MOTT MACDONALD

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment

R605 Ship Pool Bends Improvement Scheme

January 2022

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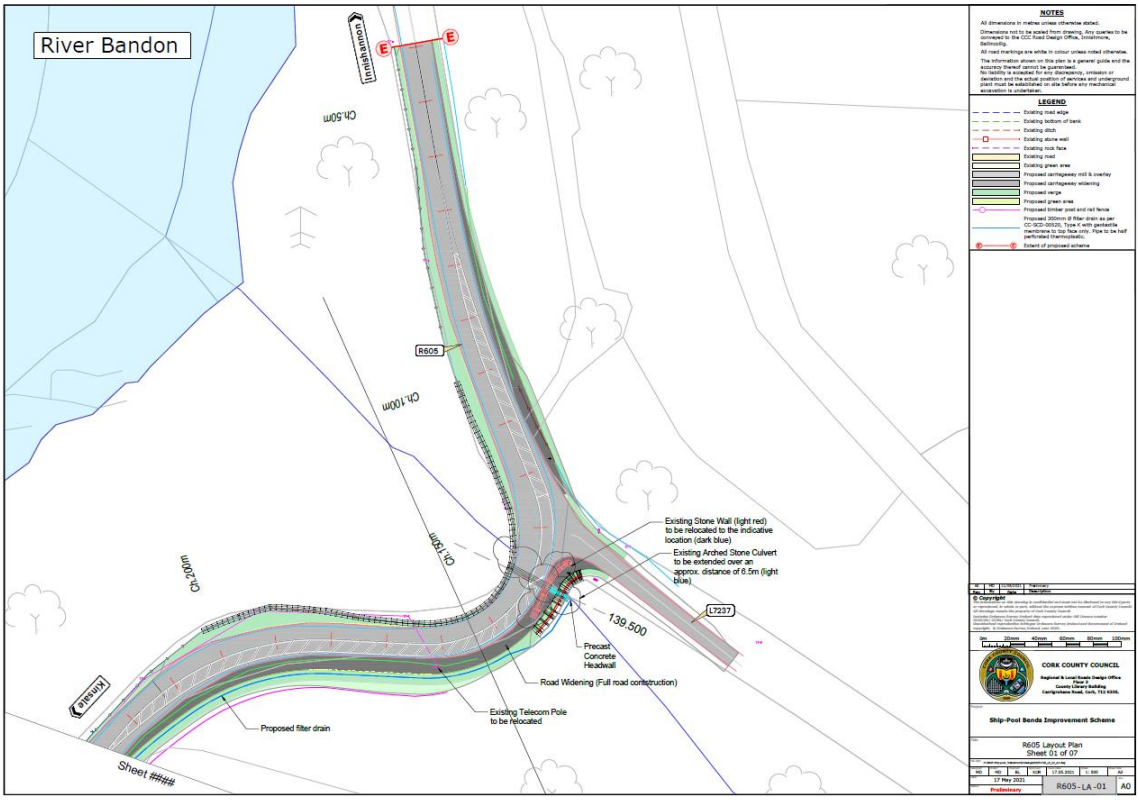
1 Introduction

1.1 Context

Cork County Council is proposing the improvement of the R605 road at Ship-Pool Bends. Plans to widen this section of the R605 are proposed as it is located at a bend which curves around a vertical rock face on the eastern side of the road, with a steep ground fall on the western side to the River Bandon.

Figure 1.1 below details location and description of proposed works at Ship-Pool bends near Inishannon village Co Cork.

Figure 1-1: Location and summary of proposed works at Ship-Pool bends.



While there are other alternative routes to the factory, they all have their own challenges and despite the shortcomings at Ship-pool – the general consensus is that the R605 remains the most viable route for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) traffic to and from the factory.

Further detail on the Project is provided in Section 2.

1.2 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment

Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 437 of 2011) (as amended) transposes Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) into Irish law. The regulations require that before consent for a project is given, a screening for Appropriate Assessment of a project for which an application for consent is received (which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site), must be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in

view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

This report is to assist Cork County Council in their Screening of the proposed road improvement works for the need for Appropriate Assessment.

