

MWP

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

**Lighthouse Road and Moll Goggins Viewing
Platforms Rehabilitation Project,
Lighthouse Road, Youghal, County Cork**

Cork County Council

December 2022

Contents

Summary of Findings	3
Screening for Appropriate Assessment	3
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Legislative Context	4
1.2 Stages of Appropriate Assessment	4
2. Assessment Methodology	5
2.1 Appropriate Assessment Guidance	5
2.2 Desk Study	5
2.3 Site Visit	5
3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment	6
3.1 Management of Natura 2000 Sites	6
3.2 Site Location and Context	6
3.3 Description of the Scheme	8
3.4 Site Ecology	11
3.5 Characteristics of the Project	15
3.6 Identification of Other Projects or Plans or Activities	18
3.7 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites	18
3.7.1 Zone of Impact Influence	18
3.7.2 Conservation Objectives	22
3.8 Identification of Potential Impacts	23
3.9 Assessment of Significance of Potential Impacts	24
3.9.1 European sites outside the zone of potential impact influence	24
3.9.2 European sites within the zone of potential impact influence	25
3.9.2.1 Water Quality	25
3.9.2.2 Habitat Loss and Alteration	26
3.9.2.3 Disturbance and/or Displacement of Species	26
3.9.2.4 Habitat or Species Fragmentation	27
3.9.2.5 Cumulative/In-combination Impacts	27
3.10 Conclusion of Screening Stage	28
4. References	29

Tables

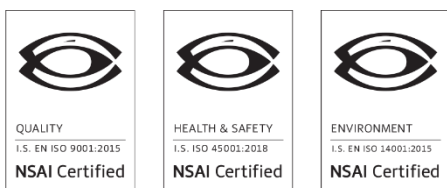
Table 1 Natura 2000 sites with qualifying features of Special Conservation Interest	18
Table 2 European Sites excluded from further assessment	24
Table 3 European sites within the zone of potential impact influence	25

Figures

Figure 1 Site location	7
Figure 2 Site layout – Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform	9
Figure 3 Site layout – Moll Goggins Platform	10
Figure 4 Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential influence of construction site	21

Project No.	Doc. No.	Rev.	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Approved By	Status
22446	6002	A	12/2022	FD	MS, AR	POD	Issue

MWP, Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Address: Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251
www.mwp.ie



Summary of Findings

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Project Title	Lighthouse Road and Moll Goggins Viewing Platforms Rehabilitation Project
Project Proponent	Cork County Council
Project Location	Youghal, County Cork
Screening for Appropriate Assessment	The Screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to determine the potential for likely significant effects of the proposed project, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of the conservation objectives of the site on a Natura 2000 Site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion 	<p>It has been objectively concluded during the screening process that the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the proposed works will not be significantly impacted. These sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackwater Estuary SPA – 1.5km Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC – 7.5m Ardmore Head SAC – 8.5km Ballycotton Bay SPA – 14km Ballymacoda Bay SPA – 2.5km Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC – 4km Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA – 11km

1. Introduction

Malachy Walsh and Partners, Engineering and Environmental consultants (MWP) have been commissioned by Cork County Council to undertake a Screening for Appropriate Assessment the rehabilitation of the existing two no. viewing platforms along Lighthouse Road in Youghal, County Cork which includes the stabilisation of the rock cliffs beneath them.

A Part 8 Planning Application is being lodged by Cork County Council (CCC) to construct the two viewing platforms. There is no spatial overlap with any Natura 2000 site associated with the project; therefore, there will be no land-take within any Natura 2000 site.

This screening for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken to determine whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 Sites), in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

This screening for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken by an environmental scientist and an ecologist from MWP.

1.1 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) seeks to conserve natural habitats and wild fauna and flora by the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)¹ seeks to protect birds of special importance by the designation of Special Protected Areas (SPAs). It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SPAs and SACs, both of which form part of Natura 2000, a network of protected sites throughout the European Community. Further information is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/>

<http://www.npws.ie/planning/appropriateassessment/>

The current assessment was conducted within this legislative framework and also the DoEHLG (2009) guidelines. As outlined in these, it is the responsibility of the proponent of the project, in this case Cork County Council, to provide a comprehensive and objective screening for Appropriate Assessment, which can then be used by the competent authority, in order to conduct the Appropriate Assessment (DoEHLG, 2009).

1.2 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

The Appropriate Assessment process is a four-stage process with issues and tests at each stage. The purpose of the screening assessment is to record in a transparent and reasoned manner the likely effects on Natura 2000 sites of a proposed development. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. The stages are set out in Appendix 1.

¹ This is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended (see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm)

2. Assessment Methodology

2.1 Appropriate Assessment Guidance

This screening for Appropriate Assessment, or Stage 1, has been undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001), the European Commission Guidance 'Managing Natura 2000 Sites' Brussels, 21.11.2018 C (2018) 7621 final (EC, 2000), and *Appropriate Assessment of Plans & Projects - Guidance for Planning Authorities* prepared by the NPWS (DoEHLG, 2009 (rev. 2010) and the *Planning Regulator: - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, OPR Practice Note PN01* Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

2.2 Desk Study

In order to complete the screening for Appropriate Assessment certain information on the existing environment is required. A desk study was carried out to collate available information on the subject site's natural environment. This comprised a review of the following publications, data and datasets:

- OSI Aerial photography and 1:50000 mapping
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) (on-line map-viewer)
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Teagasc soil area maps (NBDC website)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) area maps
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water quality data
- South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) datasets (Water Framework Directive)
- Other information sources and reports footnoted in the course of the report

2.3 Site Visit

An ecological field survey was conducted by a staff ecologist with MWP on 30th November 2021. The aim of this survey was to characterise the site and environs and establish the ecological features and resources at the site, particularly in relation to the features of interest of the Blackwater River SAC which is situated adjacent to the proposed footprint of works.

