

**Habitats Directive**  
**Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**  
(IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 6 OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC)

**For the following proposed projects in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry**

1. The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project.
2. The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project.



Environmental Assessment Unit  
Planning Department  
Kerry County Council  
November 2023

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## 1. Introduction

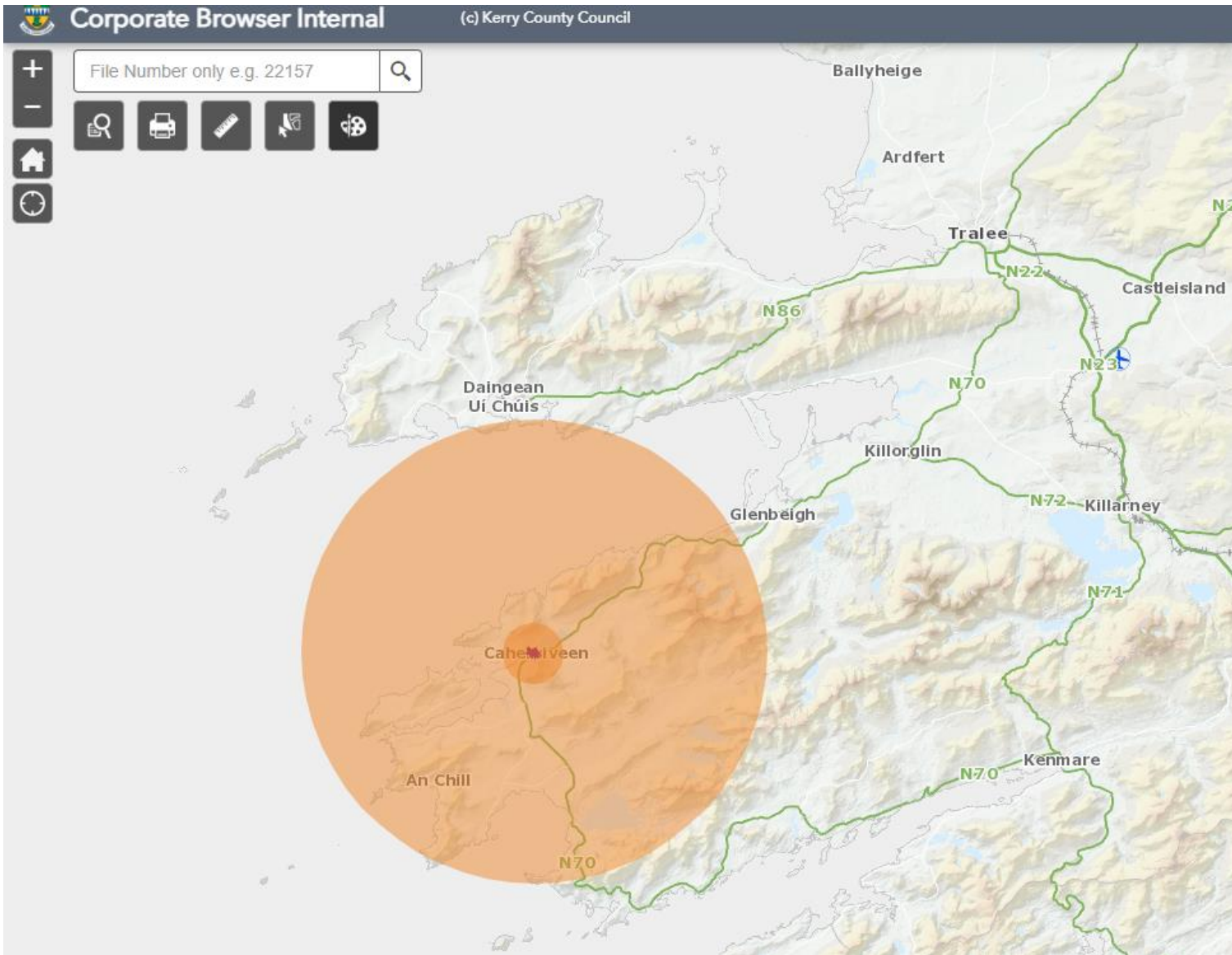
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### **Introduction**

This report considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from proposals to undertake the following projects in Cahersiveen Town:-

1. The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project.
2. The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project.

This report constitutes Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for the projects, which considers the likelihood of significant effects on European (Natura 2000 Sites) of permitting the proposals. While the projects are separate, they are being assessed within this single Appropriate Assessment Screening report to facilitate consideration of potential cumulative and in-combination effects. Measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites have not been taken into account in considering whether or not these proposals require Appropriate Assessment.



Above: General location of proposed works

## Habitats Directive Requirements

Natura 2000, as an EU wide network of nature protection areas, is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. The aim of this network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. While the network includes nature reserves, most of the land is privately owned, with the emphasis on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. Natura 2000 sites, also known as European Sites, incorporate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the 1979 Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the 1992 Habitats Directive, as well sites awaiting final approval. The European Union has provided guidance as to how to make a Habitats Directive Assessment. This guidance identifies four main stages in the process as outlined below. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on the Natura 2000 site, there is no requirement to proceed further.

### Stage One: Screening

*The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, wither alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.*

The screening stage is intended to be a preliminary examination. If the possibility of significant effects cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information, without extensive investigation or the application of mitigation, a plan or project should be considered to have a likely significant effect and appropriate assessment carried out. Where significant effects cannot be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, at screening stage, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report providing a more detailed analysis of the potential effects of a proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites is required. It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to have a NIS prepared for submission to the Competent Authority in order to assist in the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

The 'test' of likely significant effects as outlined by Advocate General Sharpston in Case C-258/11 Sweetman, paragraph 47 is as follows:- *'It follows that the possibility of there being a significant effect on the site will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3). The requirement at this stage that the plan or project be likely to have a significant effect is thus a trigger for the obligation to carry out an appropriate assessment. There is no need to establish such an effect; it is, as Ireland observes, merely necessary to determine that there may be such an effect.'*

The threshold for a likely significant effect is treated in the screening exercise as being above a *de minimis* level. The opinion of the Advocate General in CJEU case C-258/11 outlines: "the requirement that the effect in question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a *de minimus* threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects

capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill.”

Measures intended to avoid or reduce negative effects on the European sites cannot be relied upon in reaching the AA Screening conclusion. Notwithstanding this, routine effective measures may be considered at AA Screening Stage. The preliminary opinion of Advocate General Kokott as delivered in Case C-721/21 is of relevance in this regard.

#### Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

*The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.*

#### Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

*The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. It would be contrary to the requirements of the Habitats Directive to permit an option which would have adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, if non-harmful alternative solutions have been identified.*

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

*An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.*

### **Guidance Documents**

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been undertaken in accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance Notice 2021/C 437/01, on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021), the European Commission Guidance ‘Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of the Habitats Directive’ (EC, 2018) and Appropriate Assessment guidance prepared by the NPWS (DoEHLG, 2009). Regard was also had to the European Commission (2007): Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the ‘Habitats Directive’ 92/43/EEC clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence and to NPWS 2019 reports outlining ‘The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland’.

### **Stage one Appropriate Assessment Screening Methodology**

As set out in the NPWS guidance, 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 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, and if so an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. The need to apply the precautionary principle in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of AA has been confirmed by European Court of Justice case law. Therefore, where significant effects are likely, possible or uncertain at screening stage, AA will be required.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise will be systematically set out in the following manner:-

1. Establish whether the Plan or Project is necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 site.
2. Description of the Plan or Project.
3. Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected.
4. Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts of the project.
5. Assessment of the significance of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites (through the use of key indicators).
6. Conclusion of Screening Report.

Within this report assessment and identification of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works.
- Pathway(s) – e.g. waterway connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats.
- Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites. In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features which are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site.

A source is any identifiable element of the proposed plan or project which is known to have interactions with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor.

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## **2. Establish whether the plan or project is necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 Site**

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### **2.1 Introduction**

Plans or projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of a Natura 2000 site are essentially exempt from further AA related consideration. The DEHLG 2010 Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10, outlines that such exceptions will be comparatively rare and it is recommended that the reasons and justifications, and any possible wider effects and mitigation measures, are assessed and recorded in advance of the decision to proceed in each case, together with evidence of consultation with the appropriate National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officials of the Department.

### **2.2 Assessment**

It is considered that these projects are not ones which are necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 site and therefore AA Screening is required.

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### 3. Description of the Project(s)

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This report considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the following two projects, which are located within Cahersiveen Town, Co Kerry and along the N70 approach roads to the town: -

1. The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project.
2. The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project.

#### **Description of the proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project**

The Cahersiveen Public Realm enhancement project is located in Cahersiveen Town located in South-west Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula. The N70 national secondary roadway which forms part of the Ring of Kerry and the Wild Atlantic Way touring routes passes through the town. The proposal seeks to undertake a range of public realm upgrade development on streets in Cahersiveen town, including the provision of new plazas/squares at the library and at the Carnegie building. To facilitate this, a clockwise one-way system would be introduced on O'Connell Street, Quay Street and Bridge Street and the N70 carriageway width would be reduced to 6.3m. Works proposed include provision of junction realignment, carriageway upgrade including provision of raised pedestrian crossings, relocation and provision of pedestrian crossing facilities, cycleway provision, footpath buildouts, public plaza areas, amendments to and upgrading of existing car and bicycle parking, undergrounding of overhead cables, drainage upgrade and hard and soft landscaping improvement works.

Upgrade works to the Fair Green and Waterfront areas are also included. As part of this, additional landscaping is proposed for the Fair Green, including provision of a pollinator friendly rain garden, public lighting compatible with Kerry Dark Skies specifications and a hard stand performance area with terraced seating. Also proposed are a new public space amenity site with a covered performance area and a Board Walk to be located on the existing Kerry County Council Depot site on Quay Street and along the River Fertha boundary creating a connection to the waterfront. The proposed board walk is proposed to be located either on land or cantilevered over the estuary. Boundary setbacks of a small number of properties on Quay Street and adjacent to the River Fertha from the 'Over the Water' bridge to the pier are included as part of the proposal. The project would enhance the public realm and mobility within the town centre, the Fair Field and along the Waterfront. The overall works area is 2.93Ha, however the project would be delivered on a phased basis, with no more than 2 phases under construction at any one time and subject to traffic management arrangements. It is proposed to use the two existing Kerry County Council compounds at the waterfront and at the fair field, throughout the works. It is estimated that the overall project will take in the region of 2.5 to 3 years to complete.



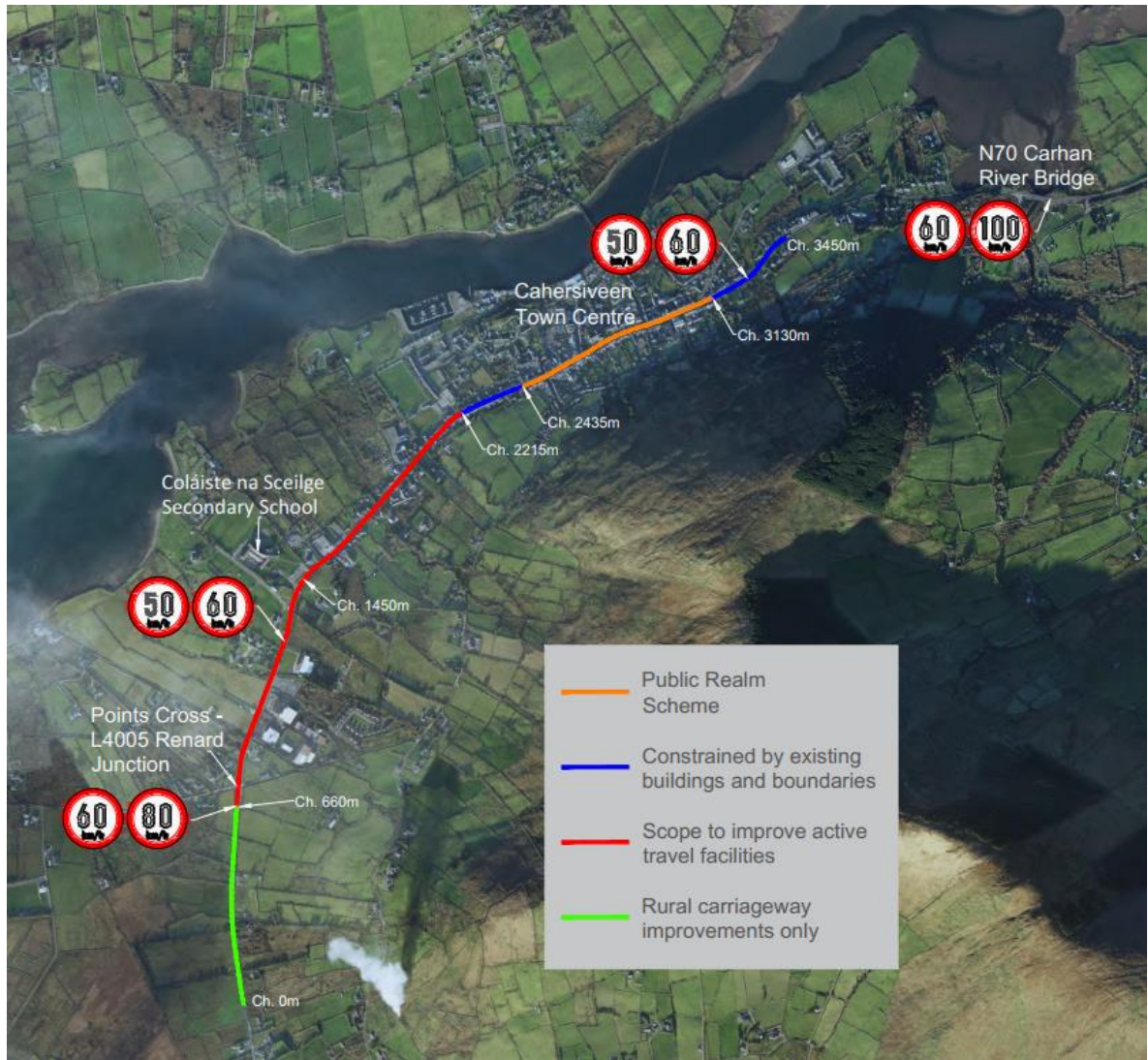
### **Description of the proposed N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project.**