- This report has been prepared in accordance with the following European Commission and national guidance:
- EC (2001) 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
- DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (Revised 2010)
- EC (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Commission Notice C (2018) 7621.

2 Project Description

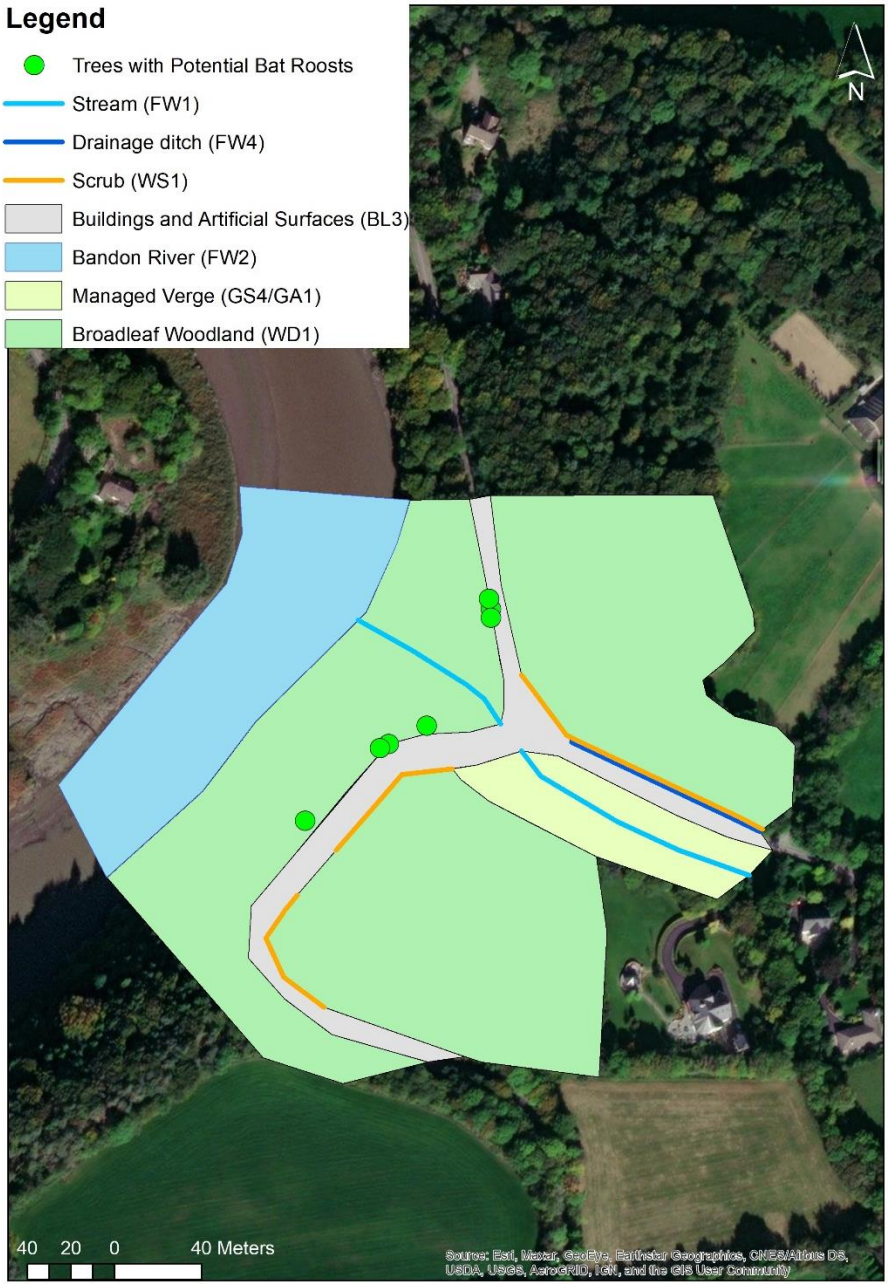
2.1 Baseline Environment

An ecological survey of all lands within the footprint of the proposed works was carried out on the 19th of February 2021 by Mott MacDonald Ecologists. Survey results are presented hereunder. Habitat codes are in accordance with Fossitt (2000).

