

**Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment
Screening Determination**

Housing Scheme in Aghabullogue



Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Completed by Kieran Murphy

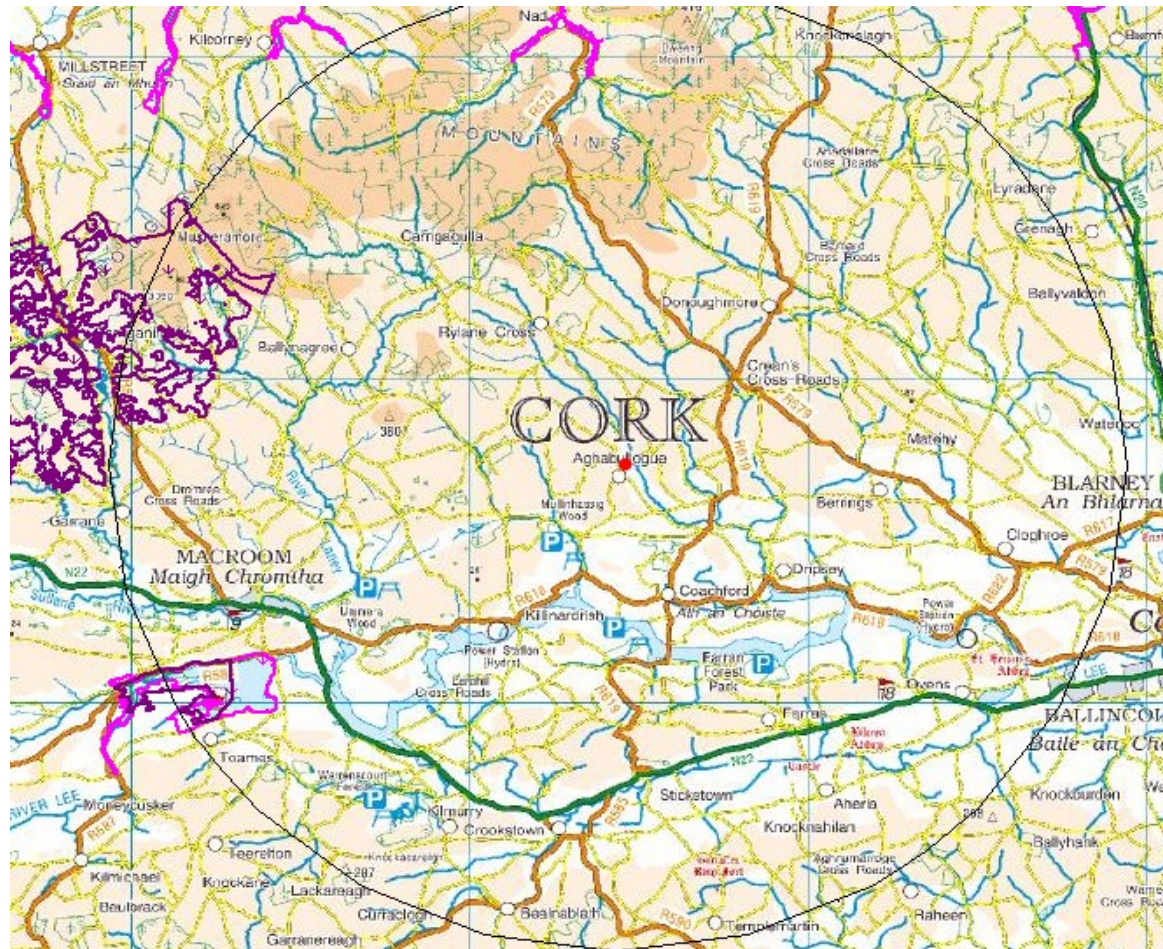
Date: Nov 2023

This document includes the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Screening Determination of Cork County Council in respect of the housing scheme in Aghabullogue. The assessment is based on project drawings and details provided by Sinead Kelleher on behalf of Cork County Council.