This proposal would involve improvement works on approximately 3,450m of the N70 in the townlands of Garranearagh, Garranebane, Cahersiveen Town and Carhan Lower in County Kerry. The scheme is located on the N70 Ring of Kerry road at Cahersiveen town. It commences to the southwest of Cahersiveen town close to the townland of Oghermong and extends to the east of the town centre passing through to the townland of Carhan Lower.

The site is 4.477 hectares in total. No buildings are proposed and no land take is required. The proposal is entirely located within the existing road and footpath space. A significant portion of this (0.945 hectares) could be considered maintenance works involving road pavement and footpath replacement only. The proposal provides for alteration of existing cross falls on the road to reduce severity and reallocation of existing road space to facilitate footpath widening and / or the provision of a shared pedestrian and cycle facility. Materials required would be standard road construction materials. The drainage regime will be maintained with existing gullies being retained or locally relocated to accommodate the new kerb lines. All waste arising would be disposed of in suitably licensed facilities. Traffic Management will be implemented as appropriate. Starts dates will be subject to funding approval with February 2024 a potential start date. It is estimated that the overall project will take in the region of 12 months to complete. The proposal could utilise the two existing Kerry County Council compounds at the waterfront and or at the fair field, throughout the works. Other potential compound areas are also available including the disused creamery hardstand at creamery cross. The proposal would result in the provision of a section of high-quality road network in and adjacent to Cahersiveen town that will better serve the needs of various types of road users. This proposal has potential to result in a reduction in vehicular use and increase in non-motorised methods of transport. The nature of the works and improved surfacing and lower speeds anticipated are likely to decrease noise associated with traffic during the operational phase.

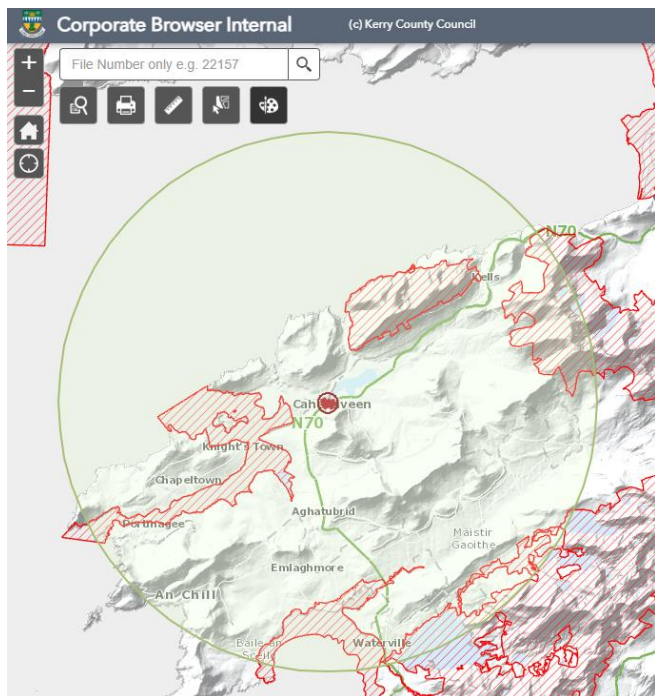
The main features of the scheme are:

- Improve the surface at localised areas of failure, as identified by visual inspection and falling weight deflectometer analysis.
- Reduce the severity of the cross fall on the carriageway within Cahersiveen town.
- Construct a structural pavement overlay / inlay.
- Construct a pavement surface course that provides appropriate skid resistance.
- Minor online realignment and carriageway narrowing to promote lower vehicular speeds on approach to Coláiste na Sceilge (Secondary School in the townland of Garranebane).
- The provision of improved active travel facilities for vulnerable road users in the vicinity of Coláiste na Sceilge, Six18 Distillery, Fexco and other properties near the L4005 Renard junction.