The habitats within the footprint of the works were comprised primarily of the existing road and associated walls (BL3). The existing road was bordered by broadleaf woodland (WD1) to the east and west of the existing road, with drainage ditches (FW4) recorded along the road. The woodland was fringed with scrub (WS1) immediately adjacent to the road. A stream (FW1) bisects the footprint of the works, flowing into the River Bandon (FW2) to the west of the works area. An area of managed grassland (GS4/GA1) was recorded adjacent to the existing road in the eastern leg of the works area, along with an area of recolonising bare ground (ED3).

A habitat map of the area is provided below in Figure 4.1.

Figure 2.1: Habitat Map of Ship Pool Bends



Source: Mott MacDonald

Broadleaf Woodland (WD1)

The broadleaf woodland was heavily dominated by large mature beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) Other tree species recorded within the woodland included ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), birch (*Betula pendula*), Scott's pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Ground flora was dominated by ivy (*Hedera helix*), likely due to shading from the canopy. Other species recorded within the ground flora included *Dryopteris spp.*, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*), herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Hart's-tongue fern

(*Asplenium scolopendrium*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

To the west of the existing road the woodland was sloped steeply down towards the Bandon River (Photo 2.1). To the east of the road the woodland was more level but contained exposed earth banks where earth slippage had occurred (Photo 2.2). In places the woodland was perched above the existing road level with the banks interfacing with the road. The woodland forms part of the greater Ship-Pool woodland, which is used recreationally for walking. It also provides connectivity to wooded areas along the Bandon River to the north and south of the works area.

Photo 2.1: Mature Broadleaf Woodland

Source: Mott MacDonald

Photo 2.2: Exposed Earth Banks Within Woodland

Source: Mott MacDonald

Scrub (WS1)

In small sections scrub was present fringing the road (Photo 4.4). This thin line of scrub was likely the result of maintenance along the road. The scrub was typically dominated by hazel, but generally contained a similar species composition to the woodland. Other species recorded within the scrub included sessile oak, ash, birch, laurel, bramble, nettle (*Urtica dioica*), yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), and woodrush.

Photo 2.3: Scrub Fringing Road with Mature Woodland Behind

Source: Mott MacDonald

Managed Verge (GA1/GS4)

In the eastern section of the works area, the lands to the south of the existing road have historically been cleared and managed to create an area of green verge (Photo 2.4). The area was likely re-seeded as amenity grassland (GA1) however, at the time of survey it showed an affinity towards wet grassland (GS4) but contained a number of species more readily associated with woodland habitats. Fallen branches which had become overgrown were noted within the area. Several mature trees were retained within the grassland, with young alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) trees also planted.

Photo 2.4: Managed Verge

Source: Mott MacDonald

Species recorded within the grassland included Yorkshire fog grass (*Holcus lanatus*), creeping bent grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), rushes (*Juncus effuses*) creeping buttercup, daisy (*Bellis perrenis*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), broad dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), and self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*). Very young willow saplings (*Salix spp.*) and cut remnants of woodrush were noted emerging from the verge. It is likely in time that this verge will re-generate into scrub.

Recolonising Bare Ground (ED3)

Land on the southern bank of the stream had also recently been cleared. This area sloped steeply down towards the stream and contained a large proportion of exposed soil (Photo 2.5). The majority of the land had been cleared, with mature tree retained. Species recorded within this habitat included foxglove, bramble, woodrush, willowherb (*Epilobium spp*), laurel, beech, and sycamore.

Photo 2.5: Cleared Land on Southern Stream Bank

Source: Mott MacDonald

Watercourses (FW1, and FW4)

As previously noted, a stream (FW1) bisects the site, flowing to the west into the River Bandon. The gradient of the stream upstream of the existing culvert is relatively flat. As previously noted, the lands surrounding the stream upstream of the culvert had been cleared and so little in terms of bankside vegetation was recorded, with areas of bare earth banks recorded (Photo 2.6).