Aerial photography was used together with GPS to accurately enable field navigation. Notes were made on all habitats encountered, including notes on dominant and indicative vegetation. Photographs are provided in **Plates 1 to 3** in **Section 3.5**.

An assessment was also made of the topography and drainage, disturbance, and management of the area. The presence of any invasive plant species was also noted, if present.

3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

As set out in the NPWS guidance (DoEHLG, 2009), the task of establishing whether a plan or project is likely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 Site is based on a preliminary impact assessment using available information and data, including that outlined above, and other available environmental information, supplemented as necessary by local site information and ecological surveys. This is followed by a determination of whether there is a risk that the effects identified could be significant. The precautionary principle approach is required.

Once the potential impacts that may arise from the proposal are identified the significance of these is assessed through the use of key indicators:

- Habitat loss
- Habitat alteration
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Disturbance and/or displacement of species
- Water quality and resource.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment (Stage 1) determines the need for a full Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) and consists of a number of steps, each of which is addressed in the following sections of this report:

- Establish whether the proposed remediation works are necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 Site
- Description of the proposed remediation works
- Identification of Natura 2000 Sites potentially affected
- Identification and description of potential individual and cumulative impacts of the works
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites
- Conclusion of screening stage

The purpose of the screening assessment is to record in a transparent and reasoned manner the likely effects, on relevant Natura 2000 Sites, of the proposed remediation works.

3.1 Management of Natura 2000 Sites

The proposal is not connected with or necessary to the conservation management of a Natura 2000 Site.

3.2 Site Location and Context

The subject sites are located on Lighthouse Road in the town of Youghal, County Cork which in 2016 had a population of 7,963. The town of Youghal is located along the coast in southeast County Cork at the mouth of the River Blackwater. The town is located approximately 40km east of Cork City, and approximately 22km southwest of Dungarvan. The town is serviced by the N25 National Road. **Figure 1** shows the location of the viewing platforms in Youghal town.



Figure 1 Site location

The subject sites are located in the townland of Knockaverry. The surrounding townlands adjacent to Knockaverry are Youghal-Lands, Williamstown and Seafield.

The Corine Landcover Category (2018)² at the subject site is classed as ‘Discontinuous Urban Fabric’ (112).

According to Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)³ there are two types of sandstone bedrock in the subject area. The southern part of the site, in which the Moll Goggins Platform is located is classified as ‘Gyleen Formation’ ‘Sandstone with mudstone and siltstone’. The northern part of the site, in which the Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform is located is classified as ‘Ballytrasna Formation’ ‘Purple mudstone and sandstone’. The soil type at the location is classified as ‘Made ground’.

The town of Youghal is located within the ‘Blackwater’ (Catchment ID_18) and the ‘Tourig_SC_010’ (Subcatchment ID 18_8) sub-catchment. The site itself is located with the Lower Blackwater M Estuary / Youghal Harbour Transitional Waterbody (IE_SW_020_0100). There are no river waterbodies in proximity to the subject site.

There are two EPA water quality monitoring stations in the vicinity of the site. The monitoring stations are situated approximately 100m north of the Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform within the Blackwater estuary. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the estuary is described ‘At risk’.

² <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

³ <https://dcnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>

3.3 Description of the Scheme

The proposed development includes the rehabilitation of two existing viewing platforms located along Lighthouse Road in Youghal and stabilization of the rock cliffs beneath them. The two platforms are the Moll Goggins Platform and the Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform which are within 130m of one another. The platforms are to be finished to a high standard with high quality paving, seating, information boards and stainless-steel railings.

The renewal of the viewing platforms will necessitate the excavation of the existing concrete decks, formation of new reinforced concrete decks with and levels, piling, utility works, installation of new surface paving, seating, lighting and railing. The levels of the proposed Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will be level with the existing footpath.

Existing concrete decks will be broken by an excavator and surfaces planed; the resultant materials will be loaded onto a dump truck by machine bucket for removal to an appropriately authorised waste facility.

The existing void under the Moll Goggins Platform will be filled using suitable material and an approximate 24m length of rock cliff will be shotcreted to an extent of approximately 10m beneath the platform. The cliff will be stabilized using soil nails.

The existing void under the Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will not be filled. Approximately 7m length of the rock cliff face will be shotcreted to an extent of approximately 8m below the cliff face.

The works will not extend below the high-water mark at any time.

The site layout showing both platforms are shown in **Figure 2** and **3** below.