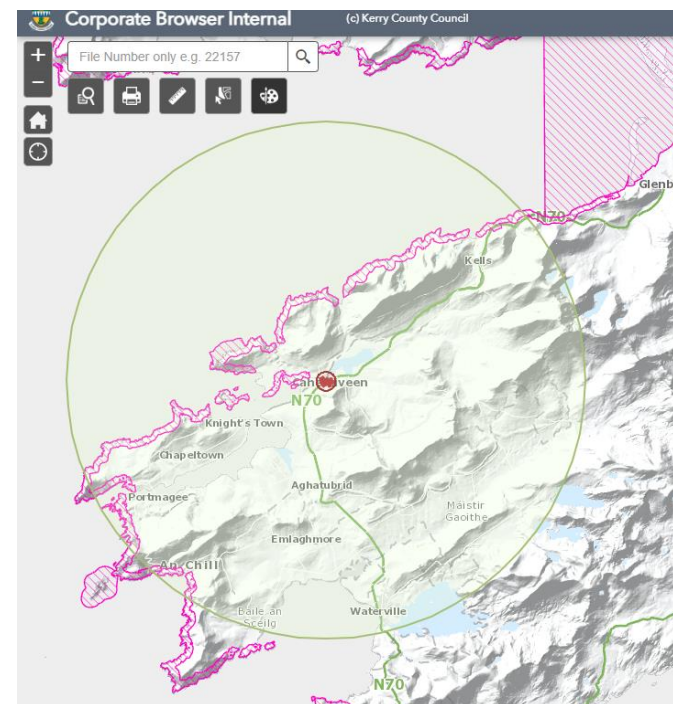


#### 4. Identification and description of European (Natura 2000) Sites potentially affected

Natura 2000 Sites are considered relevant where a source-pathway-receptor link exists between the proposed development and the European Sites. In order for an impact to occur there must be a risk of a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, enabled by having a 'source', a 'receptor' and a pathway between the source and the receptor. The characteristics of the receptor (e.g. SAC) is an important consideration in considering the potential for significant effects on the receptor. In this instance, potential for effect on Natura 2000 sites located more than 15Km away, can be ruled out at this stage of the assessment as there are no connecting pathways between the proposed development location (source) and those Natura 2000 sites (receptors).



Above: SACs located within 15Km of Cahersiveen



Above: SPAs located within 15km of Cahersiveen

European (Natura 2000) sites identified as being within 15Km of the proposed works or located further downstream are as follows:-

**Special Areas of Conservation**

- SAC 002262 - Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (c.1.75km)
- SAC 000335 – Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC (c. 10km)
- SAC 000365 - Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (c. 3km)

**Special Protected Areas**

- SPA 004154 - Iveragh Peninsula SPA (c.0.6km)

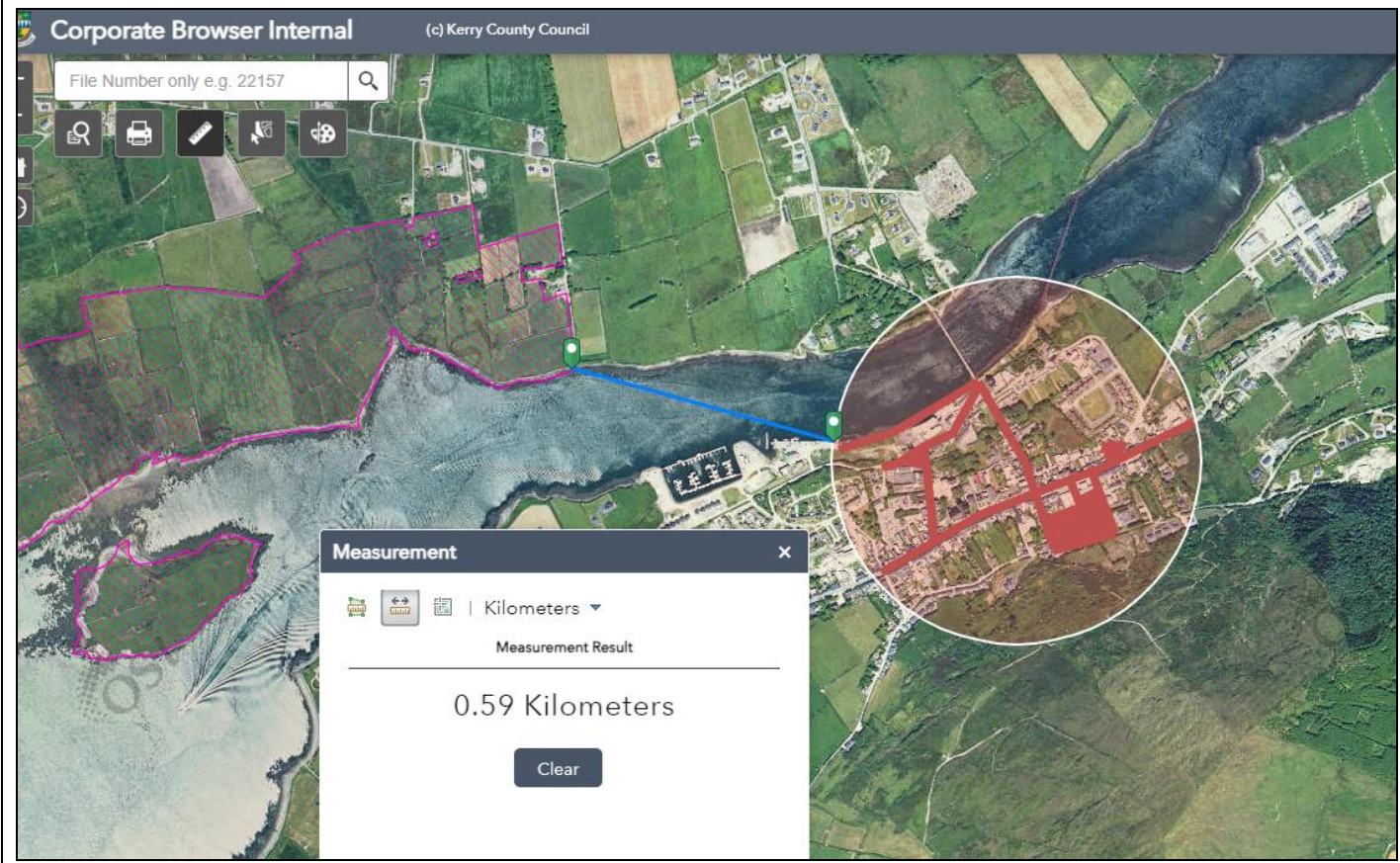
Maps showing the proximity of the above European sites to Cahersiveen are shown in the following section of this report.