Photo 2.6: Riverbank Upstream of Culvert

Source: Mott MacDonald

The stream crosses a stone weir directly upstream of the culvert, with a steep drop into the stone culvert beneath the road (Photo 2.7 and Photo 2.8).

Photo 2.7: Stream and Top of Weir (Circled)

Source: Mott MacDonald

Photo 2.8: Culvert face and Stream Immediately Downstream of Weir

Source: Mott MacDonald

Downstream of the culvert the gradient of the stream was steep, with a high velocity in terms of flow. The substrate was comprised of large cobbles and stone slabs. As the gradient was steep these slabs had become exposed creating steps in the stream (Photo 2.9). Given these features, the gradient of the stream and the presence of the weir upstream of the culvert, fish passage is not likely to take place moving upstream of the Bandon River. Likely as a result of the velocity of the water within the stream, no instream vegetation was recorded.

Photo 2.9: View of Stream Downstream of the Culvert

Source: Mott MacDonald

Highly managed drainage ditches were recorded adjacent to the existing road. These provide surface drainage along the edge of the road and appeared to outfall into the previously mentioned stream. The drainage ditches were shallow and had in places become blocked with debris from felled trees.

2.2 Construction Phase

The following outlines the planned works required at Ship Pool Bends:

- The road will be closed to traffic and a diversion put in place. Following the closure of the road, the site compound will be erected. The location of the compound will be selected by the contractor; however this is likely to be within the curtilage of the existing road.
- Traffic management will be put in place to facilitate the works. The works are small scale in nature and will not result in a significant increase in local traffic volumes.
- Vegetation clearance will be required to facilitate the works.
- The existing arched stone culvert will be extended, and a new precast concrete headwall installed. To facilitate the placement of the culvert the existing ground on the upstream face of the culvert will require excavation. Rock armour units will be placed upstream. The culvert extension will comprise precast units placed on a bed of granular material
- The existing stone wall will be broken down to road level and new stone wall to be constructed at new location. The new wall will be comprised of pre-cast units set onto a concrete bed.
- 15m of retaining wall will be installed to support the new alignment.

- The existing telecom pole will be moved. There may be additional removal of vegetation required to facilitate required clearance levels at the new location.
- Proposed filter drain will be installed. This will likely require excavation of a trench, and placement of perforated drainpipes, and a washed gravel fill.
- The road be widened. To facilitate this, there will be a requirement for the breaking out of approximately 35m x 6.5m x 3m of rock face
- Resurfacing of the road including the newly widened road will take place
- Introduction of ghost hatching between the separate lanes of traffic to allow for the safe passage of the long wheel-based vehicles over the tightest section of the bend;

The proposed works are likely to result in the generation of construction waste. Any waste generated during the proposed works will be disposed of in accordance with waste legislation.

2.3 Operational Phase

The works comprise alterations to the existing road alignment. There will be no change in traffic levels as a result of the proposed development or other operational phase impacts.

3 Potential for Significant Effects

3.1 Zone of Influence

The works are located entirely outside of any European sites. However, the Zone of Influence of works can impact areas outside of the immediate footprint of works.

CIEEM guidelines[1] states that the "*zone of influence (ZoI) is the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities*" and that the "*zone of influence will vary for different ecological features depending on their sensitivity to an environmental change*".

The likely biophysical changes associated with the GI works are set out having regard to the timing, frequency, duration, location, extent and magnitude of the works. The zones of influence associated with these project effects have been derived from relevant published literature and guidance documents. The duration of effect is defined with regard to the EPAs '*Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*' (Draft, August 2017) which outlines categories for the description of durations: brief (less than 1 day); temporary (less than 1 year); short-term (1-7 years); medium-term (7-15 years); long-term (15-60 years); and permanent (>60 years).

All European sites within the defined zones of influence were identified using Geographic Information System (ArcGIS).

The potential environmental effects of the proposed works, along with potential zone of influence for the works is outlined hereunder.

3.1.1 Site Clearance and Ground Excavation

The proposed works will require site clearance, excavation, and rock breaking to facilitate the changes in alignment. The ZoI is assessed as the direct footprint of the works.