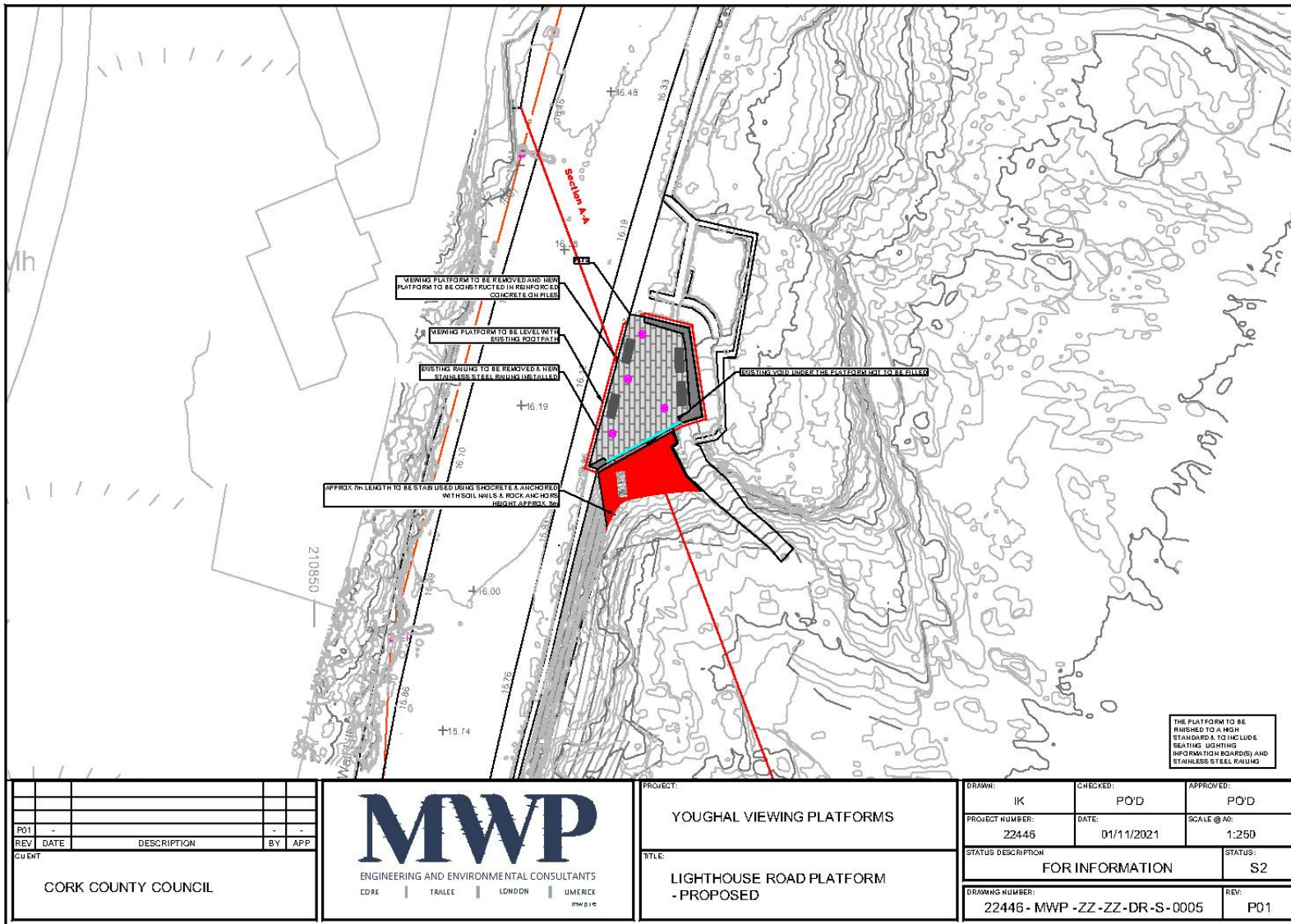


Figure 2 Site layout – Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform

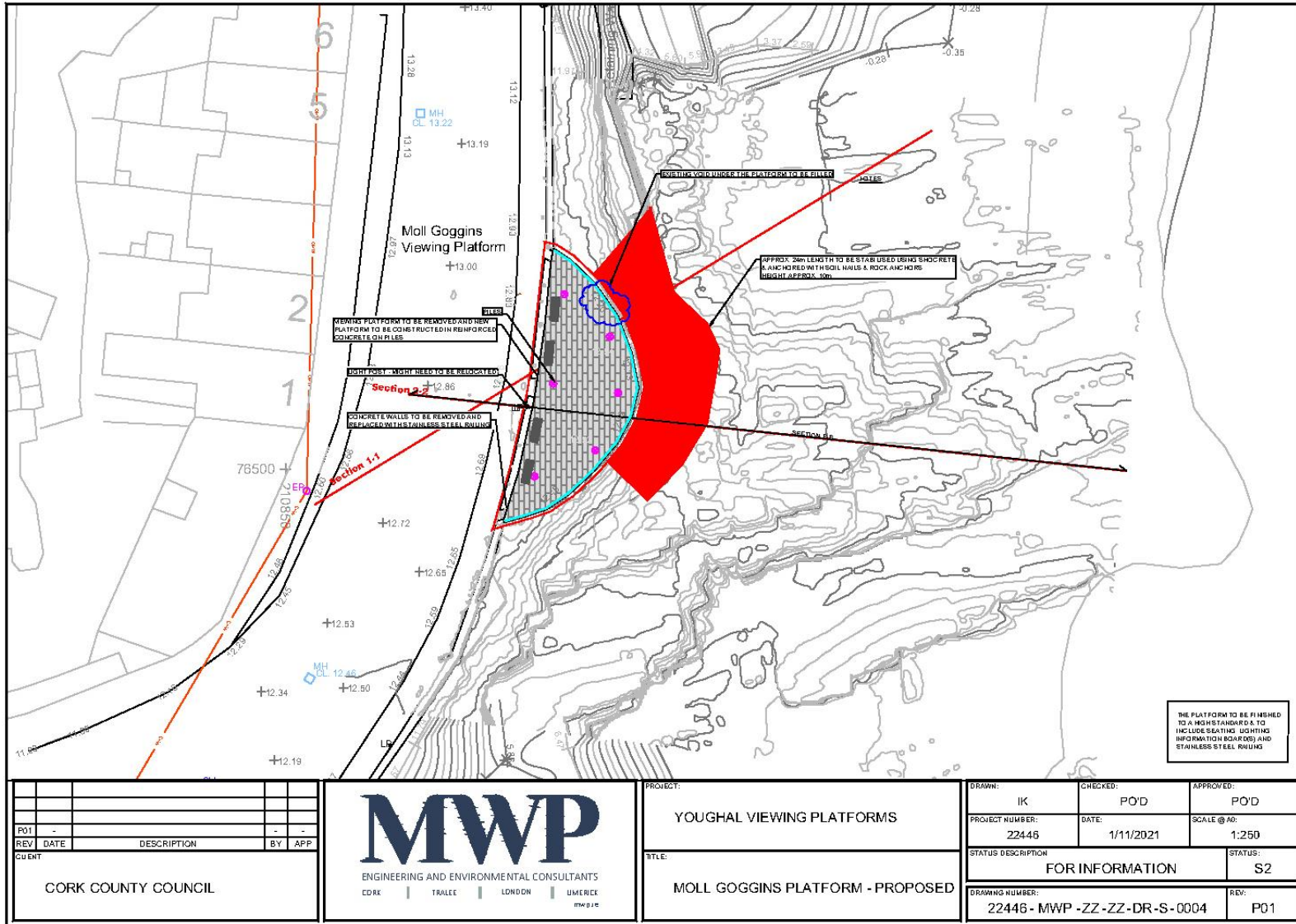


Figure 3 Site layout – Moll Goggins Platform

3.4 Site Ecology

An ecological field survey was conducted by an MWP staff ecologist on 30th November 2021. The survey confirmed that habitats at both the Lighthouse and Moll Goggins platforms are already modified.