<p>Name of the project Housing Scheme in Aghabullogue</p>
<p>Description of the project The following Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant Capital Works Management Framework documents.</p> <p>This document is supplement to a Planning Package for the construction of 8 no. housing units at St. Olan’s Place, Aghabullogue, County Cork.</p> <p>The site is located on the outer bounds of the village development zone and is an extension of an existing development of 11no. 2 storey units previously constructed by Cork County Council in a number of phases. The site is bounded by a small local access road to the southeast and open, undeveloped pastureland to the northeast. The existing council housing development is located to the southwest and northwest. A small stream runs along the hedgerow just outside of the north-western boundary of the site.</p> <p>The subject site measures 0.45 Ha (1.06 acres) in total. The proposed development of 8no. units is composed of the following mix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 no. Accessible 1 bed 2 person units • 7no. 3 bed 5 person units
<p>Name and location of EU sites subject to screening</p> <p>There are four Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the project, namely the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code: 2170), Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (site code: 4162), the Gearagh SPA (site code: 4109) and The Gearagh SAC (site code: 0108) (Map 1).</p> <p>The Blackwater River SAC is located approximately 12km north of the proposed site. It designated for 18 qualify interests. The SAC is designated for 18 qualifying interests. Known to occur in the vicinity of the site are Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>), Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) and Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>). The conservation objectives for those species are to maintain the favourable conservation condition for Salmon, and to restore the favourable conservation condition for Freshwater Pearl mussel, Sea Lamprey and Otter.</p> <p>The Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA is located 12km northwest of the proposed site. It is designated for the Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>). The conservation objectives for these special conservation interests have not been specified.</p> <p>The Gearagh SPA is located 13km southwest of the site. The site is designated for the protection of Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) and the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. There are no specific conservation objectives, at present, for the SPA.</p> <p>The Gearagh SAC is located approximately 11.8km southwest of the proposed site. The SAC is designated for the protection of Floating River Vegetation, Rivers with muddy banks with</p>

Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation, Old sessile oak woods and Otter (*Lutra lutra*). The conservation objectives of the SAC are to maintain the favourable conservation conditions of the qualifying interest habitats and species.

Cork Harbour SPA is hydrologically connected to the Aghabullogue WWTP. The SPA is designated for the protection of a number wintering waterfowl, gulls, grey heron, breeding common tern and wetland habitats. The conservation objectives are to maintain the favourable conservation conditions of these species in Cork Harbour SPA



Map 1 - Location of the proposed project in relation to the Blackwater River SAC (pink polygon, north), Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (purple polygon, NW) and The Gearagh SPA and The Gearagh SAC (purple and pink polygons, respectively, SW)

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.

Blackwater River SAC: The proposed site is not within the Blackwater River catchment and no source-receptor pathways exist. Therefore, no impacts to the SAC can occur.

Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA: Given the distance and absence of a source-receptor pathway, no impacts to the SPA can occur as a result of the proposed works.

The Gearagh SPA: Given the distance and absence of a source-receptor pathway, no impacts to the SPA can occur as a result of the proposed works.

The Gearagh SAC: Given the distance and absence of a source-receptor pathway, no impacts to the SPA can occur as a result of the proposed works.

Cork Harbour SPA: Given the significant hydrological distance between the proposed development and the SPA and the sufficient capacity in Aghabullogue WWTP, I am satisfied that no impacts to the SPA will occur as a result of the proposed development.

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

No potential for impact on any European site has been identified. As the project will not impact negatively on any European site, there is no potential for impacts associated with the project to contribute to 'in combination' effects on any such site.

List of agencies consulted

Internal Departments.

As the development is not located in an area of special amenity or does not obstruct any view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, there is no obligation to notify prescribed bodies such as Failte Eireann, Heritage Council, An Taisce etc of the application.

Who carried out this assessment?

Kieran Murphy, Assistant Ecologist, Cork County Council

Sources of data

Desktop review.

Level of assessment completed

Habitats Directive Screening Determination

Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?

This report.

Overall conclusion

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

- There is no spatial overlap with any Natura 2000 site and therefore no direct impacts to the European sites will occur;
- There are no direct source-receptor pathways between the proposed works and any European site;
- Aghabullogue WWTP has sufficient capacity and the hydrological connection to Cork Harbour SPA is sufficiently remote that no impacts to the wetlands or the SCI species will occur at either construction or operational stages.

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