3.1.2 Noise and Vibration

The R605 at Ship-Pool carries a high number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) traffic. Given the nature of the existing road infrastructure, the surrounding environment is habitually subject to a degree of disturbance.

There is potential for a temporary increase in noise during the construction of the proposed works. The British Standard 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites. Noise guidance prescribes typical noise level data for various construction plant and activities within 10m of the various sources. The inverse square law can be applied to determine likely noise levels at varying distances from the proposed development site. Referring to Table 3.1: below and considering the type of machinery/equipment which will be utilised during the works, the spatial limit of noise impacts was determined as 100m from the proposed works area.

Table 3.1: Noise Levels dB(A), at Various Distances from Construction Activities

Plant Item	10m	50m	100m	150m	200m
Rock Breaking (excavator and crusher)	96	73	69	65	63

Plant Item	10m	50m	100m	150m	200m
Tracked excavator	78	55	51	47	45
Earthworks (Dozer)	86	63	59	55	53
Dump truck (empty)	88	65	61	57	55
Road planer	82	59	55	51	49
Asphalt paver	77	54	50	46	44
Spreading chipping/fill (dozer)	82	59	55	51	49
Trenching	77	54	50	46	44
Vibratory roller	84	61	57	53	51
Pumping water	65	42	38	34	32
All Above		75	70	67	65

Dust

Breaking out of existing roadway and hard surfaces has the potential to cause dust. The proposed construction works are likely to result in the temporary generation of dust. The Institute of Air Quality Management ‘Guidance on the Assessment of the Impacts of Construction on Air Quality and the Determination of their Significance’ (2014) prescribes potential dust emission risk classes to ecological receptors. The guidance specifies that the need for a detailed assessment arises “where there is an ‘ecological receptor’ within 50m of the works, or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500m from the site entrance” and that “Where the need for a more detailed assessment is screened out, it can be concluded that the level of risk is “negligible”, and any effects will not be significant”.

Surface Water Runoff

There is potential for run-off associated with the works. This may contain cement fines due to concrete works, hydrocarbons due to accidental spills and leaks, and sediment laden waters due to instream and bankside works. A small stream bisects the work area, and drainage ditches were recorded along the roadside.

3.1.3 Lighting

There is potential for temporary lighting to be used during the construction phase, which may result in additional light levels in the vicinity of the works.

The design does not include for the addition of permanent lighting. No impacts are anticipated as a result of lighting effects at the operational.

3.2 Source Pathway Receptor Analysis

Projects have the potential to impact on European sites beyond the footprint of the project itself. National Guidance states that screening for AA should be carried out for any European Site within the likely 'Zone of Influence' of a plan or project. For projects, the guidance recommends that the Zone of Influence (ZoI) must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects.

The source (potential impacts from the Proposed Development as described previously), pathways (hydrological, physical or ecological connectivity) and receptors (QIs and SCIs of the European sites) were identified through desktop survey including use of GIS software and through examination of aerial photography. Any European sites identified to have a viable source-pathway-receptor link to the Proposed Development were then examined further to determine the potential for significant effects.

The potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development are set out in Section 2. and can be summarised as:

- Dust deposition;
- Noise and vibration;
- Lighting (temporary and permanent);
- Accidental release of pollutants into surface waters,
- Contamination of surface waters from site runoff and dewatering of excavations.

All works associated with the Project are located wholly outside of the boundaries of any European sites.

Table 3.1 includes the source-pathway-receptor assessment for the Proposed Development.