The habitats within or adjacent to the proposed development site were classified using the classification scheme outlined in the Heritage council publication A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000) and cross referenced with Annex I Habitats where required.

In terms of habitats, the existing platforms support no vegetation and comprise Buildings and artificial surfaces BL3 (Fossitt, 2000); the lower levels of the platforms are typical of sea walls, piers and jetties (CC1).

The cliff face beneath the platforms is categorised as Rocky Sea Cliffs (CS1), described as steep or vertical rocky cliffs on the coast which are greater than 5m in height. Rocky Sea Cliffs have Links with Annex I: corresponding loosely to the annexed habitat, 'vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230)'. This is not a qualifying habitat for the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC.

Beneath the cliffs, habitats comprise Exposed Rocky Shore (LR1). Rocks in these areas are bare with a patchy distribution of vegetation. This habitat is not located within the works area and will not be impacted by the development.

Beneath this area, habitat is characteristic of Sand Shores (LS2), comprising fine sands with exposed bedrock and small stones in parts. This habitat has links with Annex I: Sand shores may contain examples of the annexed habitats, 'mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide (1140)' and 'annual vegetation of drift lines (1210)'. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide (1140) is a qualifying habitat for the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC. There is limited foraging habitat on the lower shore for wading birds. This habitat is not located within the works area.

Given the proximity to the platform to the footpath and roadway, the cliffs below the platforms are considered suboptimal for nesting of gulls compared to more accessible areas of suitable habitat that are available along the coast.

Photographs of the existing sites are provided in **Plates 1 to 3**, below.



Plate 1 Photograph of existing Moll Goggins platform facing northeast



Plate 2 Photograph of existing Moll Goggins platform facing south



Plate 3 Photograph of existing Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform facing northeast

3.5 Characteristics of the Project

The proposal is described below and has been confirmed with the project engineer.

<p><i>Size, scale, area, land-take</i></p>	<p>Small scale project, with a total works area of approximately 460m². The land area of the proposed development is located on the Lighthouse Road R634 containing Moll Goggins and Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform. The two areas are withing 130m of each other.</p>
<p><i>Details of physical changes that will take place during the various stages of implementing the proposal</i></p>	<p>The proposed development includes for replacement of the existing viewing platforms and stabilization of the rock cliffs beneath them.</p> <p>The platforms are to be finished to a high standard with high quality paving, seating, information boards and stainless-steel railing.</p> <p>The renewal of the viewing platforms will necessitate the excavation of the existing concrete decks, formation of new reinforced concrete decks with piling, utility works, installation of new surface paving, seating, lighting and railing. The levels of the proposed Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will be level with the existing footpath.</p> <p>Existing concrete decks will be broken by an excavator and surfaces levelled; the resultant materials will be loaded onto a dump truck by machine bucket for removal to an appropriately licensed waste facility.</p> <p>The existing void under the Moll Goggins Platform will be filled using suitable material and an approximate 24m length of rock cliff will be shotcreted to an extent of approximately 10m beneath the platform. The cliff will be stabilized using soil nails.</p> <p>The existing void under the Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will not be filled. Approximately 7m length of the rock cliff face will be shotcreted to an extent of approximately 8m below the cliff face.</p> <p>The works will not extend below the high-water mark at any time.</p> <p>The new finish to the platform will be high-quality limestone paving slabs or limestone or granite setts.</p>
<p><i>Description of resource requirements for the construction/operation and decommissioning of the proposal (water resources, construction material, human presence etc)</i></p>	<p>There will be no requirement for water abstraction for the proposed development as water requirements will be met by the public water supply.</p> <p>Construction activity will include shallow and localised excavations up to an approximate maximum depth of 400mm. It is anticipated that most of the material excavated will be existing concrete and reinforcing steel as well as some existing soil. Some in-situ rock breaking will be required. Piling of both platforms will be required.</p> <p>Rock cliffs to be stabilized using shotcrete and soil nails. Soil nails location and quantity will be confirmed in the detailed design stage.</p> <p>It is proposed to use high quality natural stone material in the upgrade works. Overall, there is no evidence to suggest the project will be detrimental to natural resources. The natural resources required including land, soil and geo-</p>

	<p>resources are typical for a project of this scale. A desktop study and ecological site walkover do not indicate loss of any protected plant or animal species.</p> <p>The following materials and approximate volumes are required for the works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete – approx. 100m³ • Granite setts (100mm) – 16.2m³ • Ducting – (Volume TBC at detailed design). • Railing 35m. • Mini piles 20 no (Volume TBC at detailed design). • Soil nails 62 no (Volume TBC at detailed design). <p>Over the duration of the project, it is estimated that approximately 40 truck journeys would be required for the project based on estimated quantities of materials at the preliminary design stage. This equates to approximately 2 to 3 trucks per week over the duration of the project.</p> <p>The Contractor will ensure that the proposed works are carried out in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013). As construction works are standard in nature and well understood, there is a low probability that accidents will occur. Normal good construction practices are to be employed and will ensure that the risk of accidents will be low. Having regard to substances or technologies used, it is envisaged that the risk of accidents, is very low and therefore will not result in significant environmental effects.</p>
<p><i>Description of timescale for the various activities that will take place as a result of implementation (including likely start and finish date)</i></p>	<p>The works will be undertaken on a phased basis with Construction due to commence in mid-2023. It is anticipated that construction work will be completed within 16 weeks. Working hours will be 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 2pm on Saturday. No work will be undertaken on Sundays and Bank Holidays.</p>
<p><i>Description of wastes arising and other residues (including quantities) and their disposal</i></p>	<p>Waste is expected to consist of soil, concrete and reinforced steel.</p> <p>Small quantities of incidental waste materials such as pallets and packaging will also be generated. No hazardous waste material will be generated.</p> <p>Volumes are estimated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete (average 250mm thickness) – 40.5m³ <p>Waste materials from the construction site compounds will be disposed of/recycled at an authorised waste facility. In addition, any excess construction materials will be returned to the supplier. All construction waste will be managed in accordance with a Construction Waste Management Plan. The plan will be prepared by the main contractor carrying out the works and issued to CCC for agreement prior to any works commencing on site.</p> <p>It is considered that the production of any waste associated with the construction of the development, as described above, will not cause unusual, significant or adverse effects.</p>