**Identification of European Sites located within 15km of the proposals**

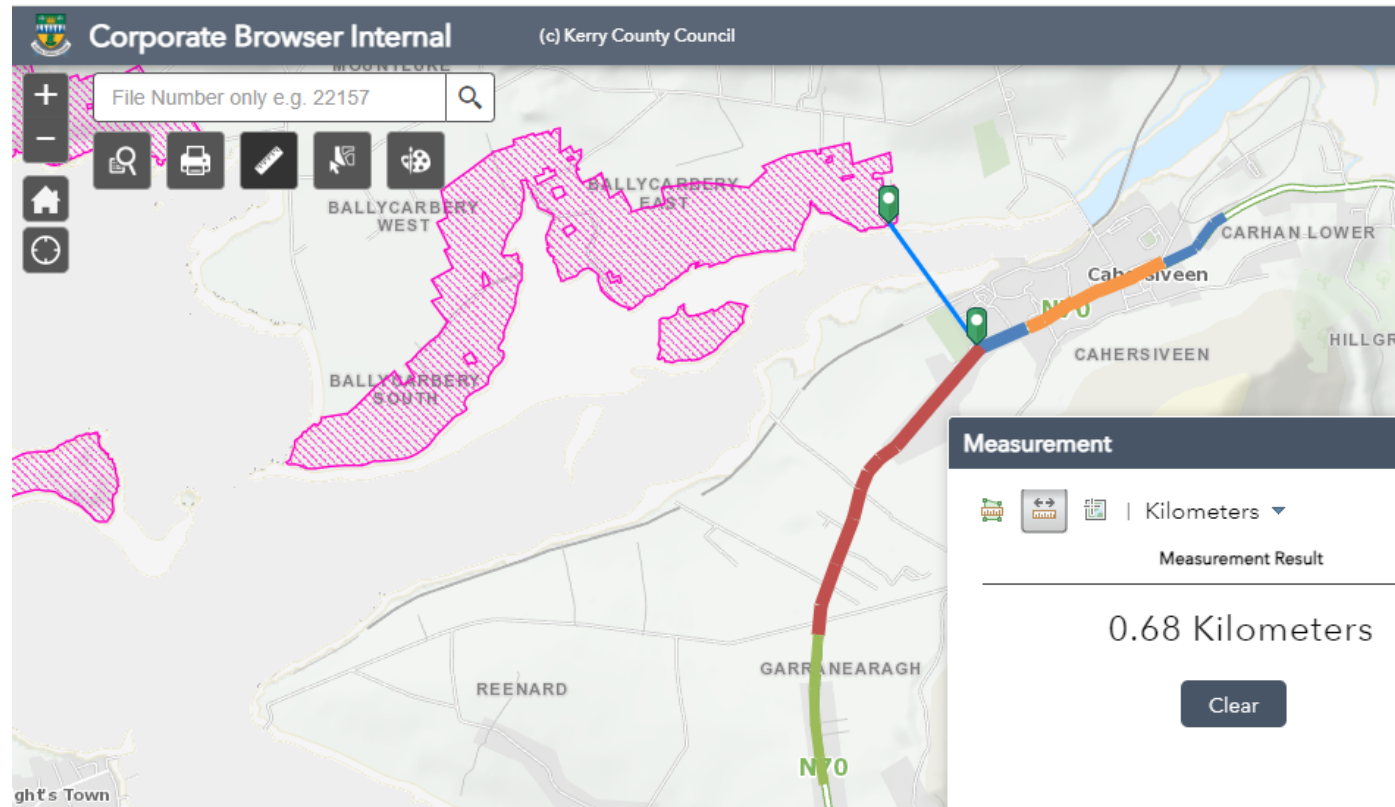
Overview As part of this assessment all European (Natura 2000) sites, particularly those located within 15Km of the development locations and or within the same water catchment have been taken into consideration.

European sites in the vicinity



**Above: Cahersiveen Public Realm Project location relative to Iveragh Peninsula SPA (600m)**

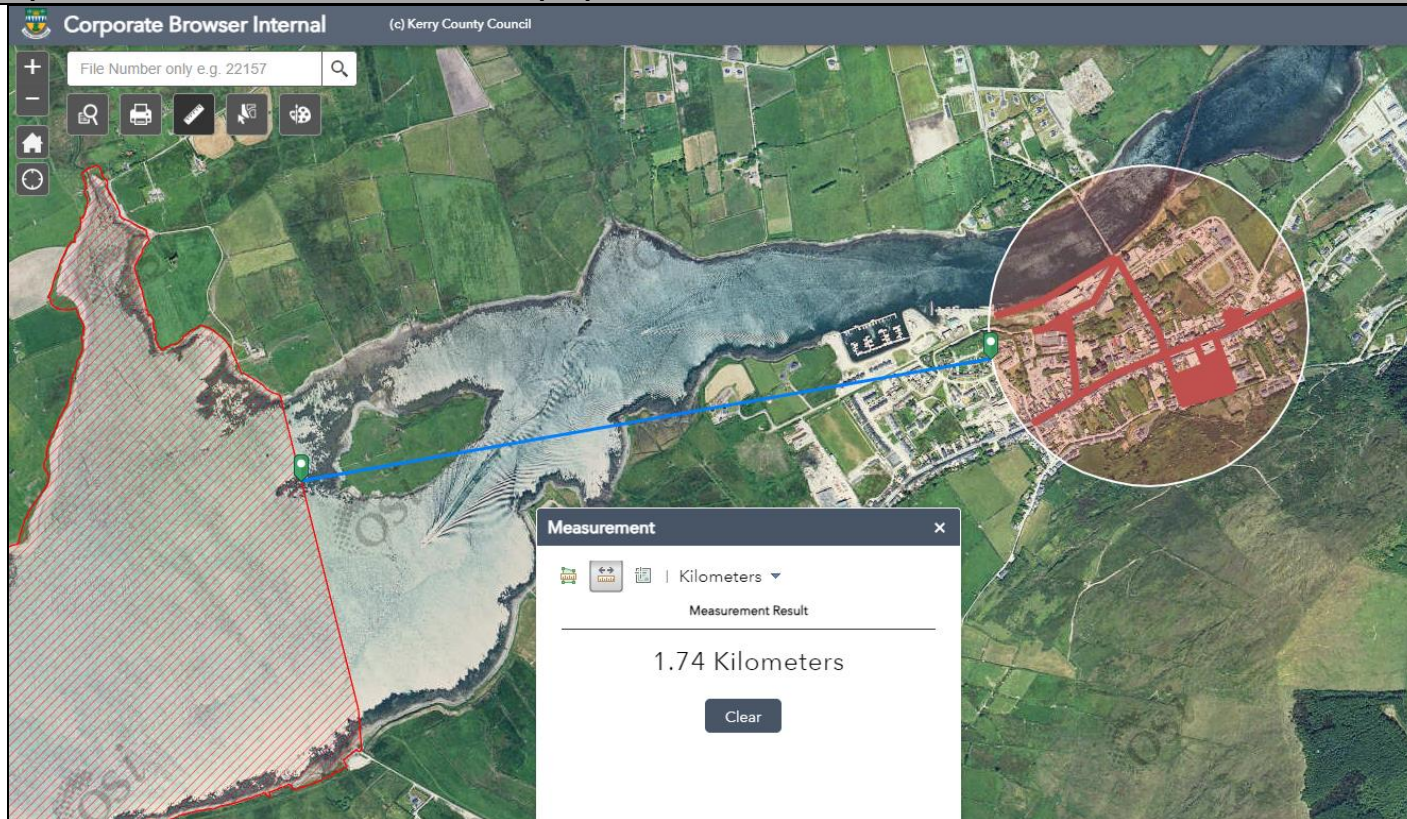
Identification of European Sites located within 15km of the proposals