The location of the works in relation to European Sites is presented in Figure 3-1

Figure 3-1: Site Location in Relation to European Sites

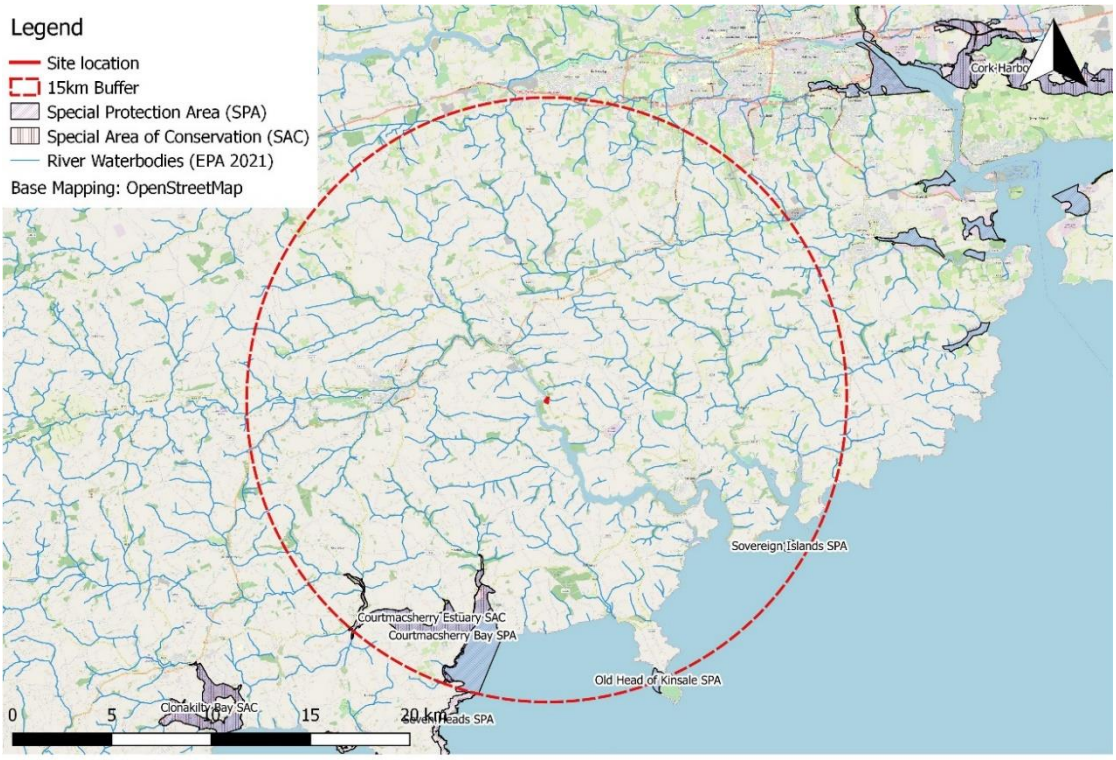


Table 3.2: Source-Pathway-receptor Assessment and Assessment of Potential for Significant Effects

Site Name (Code), and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)				
Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (001230) (NPWS 2014) Site-specific conservation objective aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site. This achieved through • Attributes • Measures • Targets • Notes Which are set for each Qualifying Interest and can be found in greater detail through the following link: http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protectedsites/conservation_objectives/CO001230.pdf	8.35km	1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*	The River Bandon is located approximately 50m to the west of the proposed works rea. This river is flowing south to where it enters the sea. The works area is located 8km from the Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (12km via the hydrological pathway). As such, given the dilution associated with coastal waters, any surface water emissions will have dissipated prior to reaching the SAC boundary.	Given the nature, scale, and location of the works, there is no potential for significant impact to Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC.

Site Name (Code), and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
River Bandon SAC (002171) (NPWS 2019) Site-specific conservation objective aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site. This achieved through • Attributes • Measures • Targets • Notes Which are set for each Qualifying Interest and can be found in greater detail through the following link: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protectedsites/conservation_objectives/CO002171_0.pdf	30km	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0] *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater pearl mussel) [1029] *Lampetra planeri* (Brook lamprey) [1096]	The River Bandon is located approximately 50m to the west of the works area. Given the location of the works (approximately 30km downstream) relative to the SAC section of the River Bandon, there is no potential for impact to floating river vegetation, or alluvial woodland associated with the works. There is potential for emissions associated with the works to enter into the river Bandon via the stream which bisects the site. However, no suitable fisheries habitat was identified within the stream, and no potential for fish migration upstream was identified due to the presence of a weir upstream. *M. margaritifera* sensitive areas have been identified by the NPWS. The works are not located within any. The closest such catchment to the works area is located approximately 3.5km to the west of the works area.	Given the nature, scale, and location of the works, there is no potential for significant impact to River Bandon SAC.
Special Protection Area (SPA)				

