**
No potential to cause effects and therefore no potential to contribute to in-combination negative effects. No potential for significant effects to arise. No further assessment required.
Glanmore Bog Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 1879

This diverse site on the Beara Peninsula supports a range of upland terrestrial and freshwater habitat types as well as their associated species. The site is designated for the protection of the following habitats and species:

**Qualifying Interests:**
- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]
- Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]
- Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]

**Conservation Objectives:**

*To maintain the favourable conservation condition of:*
- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]
- Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]

*To restore the favourable conservation condition of:*
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]
- Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]

The main potential threats to the habitats and species of this SAC are overgrazing, afforestation, water abstraction, and peat cutting.

**Screening Assessment:**

The proposed works site is over 5km from the SAC. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to the SAC. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SAC, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SAC as part of this project. No element of the proposed works has been identified which could have the potential to impact on this SAC.

**Screening Conclusion Glanmore Bog SAC:**
No potential to cause effects and therefore no potential to contribute to in-combination negative effects. No potential for significant effects to arise. No further assessment required.

**Kenmare River Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 2158**

This is a large coastal site which is located in Co’s Cork and Kerry. It is of special importance for its estuarine and coastal habitats and species, some of which are very rare and known only from this area in Ireland. It is also of high importance for the occurrence of a very rare habitat type (Calaminarian grassland) associated with old mine works at Allihies. This grassland is the only Irish site for a number of exceptionally rare lichen species. Of the habitats and species for which the site is designated, the Cork portion of the site supports coastal and estuarine habitats including reefs, sea cliffs and saltmarshes, heath habitat, Calaminarian grassland, Otter and Harbour Seal.

The bay supports a breeding population of Arctic/Common Tern, and overlaps with the Beara Peninsula SPA which is designated for a breeding population of Chough. The site is designated for the protection of the following habitats and species:

**Qualifying Interests:**

- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
- Reefs [1170]
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
- Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
- Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalalia calaminariae [6130]
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]
- Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
- Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
- Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]
- Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]

**Conservation Objectives:**

*To maintain the favourable conservation condition of*

- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
- Reefs [1170]
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
- Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]
- Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]
- Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
- Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
- Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]

To restore the favourable conservation condition of
- Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]

**Screening Assessment:**
The proposed works site is over 7km from the SPA. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to the SPA. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SPA, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SPA as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support habitat which would be used by the qualifying interest species for which the SPA is designated. No element of the proposed works has been identified which could have the potential to impact on this SAC.

**Screening Conclusion Kenmare River SAC:**
No potential to cause effects and therefore no potential to contribute to in-combination negative effects. No potential for significant effects to arise. No further assessment required.

**Beara Peninsula Special Protection Area, Site Code 4155**
This SPA includes sea cliffs and the land behind these as well as several upland areas further inland of the coast on the Beara Peninsula and Bere Island. The site is designated for the protection of Chough and Peregrine Falcon. The SPA protects Chough feeding and breeding sites, as well as areas where birds flock in the wintertime. The site is also important for breeding seabird species including Fulmar, Black Guillemot, Shag, Gull spp and Razorbill. The site is designated for the protection of the following habitats and species:

**Qualifying Interests:**
- Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009]
- Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]

**Conservation Objective:**
The Conservation Objective which has been established for this SPA is

- to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA – Fulmar and Chough.

Activities which could result in significant disturbance of breeding sites or which could result in loss of feeding or breeding habitat, or a decline in availability of the food prey items of Fulmar or Chough...
could have the potential to interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been established for these species.

**Screening Assessment:**
The proposed works site is approximately 3km from the SPA and both the proposed works site and the SPA have a hydrological linkage to Bantry Bay.

The Beara Peninsula hosts an internationally important population of breeding Chough. This species is amber-listed (medium conservation concern) in Ireland. The species nests on sea cliffs along the coast of the SPA, including the southern coast of Bere Island. It feeds on invertebrates foraged on agricultural land in close proximity to its breeding sites.

The SPA also hosts a nationally important population of Fulmar (575 pairs). This species nests in colonies on sea cliffs and feeds on open water out to sea. The species is green-listed in Ireland and the European population has been evaluated as secure.

The proposed development site does not support breeding habitat of either of these species, not does it support the feeding habitat of Fulmar. It is possible that Chough could feed on shoreline pasture along the southern side of the proposed development site, however, taking account of the location adjacent to a busy coastal road, it is considered that this area is unlikely to provide optimal feeding habitat for Chough.

It is considered that the proposed works do not have the potential to give rise to negative effects on Chough for the following reasons

- the works area does not support nesting habitat which is used by this species. Therefore the proposed works do not pose any risk of damaging or disrupting potentially suitable nesting habitats.
- while coastal pasture along the shoreline and adjacent to the road, could support Chough, this area is >3km from the SPA and adjoins a busy coastal road. As such, it is considered that it does not provide optimal feeding habitat for Chough.

The proposed works do not have the potential to give rise to negative effects on Fulmar for the following reasons:

- the works area does not support nesting habitat which is used by this species. Therefore the proposed works do not pose any risk of damaging or disrupting potentially suitable nesting habitats;
- Fulmar typically feed on open water out to sea. The proposed works will not cause disturbance to feeding Fulmar, and no element of the proposed works has been identified to be likely to interfere with availability of food for this species.

No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SPA, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SPA as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support either breeding or optimal feeding habitat which would be used by the qualifying interest
species for which the SPA is designated, and no element of the project is considered to be likely to cause any risk of disturbance to these species.

**Screening Conclusion Beara Peninsula SPA:**
No potential to cause effects and therefore no potential to contribute to in-combination negative effects. No potential for significant effects to arise. No further assessment required.