Above: N70 Road Pavement Improvement Project location relative to Iveragh Peninsula SPA (680m)

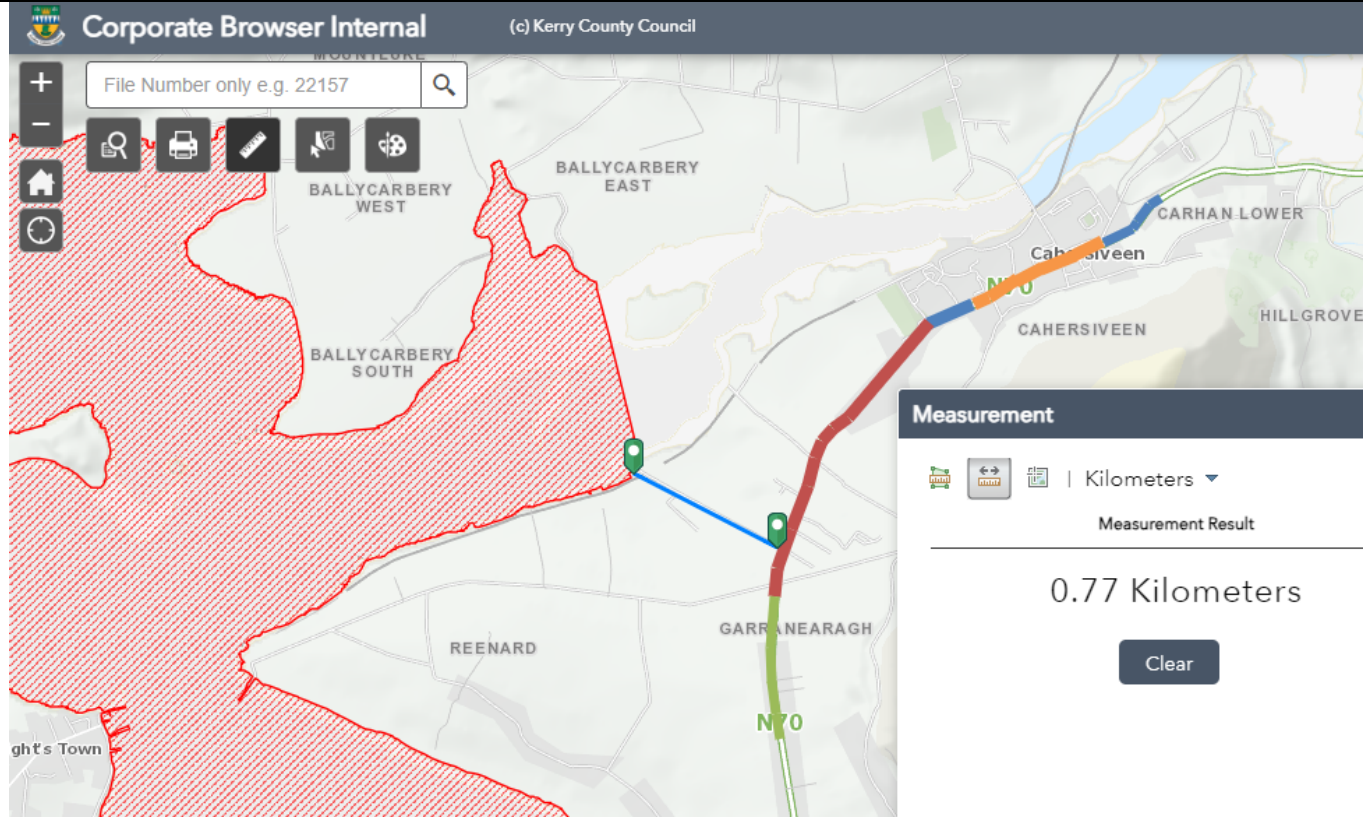


**Identification of European Sites located within 15km of the proposals**



**Above: Cahersiveen Public Realm Project location relative to Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC (1.75km)**

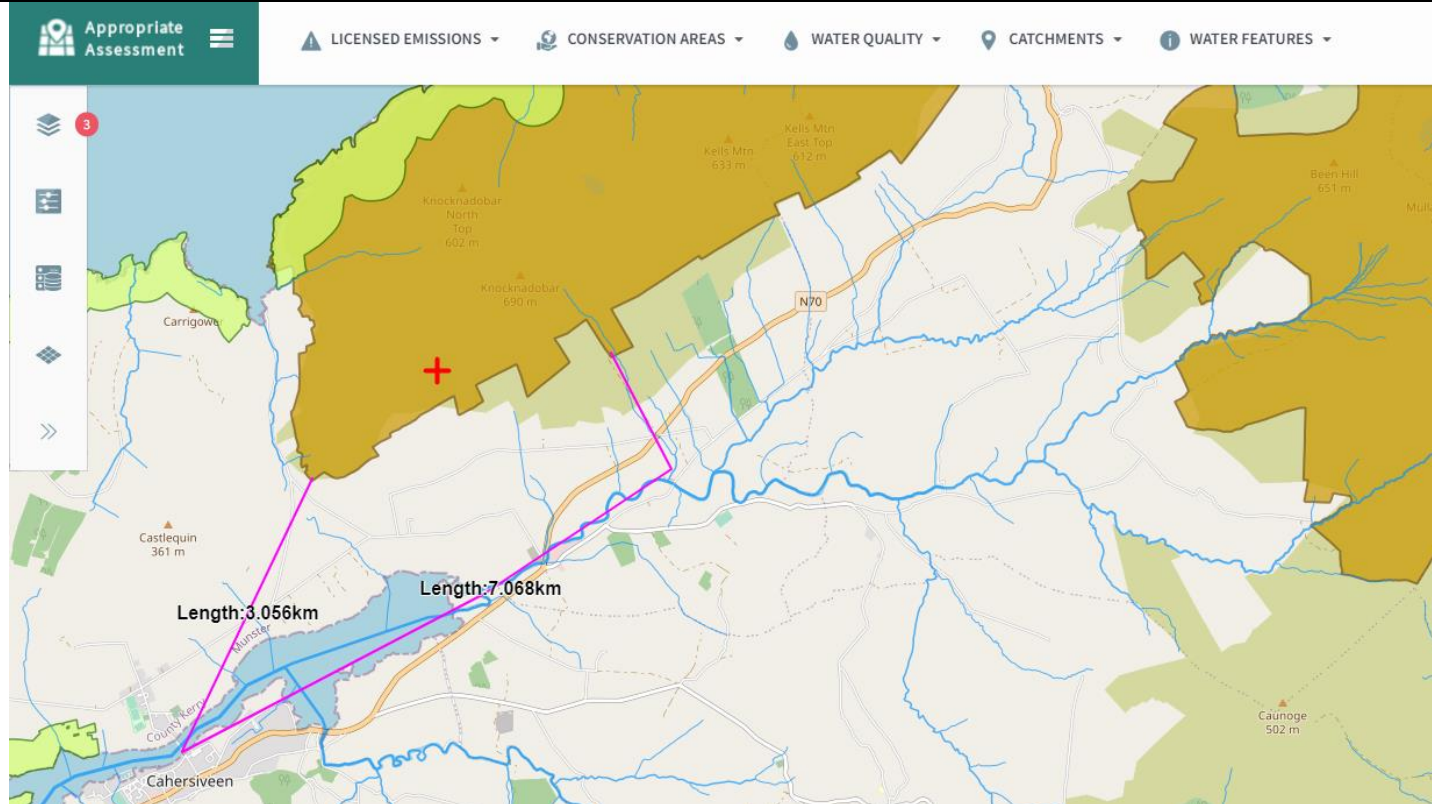
Identification of European Sites located within 15km of the proposals