Site Name (Code), and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (004219) (NPWS 2014) Site-specific conservation objective aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site. This achieved through • Attributes • Measures • Targets • Notes Which are set for each Special Conservation Interest and can be found in greater detail through the following link: http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protectedsites/conservation_objectives/CO004219.pdf	9km	A156 Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) A149 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) A142 Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) A179 Black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) A140 Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) A182 Common gull (*Larus canus*) A069 Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) A157 Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) A160 Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) A050 Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) A048 Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) A003 Great northern diver (*Gavia immer*) Wetlands	The River Bandon is located in proximity to the works area approximately 50m to the west of the works area. Given the location of the works relative to the SPA any surface water emissions will have dissipated prior to reaching the SPA boundary. Waterfowl have been documented to tolerate noise levels at or below 70dB(A) (Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies, University of Hull, 2009). As such, the ZoI for noise impacts is assessed as 100m having regard to the levels set out in section 2. As such, noise disturbances associated with the project operations will not impact the SCI of Courtmacsherry Bay SPA which is located approximately 9km from the works area SCI species may occasionally forage inland. Core foraging habitats for the SCI species associated with Courtmacsherry Bay SPA are listed as Intertidal mud and sand flats & sheltered & shallow subtidal.	Given the nature, scale, and location of the works, there is no potential for significant impact to Courtmacsherry Bay SPA.

Site Name (Code), and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
			The works area and the habitats within the zone of impact for noise do not comprise these habitats. There will, therefore, be no disturbances (noise, sound, artificial lighting) to core roosting or foraging habitats associated with the SPA.	
Sovereign Islands SPA (004124) (NPWS 2020) There are no specific Conservation Objectives (CO) detailed for this SPA. The overall CO for this SPA is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. The following link leads to the CO for this site: http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protectedsites/conservation_objectives/CO004124.pdf	13.8km	A017 Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)	The River Bandon is approximately 50m to the west of the works area. The works area is located 13km from the Sovereign Islands SPA. As such, given the dilution associated with coastal waters, any surface water emissions will have dissipated prior to reaching the SPA boundary. Waterfowl have been documented to tolerate noise levels at or below 70dB(A) (Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies, University of Hull, 2009). As such, the ZoI for noise impacts is assessed as 100m having regard to the levels set out in section 2. As such, noise disturbances associated with the proposed development will not impact the core foraging habitat for SCI of Sovereign Islands SPA which is located approximately 13km from the works area.	Given the nature, scale, and location of the works, there is no potential for significant impact to Sovereign Islands SPA.

Site Name (Code), and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
			SCI species may occur outside of the SPA boundary. The stream which bisects the works area is small and unlikely to be utilised by cormorant for foraging, however, they may make use of the lower reaches of the River Bandon. The works area is set back from the river Bandon by approximately 50m. The temporary disturbance of cormorant from the River Bandon at this location will not result in significant effects to the species.	
Old Head of Kinsale SPA (004021) (2020) There are no specific Conservation Objectives (CO) detailed for this SPA. The overall CO for this SPA is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. The following link leads to the CO for this site: http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protectedsites/conservation_objectives/CO004021.pdf	14.3km	A188 Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) A199 Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)	The River Bandon is approximately 50m to the west of the works area. Further, the works area is located 14km from the Old Head of Kinsale SPA. As such, given the dilution associated with coastal waters, any surface water emissions will have dissipated prior to reaching the SPA boundary. Waterfowl have been documented to tolerate noise levels at or below 70dB(A) (Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies, University of Hull, 2009). As such, the ZoI for noise impacts is assessed as 100m having regard to the levels set out in section 2.	Given the nature, scale, and location of the works, there is no potential for significant impact to Old Head of Kinsale SPA

Site Name (Code), and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
			Noise disturbances associated with the project operations will not impact the core roosting or foraging ranges of SCI associated with the Old Head of Kinsale SPA which is located approximately 14km from the works area. SCI species may occur outside of the SPA boundaries. Kittiwake and guillemot are coastal seabirds. The habitats within the ZoI of the proposed development do not constitute habitat for these species.	