	<p>There will be no hazardous waste generated by the proposed works.</p>
<p><i>Identification of wastes arising and other residues (including quantities) that may be of particular concern in the context of the Natura 2000 network</i></p>	<p>All the works are above normal high tide levels. However, the shotcreted areas, stabilizing the cliff face, will be reached during some storm events. As with all coastal projects of this nature, the shotcrete works and concreting works will be undertaken during low tide cycles to allow the works to be conducted in a safe and timely manner. The shotcrete will have a rapid setting additive so that it will go off within 30 minutes of being applied. This will ensure that the material will not be susceptible to damage, in the event that there is a storm event during the high tide after application.</p> <p>No other waste and/or residues will arise that may be of particular concern in the context of the Natura 2000 network. There is potential for minor leaks and spills of hydrocarbons from construction plant and machinery used on site to leak to ground. A spill management plan will be included in the CEMP, which will be prepared prior to works commencing.</p>
<p><i>Description of any additional services required to implement the project or plan, their location and means of construction</i></p>	<p>No additional services are required to implement the project.</p>

3.6 Identification of Other Projects or Plans or Activities

The proposed development is on the eastern edge of Youghal town. An area subject to ongoing retail, commercial and residential development. Current grants of permission are primarily relating to domestic and commercial properties within the town (Cork County Council Online Planning Enquiry). The permissions identified are small in scale and construction is unlikely to occur simultaneously.

Given the small scale and temporary duration of the proposed works, it is not expected that there will be any significant additional load on existing local infrastructure. Once operational, the platform rehabilitation will represent an improvement on the current scenario.

3.7 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

3.7.1 Zone of Impact Influence

The screening stage of AA involves compiling a ‘long list’ of Natura 2000 sites within a zone of potential impact influence for later analysis which may or may not be significantly impacted upon by the proposal.

The “zone of influence” for a project is the area over which ecological features may be subject to significant effects as a result of the proposed project and associated activities (CIEEM, 2018). This is likely to extend beyond the site where there are ecological or hydrological connection(s) beyond the site boundaries.

The subject site and a distance of 15km is recommended as a potential zone of influence (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). However, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) guidance (NPWS, 2009) advises that this zone of influence be assessed on a case-by-case basis with consideration of the nature, size, and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors and the potential for cumulative effects. As such, Natura 2000 sites beyond 15km may also be considered based on the potential for an ecological and/or hydrological to the project site, bearing in mind the precautionary principle and using the Source-Pathway-Receptor framework.

Following this, the potential impacts associated with the proposal will be identified before an assessment is made of the likely significance of these impacts.

As described above, the test for the screening for Appropriate Assessment is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. If there are any significant, potentially significant, or uncertain effects, it will be necessary to proceed to Appropriate Assessment and submit an NIS.

The locations of Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential significant impact influence of the proposal site, bearing in mind the precautionary principle, are shown on a map in **Figure 4**. Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential significant impact influence of the proposal site, including their proximity are shown in below. Site synopses for these sites are included in **Appendix 5**.

Table 1 lists the qualifying features of Special Conservation Interest for the Natura 2000 sites that lie within the zone of potential impact influence of the subject site. Information pertaining to the Natura 2000 sites is from site synopses, conservation objectives and other information available on www.npws.ie.

Table 1 Natura 2000 sites with qualifying features of Special Conservation Interest.

Natura 2000 Site		Qualifying features of Special Conservation Interest
1	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying features of Special Conservation Interest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] • <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] • <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] • <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] • <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] • <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] • <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaité Shad) [1103] • <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] • <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]
2 Blackwater Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
3 Ballymacoda Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying features of Special Conservation Interest
4 Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]
5 Ardmore Head SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030]
6 Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] • Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] • Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] • Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]
7 Ballycotton Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]



Figure 4 Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential influence of construction site

3.7.2 Conservation Objectives

According to the Habitats Directive, the *conservation status of a natural habitat* will be taken as 'favourable' within its biogeographic range when:

- its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below.

According to the Habitats Directive, the conservation status of a species means the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations. The conservation status will be taken as 'favourable' within its biogeographic range when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Site-specific conservation objectives are available for the following sites:

- Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170
- Blackwater Estuary Bay SPA 004028
- Ballycotton Bay SPA 004022
- Ardmore Head SAC 002123
- Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077
- Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023

Generic conservation objectives were available for the following sites:

- Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA 004192

These have been accessed on the 26th November 2022. All conservation objectives together with other designated site information are available on <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>.

3.8 Identification of Potential Impacts

Potential likely ecological impacts arising from the project are identified in this section.