Above: N70 Road Pavement Improvement Project location relative to Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC (1.75km)

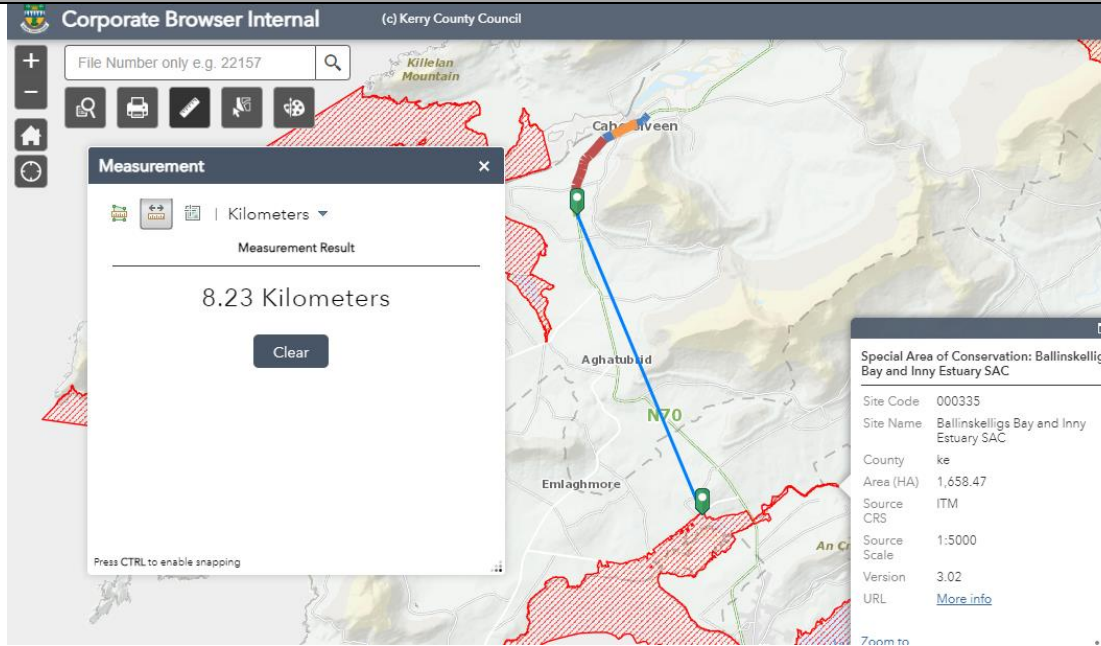


## Identification of European Sites located within 15km of the proposals



**Above: Cahersiveen relative to the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC (c. 3km straight line separation).**

## Identification of European Sites located within 15km of the proposals



Above: N70 Road Pavement Improvement Project location relative to the Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC (>8km straight line separation).

**Preliminary Appropriate Assessment Screening matrix: A preliminary assessment of *likely significant effects* of the project on European Natura 2000 Sites**

European /Natura 2000 Site and qualifying interests (* denotes a priority habitat). Source: www.npws.ie	Distance from proposed development/ Source, pathway, receptor (nearest edge)	Conservation Objectives and consideration of possible significant effect (alone)	In combination effects	Preliminary Screening conclusion
<p>SPA 004154 - Iveragh Peninsula SPA</p> <p><b>Birds</b>                      A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)                      A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)                      A103 Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)                      A346 Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>)                      A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)</p>	<p>The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project: c. 160meters</p> <p>The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project: c. 680meters</p>	<p><a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO04154.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO04154.pdf</a></p> <p>Having regard to the geographic proximity of the proposals, the nature of same which would generate an amount of noise and to the precautionary principle, this SPA will be considered in greater detail in the following sections of this report.</p>	<p>Screened in for a more detailed Appropriate Assessment Screening.</p>	<p>Assessment Screening</p>
<p><b>SAC 002262 - Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC</b></p> <p><b>Habitats</b>                      1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p>	<p>The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project:</p>	<p><a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO02262.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO02262.pdf</a></p>	<p>Screened in for a more detailed Appropriate Assessment Screening</p>	<p>Assessment Screening</p>

European /Natura 2000 Site and qualifying interests (* denotes a priority habitat). Source: www.npws.ie	Distance from proposed development/ Source, pathway, receptor (nearest edge)	Conservation Objectives and consideration of possible significant effect (alone)	In combination effects	Preliminary Screening conclusion
1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1170 Reefs	c.1.75Km  The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project: c. 750meters	The estuarine waters of the River Fertha which are located downstream of the proposed works discharge to the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC. Therefore, a weak hydrological connection exists between the proposed works areas and this European Site. Having regard to the precautionary principle this SAC will be considered in greater detail in the following sections of this report.		
<b>SAC 000365 - Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks &amp; Caragh River Catchment SAC Habitats</b> 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea	The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project: c. 3km  The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000365.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000365.pdf</a>  There is no direct hydrological connectivity between the proposed works and this European Site, which are located in different sub-catchments. However, both the development site and the SAC are located upstream of the River Fertha. Having regard to the	Screened in for a more detailed Appropriate Assessment Screening	

