

**Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment
Screening Determination**

**New Public Toilets at Rathgoggan Middle,
Charleville, Co.Cork**



Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

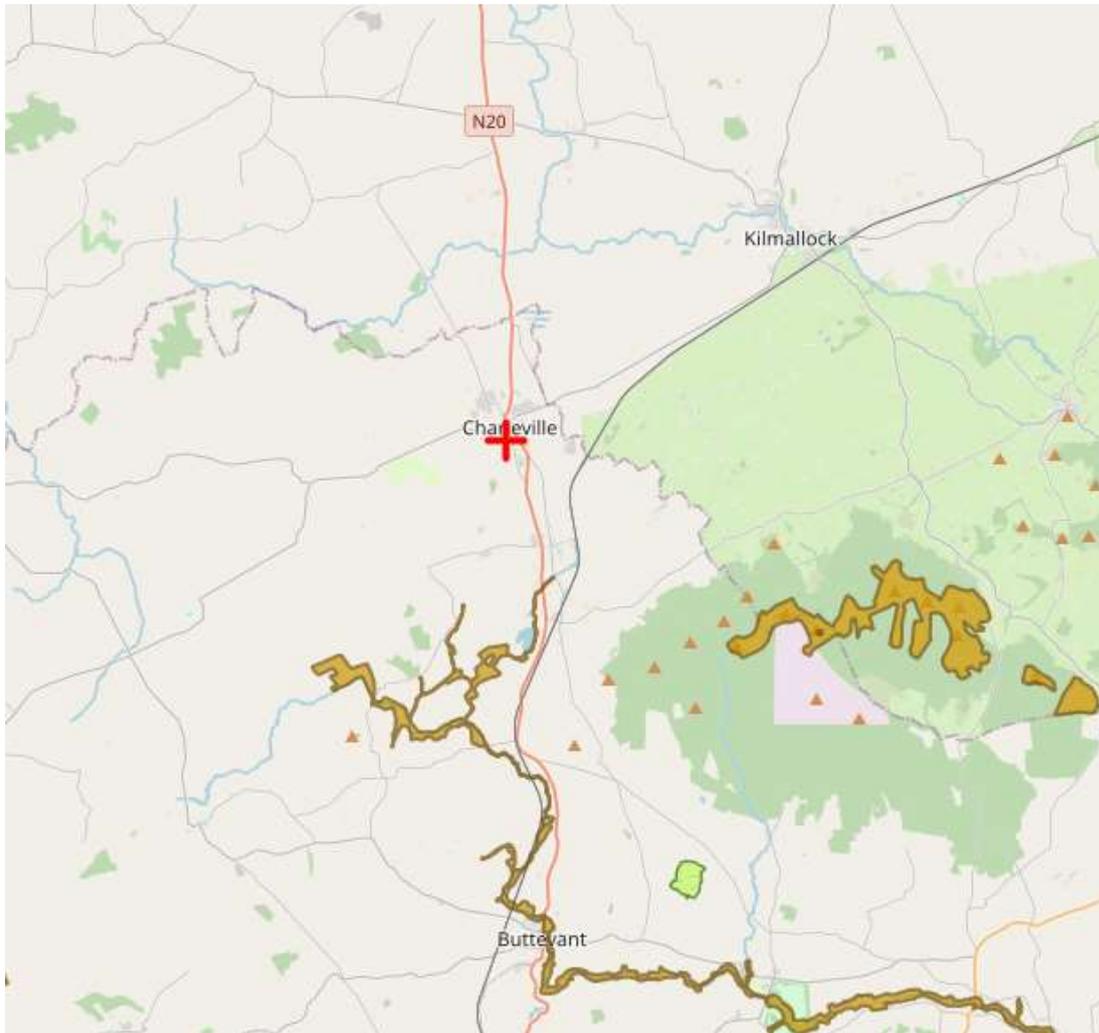
**Completed by: Joy Barry,
Cork County Council.**

Date: 27th January 2022

This document contains the Habitats Directive Screening Determination of Cork County Council in respect of the provision of new public toilets within Charleville Town. The determination is based on the information provided in the Part 8 Report and drawings prepared in respect of the proposed works.

<p>Name of the project</p> <p>New Public Toilets at Rathgoggan Middle, Charleville, Co.Cork</p>
<p>Description of the project</p> <p>Cork County Council are proposing to develop new public toilets in the Public Car Park located off the L-1315-0 in the townland of Rathgoggan Middle, in Charleville Town. The buildings will comprise of three separate compartments to cater for male, female and for universal access and will include internal and external lighting, signage and access to the public footpath.</p> <p>The toilets are to be located along the pathway route from the Library to the Town Park, and shall be in the vicinity of an approved Pedestrian Crossing on the L-1315-0, which links the Public Car Park to the Town Park</p> <p>It is proposed that the toilets will replace existing public toilets located at the rear of the Courthouse off Broad Street and will provide modern, maintained and accessible toilets to serve the public. It is proposed that the Courthouse toilets will be decommissioned.</p> <p>The proposed facility will connect to the existing public surface water drainage system and foul sewer.</p> <p>Site Context</p> <p>The site is located within an existing car park on an area of hardstanding and therefore is of limited ecological value. The nearest watercourse is the Charleville Stream located c215m to the south of the site, however there is no direct hydrological connection to this watercourse. This site is not identified to be located within a flood zone according to the MD LAP and draft PFRA flood maps available for this site.</p>
<p>Name and location of EU sites subject to screening</p> <p>The submitted AA Screening report identifies the following Natura 2000 sites to be located within 15km of the proposed development site;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 2170) – 5.7km to the south 2. Kilcolman Bog SPA (4095) - 12.9km to the south 3. Ballyhoura Mountains SAC (Site Code: 2036) - 8.4km to the south east 4. Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC (2037) – 17km to the south east 5. Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code: 2165) – 24km to the north 6. River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (Site Code: 4077) – 29km to the north <p>No other Natura 2000 sites are considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project. The sites listed above are identified in Figure 1 below relative to the proposed development site.</p>

Figure 1: European Sites



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 direct hydrological or other ecological connection linking the development area to any EU site. Given the sites distance from designated sites, 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 Natura 2000 sites listed.

The only Natura 2000 sites with any potential connection to the development site are the Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA. The Charleville WWTP discharges into the Charleville Stream which connects into these two designated sites over 24km downstream via the Mague watercourse. However, I note from the most recent 2019 AER

available for this plant, that it is meeting its licence requirements and has capacity for additional loading.

Therefore, I am satisfied 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)?

In the absence of any predicted impacts from the proposed development, no in-combination impacts have been identified.

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

It is concluded that the proposed project does not pose a risk of causing significant adverse effects on any Natura 2000 site for the following reasons:

- There is no direct hydrological connection or other ecological connection linking the development area to any EU site;
- No interventions are proposed within any European site;
- The Charleville WWTP is currently meeting its licencing requirements, has capacity and does not pose a risk of water quality impacts to receiving waters; and
- 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 qualifying interests of European sites.

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