<p><i>Description of elements of the project likely to give rise to potential ecological impacts.</i></p>	<p>The proposed development includes for replacement of the existing viewing platforms and stabilization of the rock cliffs beneath them. The renewal of the viewing platforms will necessitate the excavation of the existing concrete decks, formation of new reinforced concrete decks and levels, piling, utility works, installation of new surface paving, seating, lighting and railing. The Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will be level with the existing footpath.</p> <p>There is potential for ecological impacts from impairment of water quality in the Blackwater River Estuary and from disturbance to birds and otters from noise during construction.</p>
<p><i>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary ecological impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) by virtue of:</i></p> <p><i>Size and scale;</i></p> <p><i>Land-take;</i></p> <p><i>Excavation requirements;</i></p> <p><i>Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site;</i></p> <p><i>Resource requirements;</i></p> <p><i>Emissions;</i></p> <p><i>Transportation requirements;</i></p> <p><i>Duration of construction, operation etc.; and</i></p> <p><i>Other.</i></p>	<p>The project has a total works area of approximately 460m².</p> <p>Construction activity will require shallow and localised excavations up to an approximate maximum depth of 400mm. It is anticipated that most of the material excavated will be existing concrete and reinforcing steel as well as some existing soil. Some in-situ rock breaking will be required. Piling of both platforms will be required.</p> <p>Youghal town has been significantly modified by human activity. The proposed works are not located within any Natura 2000 site; as such there will be no land-take from any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>There are 7 no. Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential influence of the proposed works, as outlined in Section 4.8, above.</p> <p>There is no significant hydrological or ecological connection between the site of the proposed works and the following designated sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardmore Head SAC • Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA • Ballycotton Bay SPA <p>Due to the proximity of the proposed works to the following designated sites, there is a potential for impacts to occur due to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC • Blackwater Estuary SPA • Ballymacoda Bay SPA • Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC <p>Water abstraction will not be required as part of the proposed works.</p>

	<p>There is potential for disturbance to birds and otters from increased levels of activity and due to noise from piling and rock-breaking during construction.</p> <p>There is potential for adverse impacts to water quality in the River Blackwater Estuary from spillage of fuel and oils during construction.</p> <p>Works are intended to commence in mid-2023. It is anticipated that works will be completed within 16 weeks.</p> <p>There are no other potential impacts associated with the proposed works.</p>
--	---

3.9 Assessment of Significance of Potential Impacts

This section considers the list of Natura 2000 sites identified, above, together with the potential ecological impacts identified in the previous section and determines whether the project is likely to have significant effects on a European site. When assessing impact, European sites are only considered relevant where a credible or tangible source-pathway-receptor link exists between the proposed development and a protected species or habitat type. In order for an impact to occur there must be a risk initiated by having a 'source' (e.g. excavation), and an impact pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a waterbody which connects the proposal site to the protected species or habitats).

An evaluation based on these factors to determine which European sites are the plausible ecological receptors for potential impacts of the proposed works will be conducted in **Sections 3.9.1** and **4.10.2**, below. The evaluation takes cognisance of the scope, scale, nature and size of the project, its location relative to the European sites listed above, and the degree of connectedness that exists between the project and each European site’s potential ecological receptors.

3.9.1 European sites outside the zone of potential impact influence

With regards to the proposed viewing platform rehabilitation works, it is considered that the works do not include any element that has the potential to significantly alter the conservation objectives for which certain Natura 2000 sites are designated. It is considered that the Natura 2000 sites listed in Table 2 are outside the zone of potential impact influence of the proposal due to the absence of plausible impact pathways and/or the attenuating effect of the distance intervening. Therefore, it is objectively concluded that significant impacts on these sites are not reasonably foreseeable as a result of the programme of works described above. These sites, which are listed in **Table 2**, below, along with their distance and the rationale for exclusion, will not be considered further in this document. A Finding of No Significant Effects report (FONSE) is presented in **Appendix 2**.

Table 2 European Sites excluded from further assessment

European Site	Proximity of subject site to nearest point of designated site (km)	Rationale for exclusion from assessment
Ardmore Head SAC	8.5km	No direct hydrological link present. Intervening distance of 8.5 km
Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	11km	No direct hydrological link present. Intervening distance of 11 km
Ballycotton Bay SPA	14km	No direct hydrological link present. Intervening distance of 14 km

3.9.2 European sites within the zone of potential impact influence

Of the European sites listed in **Table 1**, above, four are considered to have the potential to be impacted by the proposal. Construction projects generally pose potential threats to Natura 2000 sites through habitat alteration, species disturbance/displacement and/or water quality impacts. Given the proximity of the proposed development works, there is potential for these impacts to occur within this European site. Therefore, the assessment of significance of potential impacts that follows focuses on the following European sites:

Table 3 European sites within the zone of potential impact influence

European Site	Proximity of subject site to nearest point of designated site (km)	Rationale for inclusion in assessment
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	7.5 metres	Proximity of site to proposed works – Potential for impacts on water quality
Blackwater Estuary SPA	1.5km	Proximity of site to proposed works - Potential for disturbance to birds
Ballymacoda Bay SPA	2.5km	Proximity of site to proposed works - Potential for disturbance to birds
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	4km	Proximity of site to proposed works - Potential for impacts on water quality

The likelihood of significant effects to a European site from the project was determined based on several indicators including:

- Water quality
- Habitat loss and/or alteration
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Disturbance and/or displacement of species

The likelihood of significant cumulative/in-combination effects is assessed in **Section 3.9.2.5** below.

3.9.2.1 Water Quality

There are some elements of the proposed works which could potentially result in impairment of water quality. In general, where works are conducted within proximity to water bodies, impairment of water quality may potentially occur as a result of run-off of sediment/fines or accidental fuel/oil spills from machinery/equipment. These elements of the proposal could therefore potentially result in pollution of the aquatic environment. The River Blackwater Estuary is located east of Youghal town, adjacent to the proposed works area which forms part of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (Site Code 002170).

There are several elements of the proposed construction works which could potentially give rise to adverse water quality impacts. It is proposed to undertake stabilisation works on the cliff face below the platforms, using shotcreting and soil nails. The shotcrete will be premixed and delivered to the site via a concrete ready-mix truck. It is fed into a pump at road level, and then sprayed onto the cliff face via a hose and nozzle. The nozzle is positioned, either remotely or manually via a long reach machine, which would also be on the road. The shotcrete will have a rapid setting additive so that it will set within 30 minutes of being applied. This will ensure that the risk is material entering the Blackwater River is low.