**Sheep’s Head to Toe Head Special Protection Area, Site Code 2155**
This is a large coastal site which encompasses the high coast and se cliffs from Sheep’s Head to Mizen head, Brow Head and Crookhaven, which overlaps with the Sheep’s Head SAC. The site is designated for the protection of the following habitats and species:

**Qualifying Interests:**
- *Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103]*
- *Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]*

**Conservation Objectives:**
The Conservation Objective which has been established for this SPA is

- *to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA – Peregrine and Chough.*

Activities which could result in significant disturbance of breeding sites or which could result in loss of feeding or breeding habitat, or a decline in availability of the food prey items of Fulmar or Chough could have the potential to interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been established for these species.

**Screening Assessment:**
The proposed works site is over 10km from the SPA. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to the SPA. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SPA, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SPA as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support habitat which would be used by the qualifying interest species for which the SPA is designated. No element of the proposed works has been identified which could have the potential to impact on this SAC.

**Screening Conclusion Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA:**
No potential to cause effects and therefore no potential to contribute to in-combination negative effects. No potential for significant effects to arise. No further assessment required.
6  Screening Conclusion

In accordance with Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in this report, it is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans/projects are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 site). It is therefore considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), is not required.

Reasons for Conclusion

1. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to five of the six European sites located within 15km of the proposed works area– Caha Mountains SAC, Sheep’s Head SAC, Glanmore Bog SAC, Kenmare River SAC and Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA. No activities associated with the project are proposed within these sites, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within these sites as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support habitat which would be used by the qualifying interest species for which any of these sites are designated, nor do the proposed works pose any risk of causing disturbance to species which are qualifying interests of these sites.

2. There is a hydrological connection linking the Beara Peninsula Special Protection Area to the proposed development site. The qualifying interests of this site are Fulmar and Chough, and the SPA includes nesting sites of both species, and feeding habitat of Chough. Feeding habitat of Fulmar is not included within the SPA, this species feeds out to sea. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SPA, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SPA as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support feeding or nesting habitat of either Fulmar or Chough, and the works area is sufficiently distant from the SPA to be satisfied that there is no risk that this project could cause disturbance to these species at their nesting sites or feeding areas.
# 7 Finding of No Significant Effects Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of project</th>
<th>Proposed Upgrade of Regional Road R-572</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Name and location of Natura 2000 sites identified for screening | Caha Mountains SAC Site Code 0093  
Sheep’s Head SAC Site Code 0102  
Glanmore Bog SAC Site Code 1879  
Kenmare River SAC Site Code 2158  
Beara Peninsula SPA Site Code 4155  
Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA Site Code 4156 |
| Description of the project or plan | It is proposed to upgrade the R-572 regional road extending from the townland of Rodeen west into and through Castletownbere. The works will involve the provision of a 3m wide shared use footway/cycleway, 2m wide footways, junction improvements, pedestrian crossings, localised on-street parking, drainage, landscaping, signage and road markings.  
Surface water is to be designed in accordance with SuDS principles, and all surface water will pass through hydrocarbon interceptors before outfall to Bantry Bay.  
Waste arisings will be disposed of at local licensed landfills.  
Standard environmental protection measures, including water protection measures will be implemented during the works phase. These will be implemented in order to protect water quality in the receiving environment. They are not required in order to protect European site interests. |
| Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites listed above? | The project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site. |

The assessment of significance of effects
| Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site. | No potential for effects on any European Site identified for reasons set out in section 6. |
| Explain why these effects are not considered significant. | N/A |
| List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or email address | This screening document will be referred to statutory consultees including the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Consultation with the wider public will also take place as part of the Part 8 process. |
| Response to consultation | None to date |

**Data collected to carry out the assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who carried out the assessment</th>
<th>Sources of data</th>
<th>Level of assessment completed</th>
<th>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Casey</td>
<td>NPWS Site Data and Aecom Screening Report.</td>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>This report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 Overall Conclusions

This report concludes that no significant effects on European sites are likely and that an appropriate assessment is not required.

Explain how the overall conclusion that there are no significant effects on the European site was arrived at

1. There is no physical, hydrological or ecological connectivity linking the works site to five of the 6 European sites located within 15km of the proposed works area—Caha Mountains SAC, Sheep’s Head SAC, Glanmore Bog SAC, Kenmare River SAC and Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA. No activities associated with the project are proposed within these sites, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within these sites as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support habitat which would be used by the qualifying interest species for which any of these sites are designated, nor do the proposed works pose any risk of causing disturbance to species which are qualifying interests of these sites.

2. There is a hydrological connection linking the Beara Peninsula Special Protection Area to the proposed development site. The qualifying interests of this site are Fulmar and Chough, and the SPA includes nesting sites of both species, and feeding habitat of Chough. Feeding habitat of Fulmar is not included within the SPA, this species feeds out to sea. No activities associated with the project are proposed within the SPA, and no materials are proposed to be taken from or placed within the SPA as part of this project. The proposed works site does not support feeding or nesting habitat of either Fulmar or Chough, and the works area is sufficiently distant from the SPA to be satisfied that there is no risk that this project could cause disturbance to these species at their nesting sites or feeding areas.
9 References

NPWS Site Data
Information relating to individual Natura 2000 sites including Article 17 Conservation Assessment Reports for Habitats and Species In Ireland (2013), individual site synopses, Natura 2000 data forms, and information relating to the qualifying features and conservation objectives of individual sites was sourced from the NPWS database (www.NPWS.ie).

Guidance used in the preparation of this report included the following:


European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Communities, 2001.