3.2.1 Summary

Given the location, nature, and scale of the proposed development, no potential for significant effect was identified to any European sites.

3.3 Plans or projects which might act in combination

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires 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.*'

It is therefore required that the potential impacts of the proposed works are considered in combination with any other relevant plans or projects.

Planning Applications

A search of the Cork County Council planning enquiry system (https://www.corkcoco.ie/planning) was carried out in June 2021. Finalised applications lodged within the vicinity of Ship-pool bends within the last 5 years were examined.

Small scale dwelling developments (construction, alterations/ improvements) were found as well as agriculture related developments (cattle house, slurry tank). These are small scale in nature and will not result in a cumulative impact on any of the European Sites mentioned.

A search of EIA Portal in the vicinity of Ship-pool bends was examined in June 2021. A single application was found by Eli Lilly Kinsale Ltd. Portal ID 2013123. Eli Lilly Kinsale Ltd. intend to apply for development of a pharmaceutical manufacturing building extension located within the existing manufacturing facility.

This is located roughly 3km south of the works area. Given the location and the nature of these works, (i.e. within the existing facility, located 3km from the works area) no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Wind farm

A search of Cork county E-planning identified 16 wind farm applications. None of these developments are in the vicinity of the works area at Ship-Pool. However, the River Bandon flows through the townland Dunmanway in which three wind farm applications/ developments occur:

- 19112 Goulacullin Dunmanway
- 17807 Dromleena, Dunmanway
- 16453 Inchincurka, Dunmanway

Having regard to the nature and scale of the works at Ship-pool Bends and the distance between the works area and the windfarms, there is no potential for in combination effects identified.

Solar farm

A search of Cork county E-planning identified 39 solar farm applications. None of these developments are in the vicinity of the works area at Ship-Pool. However, the River Bandon flows through the townland Ballineen in which one application addressed Derrigra West Ballineen, is noted.

Having regard to the nature and scale of the works at Ship-pool Bends and the distance between the works area and the solar farm developments, there is no potential for in combination effects the River Bandon SAC.

Cork County Council Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The Cork County Council Bridge Rehabilitation Project includes repair works to 25 other bridges located in County Cork. Two bridges, Dromleena bridge and Farnanes bridge are located with hydrological connectivity the Bandon River. However, due to the localised scale of these works there will be no potential for significant effects.

Conclusion

The scale, nature, locations, extent and duration of the proposed works are such that the project does not have the capacity to act in-combination with any other plan or project such as to cause likely significant effects as a direct consequence of its contribution. There are no identified plans or consented projects which have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed works in relation to any identified effects.

There are therefore no potential effects identified from the proposed works which could act in-combination with any other plans or projects to result in any likely significant effects on any European site.

4 Screening Conclusion Statement

The current assessment investigates the potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives of European Sites (Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC, Courtmacsherry Bay SPA, Sovereign Islands SPA and Old Head of Kinsale SPA) arising from the proposed improvement works at Ship-pool Bends. The assessment considers whether the proposed works, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will not have a significant effect on European sites.

The findings of this report for screening for Appropriate Assessment are summarised in the Findings of no Significant Effects Matrix in Table 3 and are presented to aid the Competent Authority in their screening assessment.

Table 3: Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix

Name of project or plan	Ship Pool bends
Name and location of European sites	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (001230) Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (004219) Sovereign Islands SPA (004124) Old Head of Kinsale SPA (004021)
Description of the project or plan	Widening and realignment of the existing roadway at Ship Pool Bends Installation of the filter drain on the inside of the bend; All ancillary works required to deliver the proposed scheme.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	No
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 likely effects were determined from the proposed road improvement works.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	No likely effects were determined therefore there can be no alteration of the conservation condition or objectives of the European Site due to the proposed works.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address	None
Response to consultation.	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Jason Lyne, Ecologist with Mott MacDonald
Sources of data?	Refer to References Section.
Level of assessment?	Desktop study

5 Reference List

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