With regards to runoff, works will be localised to the immediate platform areas and the shotcrete area beneath. Excavations will be localised and to a maximum depth of 400mm. Surface water runoff will be minor and will be controlled as per best practice construction methods.

There is potential for minor sedimentation of adjacent watercourses from the proposed development. However, this will be minor and potential effects on SQI of the SAC would be minor due to the high levels of dilution in the estuary.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan will be developed and agreed with the local authority prior to construction. Potential spillage of oil and fuel from construction vehicles will be minimised as much as possible using good construction practice. Vehicles will be fueled off-site and only vehicles in full working order will be used to minimise risk of fuel and oil spillage and consequent water quality effects.

Heavy siltation can impact on aquatic invertebrates and fish, particularly Freshwater Pearl Mussel, which are qualifying species for the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC. No populations of Freshwater Pearl Mussel or White Clawed Crayfish occur in the vicinity of the site. While migratory fish such as lamprey species, Twaite Shad and Atlantic Salmon could pass through the Blackwater Estuary, there is no valuable habitat for these species in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

Considering the small scale of the project, the low volume and potential for sediment entering the watercourse and dilution available, the lack of valuable habitat for aquatic QI species in the vicinity of the works, and the temporary duration of works, no significant impacts to any Natura 2000 sites from reduced water quality will ensue as a result of the proposal.

3.9.2.2 Habitat Loss and Alteration

The proposed works are not located within any Natura 2000 sites. The project will require the removal of vegetation on the cliff faces where shotcreting will take place. As confirmed during a field survey, undertaken on the 30th of November 2021, the habitats within the site of the proposed works are not representative of those for which the qualifying species for which the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC is designated (**Table 1**).

As outlined previously in **Section 3.9.2.1**, above, the proposed works will not result in a significant impact on water quality. As such, habitat alteration will not ensue. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts to any Natura 2000 sites by virtue of habitat loss and/or alteration.

3.9.2.3 Disturbance and/or Displacement of Species

The proposed works are not located within any Natura 2000 sites. Birds are vulnerable to disturbance and/or displacement impacts due to fugitive noise emissions, particularly during the breeding season, and seabirds have the potential to be impacted by impairment of marine water quality, as increased turbidity could affect their ability to feed through a reduction in underwater visibility or indirect impacts on prey. There are a number of SPAs in proximity to the proposed area of work that could be potentially impacted by the proposed development, namely the Blackwater Bay SPA and Ballymacoda Bay SPA.

Reduced visibility due to re-suspension of sediments during construction can result in negative impacts on feeding success for piscivorous birds utilising the surrounding waters. However, the proposed works are temporary and sedimentation will be minimal. In addition there are high levels of dilution in the adjacent waters. The areas associated with the proposal do not represent suitable feeding ground and will not impact on the feeding success of any bird species for which the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential influence are designated.

Noise associated with the proposed works has the potential to cause disturbance to birds. The works will be undertaken within an existing built-up area which is already subject to ongoing noise and disturbance from traffic and other human activity. The works described above will be temporary and not significant in the context of existing noise levels. In addition, the habitat adjacent to the works area is suboptimal for nesting seabirds in comparison to other areas of more suitable habitat that are available along the coast.

Given the existing noise levels, the temporary nature of the works and the lack of valuable habitat for SCI on or in the vicinity of the proposed development site, no impact on birds listed as qualifying interests for the Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ballymacoda Bay SPA are predicted.

As outlined in **Section 3.9.2.1**, the proposed works will not have an impact on water quality.

Potential impacts on otter could occur due to disturbance from increased noise and activity levels during the construction works. While the works will result in increased human activity/noise levels this will be temporary with an expected duration of 16 weeks. The works are within an urban area already subject to regular noise and will be restricted to daylight hours.

While the proposed works could potentially result in avoidance of the area by otters this is likely to occur only during such times as when construction activities are taking place on the platforms. As such, any potential avoidance of the site by otter are expected to be temporary and are not envisaged to result in any significant impacts to otters in the area. Water-quality impacts can result in a reduction of aquatic species which comprise prey for otter. As outlined in **Section 3.9.2.1**, the proposed works will not have a significant impact on water quality

In summary, bearing in mind the limited scope, scale and temporary duration of the proposal, and the availability of habitat of similar or ecologically higher value within the SAC's identified in **Table 4** above, it is objectively concluded that significant disturbance/displacement impacts to otter, which would adversely impact on the conservation objectives of the species are not considered likely to occur.

3.9.2.4 Habitat or Species Fragmentation

As outlined in **Section 3.9.2.1**, the proposed works will not have an impact on water quality. The works will not result in any barrier to the movement of species within the harbour. Therefore, there will be no fragmentation of the habitats or species for which the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC or the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC is designated. Thus, no significant impact will occur on any Natura 2000 sites by virtue of habitat or species fragmentation.

3.9.2.5 Cumulative/In-combination Impacts

As well as singular effects, the potential for in-combination or cumulative impacts also need to be considered. A cumulative impact arises from incremental changes caused by past, present and proposed projects together with the proposed development considered in this document.

Projects/activities that could act in-combination with the proposal include the normal day-to-day operations within Youghal town and the Blackwater river estuary, as well as other potential sources, as outlined in **Section 4.3** above.

The majority of projects identified using the Cork County Council Online Enquiry are small, residential developments in Youghal town. No large scale plans or projects with the potential to act in combination with the proposal to cause cumulative impact were identified.

It is proposed to upgrade the existing viewing platform located within Youghal Lighthouse. An AA Screening was undertaken by DixonBrosnan Environmental Consultants in June 2021 for the project. The assessment concluded that the upgrade works will not have an impact on any Natura 2000 sites.

Given the limited scale and temporary duration of the proposed works, in-combination impacts on the Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential influence as a result of the proposed works are not envisaged.

3.10 Conclusion of Screening Stage

This screening for appropriate assessment was undertaken to determine the potential for likely significant effects of the proposed works, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site. The proposed works described are within the zone of potential influence of seven Natura 2000 sites. It has been objectively concluded that the following sites are not likely to be significantly affected by the proposed works, and can therefore be screened out for appropriate assessment:

- Ardmore Head SAC
- Ballycotton Bay SPA
- Ballymacoda Bay SPA
- Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC
- Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA
- Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC
- Blackwater Estuary SPA

Reasons for Conclusion:

- No significant impacts to any Natura 2000 sites from reduced water quality will ensue as a result of the proposal;
- There is no potential for impacts on the qualifying interests for which any Natura 2000 sites within the zone of potential influence of the project are designated. As such, there would be no significant direct or indirect impact on qualifying habitat or species associated with any Natura 2000 sites;
- The lack of significant in-combination effects arising from other proposed and permitted developments in the vicinity.

Measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites have not been relied upon in reaching this conclusion.

A Finding of No Significant Effects Report (FONSE) has been prepared and is presented in **Appendix 2**.

4. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) (2009). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Directorate General Environment (DGE), (2013), *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats- EUR 28*. The European Commission.

Directorate General Environment (DGE) (2007). *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats*, European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (EC) (2000). *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

European Commission (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*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Franklin, Alan B., Noon, Barry R. & Luke George T., (2002). What is Habitat Fragmentation?, *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 25: 20-29.

NPWS, 2013. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Species Assessments Volume 3, Version 1.0., Dublin, Ireland: Unpublished report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Colhoun, K. & Cummins, S., 2013. Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2014-2019. *Irish Birds*, Volume 9, pp. 523-544.

DGE, 2013. *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats EUR28*, s.l.: European Commission Directorate General of Environment.

King, J. J. & Linnane, S. M., 2004. *The status and distribution of lamprey and shad in the Slaney and Munster Blackwater SACs*. *Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 14.*, Dublin, Ireland: National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

King, J. L. et al., 2011. *Ireland Red List No. 5: Amphibians, Reptiles and Freshwater Fish*, Dublin, Ireland: National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS, 2013a. *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Habitats Assessment Volume 2. Version 1.1.*, Dublin, Ireland: Unpublished report, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS, 2013b. *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Species Assessments Volume 3, Version 1.0.*, Dublin, Ireland: Unpublished report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Comeragh Mountains SAC 001952. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Hugginstown Fen SAC 000404. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Suir SAC 002137. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Appendix 1

Stages of Appropriate Assessment

Stage 1 - Screening

This is the first stage of the Appropriate Assessment process and that undertaken to determine the likelihood of significant impacts as a result of a proposed project or plan. It determines need for a full Appropriate Assessment.

If it can be concluded that no significant impacts to Natura 2000 Sites are likely then the assessment can stop here. If not, it must proceed to Stage 2 for furthermore detailed assessment.

Stage 2 - Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

The second stage of the Appropriate Assessment process assesses the impact of the proposal (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of the Natura 2000 Site with respect to the conservation objectives of the site and its ecological structure and function. This is a much more detailed assessment than Stage 1. A Natura Impact Statement containing a professional scientific examination of the proposal is required and includes any mitigation measure to avoid, reduce or offset negative impacts.

If the outcome of Stage 2 is negative i.e. adverse impacts to the sites cannot be scientifically ruled out, despite mitigation, the plan or project should proceed to Stage 3 or be abandoned.

Stage 3 - Assessment of alternative solutions

A detailed assessment must be undertaken to determine whether alternative ways of achieving the objective of the project/plan exists.

Where no alternatives exist the project/plan must proceed to Stage 4.

Stage 4 - Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

The final stage is the main derogation process examining whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project to adversely affect a Natura 2000 Site where no less damaging solution exists.

Appendix 2

Finding of No Significant Effects Report

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX	
Name of project or plan	Lighthouse Road and Moll Goggins Viewing Platforms Rehabilitation Project, Lighthouse Road, Youghal, County Cork
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardmore Head SAC – 8.5km • Ballycotton Bay SPA – 14km • Ballymacoda Bay SPA – 2.5km • Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC – 4km • Blackwater Estuary SPA – 1.5km • Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC – 7.5m • Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA – 11km
Description of the project	<p>The proposed development includes the rehabilitation of the existing viewing platforms located along Lighthouse Road in Youghal, Co. Cork and stabilization of the rock cliffs beneath them. The platforms are to be finished to a high standard with high quality paving, seating, information boards and stainless-steel railings.</p> <p>The renewal of the viewing platforms will necessitate the excavation of the existing concrete decks, formation of new reinforced concrete decks with and levels, piling, utility works, installation of new surface paving, seating, lighting and railing. The levels of the proposed Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will be level with the existing footpath.</p> <p>Existing concrete decks will be broken by an excavator and surfaces planed; the resultant materials will be loaded onto a dump truck by machine bucket for removal to an appropriately licensed waste facility.</p> <p>The existing void under the Moll Goggins Platform will be filled using suitable material and an approximate 24m length of rock cliff will be shotcreted to an extent of approximately 10m beneath the platform. The cliff will be stabilized using soil nails.</p> <p>The existing void under the Lighthouse Road Viewing Platform will not be filled. Approximately 7m length of the rock cliff face will be shotcreted to an extent of approximately 8m below the cliff face.</p> <p>The works will not extend below the high-water mark at any time.</p>
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(s).	No impact is envisaged as a result of the proposed works.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS MATRIX	
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e- mail address.	N/A
Response to consultation	N/A
DATA COLLECTED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT	
Who carried out the assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fergus Doyle, Environmental Scientist with Malachy Walsh and Partners
Sources of data	Refer to references
Level of assessment completed	Desktop Study and Field Study