European /Natura 2000 Site and qualifying interests (* denotes a priority habitat). Source: www.npws.ie	Distance from proposed development/ Source, pathway, receptor (nearest edge)	Conservation Objectives and consideration of possible significant effect (alone)	In combination effects	Preliminary Screening conclusion
<p>3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</p> <p>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix</p> <p>4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths</p> <p>5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</p> <p>6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae</p> <p>6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)</p> <p>7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog)</p> <p>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</p> <p>91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae,</p>	<p>Scheme Project: c. 2.75Km</p>	<p>precautionary principle this SAC will be considered in greater detail in the following sections of this report.</p>		

European /Natura 2000 Site and qualifying interests (* denotes a priority habitat). Source: www.npws.ie	Distance from proposed development/ Source, pathway, receptor (nearest edge)	Conservation Objectives and consideration of possible significant effect (alone)	In combination effects	Preliminary Screening conclusion
<p>Salicion albae)*            91J0 Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles*  <b>Species</b>            1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)            1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)            1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)            1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)            1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)            1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)            1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)            1024 Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>)            1833 Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)            1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)            1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)            5046 Killarney Shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)</p>				

European /Natura 2000 Site and qualifying interests (* denotes a priority habitat). Source: www.npws.ie	Distance from proposed development/ Source, pathway, receptor (nearest edge)	Conservation Objectives and consideration of possible significant effect (alone)	In combination effects	Preliminary Screening conclusion
<i>killarnensis</i> )				
SAC 000335 - Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC <b>Habitats</b> 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) <b>Species</b> 1395 Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	The proposed Cahersiveen Public Realm Enhancement Project: c.10km  The N70 Cahersiveen to Oghermong Road Pavement Improvement Scheme Project: c.8km.	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO00335.pdf">http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO00335.pdf</a>  No possibility of effects due to the separation distance from the development and lack of meaningful ecological connections. As part of this, it is noted that the proposals and the European Site are located in different / unconnected water catchments.	No possibility of in combination effects	Screened out for need for Appropriate Assessment.

### Summary of preliminary AA Screening Exercise

The proposals, at their nearest are located 750m from and upstream of the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC, 600m from the Iveragh Peninsula SPA and is 2.75km downstream from the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC. All other European (Natura 2000) sites can be screened out at this the preliminary stage of the AA Screening Process, with certainty, given that there are no realistic or viable meaningful connecting pathways between the developments (source) and other European sites (receptors). As part of this, it is noted that there are no other European Natura 2000 sites located downstream to the proposed development works. Additional information on the European sites requiring further consideration is outlined in the following section of this report.

European (Natura 2000) Site: Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154	
Name	Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154
Site designation status	Special Protected Area
European (Natura 2000) site highlighted in yellow. Cahersiveen located by the blue arrow.	
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>The Iveragh Peninsula SPA is a large site situated on the west coast of Co. Kerry. The site encompasses the high coast and sea cliff sections of the peninsula from just west of Rossbehy in the north, around to the end of the peninsula at Valencia Island and Bolus Head, and as far east as Lamb's Head in the south. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m) and also areas of sand dunes at Derrynane and Beginish. The high-water mark forms the seaward boundary except at Doulus Head/Killelan Mountain where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included to provide areas for foraging and socialising activities for breeding seabirds.</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</li> </ul>



European (Natura 2000) Site: Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Chough (Particularly high densities of Chough occur at Valencia Island where livestock grazing presents the species with widespread feeding opportunities. Valencia Island held the largest autumn flock, (42 birds), observed in the period 2002 to 2004. Communal roosts exist on Lamb's Head near Derrynane and at the western tip of Valencia Island)</li> </ul>
Qualifying habitats	None
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	Great Black-backed Gull (63 pairs in 1999-2000) and Black Guillemot (118 individuals in 1999), as well as smaller populations of other breeding seabirds: Razorbill (90 pairs in 1999- 2000), Herring Gull (30 pairs in 1999-2000), Cormorant (33 pairs in 1999-2000) and Shag (11 pairs in 1999-2000).
Unit size	3488Ha
Condition / threats	Studies have shown that Chough forage mainly within 300 m of the cliff tops used for breeding. Land management practices within this area is therefore of particular importance.

European (Natura 2000) Site: Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC (Site Code 002262)		
Name	Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC (Site Code 002262)	
Site designation status	Special Area of Conservation	
European (Natura 2000) site highlighted, with Cahersiveen located by the blue arrow.		
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel, at the tip of the Iveragh peninsula in Co. Kerry, separate Valencia Island from the mainland. The channel, which is approximately 1 km wide, and Valencia Harbour and Doulus Bay to the east of the island, contain important examples of three habitats in particular reefs, large shallow inlets and tidal mudflats. The area also has an excellent range of sediment communities present including beds of free living red calcareous algae, generally called maerl beds. Areas of soft mud or muddy sand are characterised by the sea pen <i>Virgularia mirabilis</i> and a range of burrowing anemones, including the very rare species <i>Edwardsia delapiae</i>. The shallow water reefs in areas very exposed to wave action have kelp park communities. In deeper water at the western entrance to Portmagee Channel the reefs are very exposed or moderately</p>	

European (Natura 2000) Site: Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC (Site Code 002262)	
	<p>exposed to wave action.</p> <p>In Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC there are four particularly important community types found within the feature Large shallow inlets and Bays (1160). These sensitive habitats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zostera dominated community</li> <li>• Maerl dominated community / Zostera dominated community</li> <li>• Maerl dominated community</li> <li>• Edwardsia delapiae associated community</li> </ul>
Qualifying species	-
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>• 1170 Reefs</li> </ul>
Condition / threats	Condition as per IWM 118 (2020) Monitoring and Assessment of Annex I Marine Habitats

European (Natura 2000) Site: Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC (Site Code 002262)

**Reefs**

SAC Name	Habitat area within the SAC (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects	Overall site assessment
Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262)	9.53	Fav	Fav	Fav	Fav

**Large shallow inlets and bays**

**Table 24** Conservation assessment for the habitat *Large shallow inlets and bays* [1160] within each site monitored. 'Fav' is Favourable, 'U-I' is Unfavourable-Inadequate, 'U-B' is Unfavourable-Bad

SAC Name	Habitat area within the SAC (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects	Overall site assessment
Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262)	26.29	Fav	U-B	U-B	U-B

**Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide**

SAC Name	Habitat area within the SAC (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects	Overall site assessment
Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262)	1.23	Fav	Fav	Fav	Fav

**Threats**

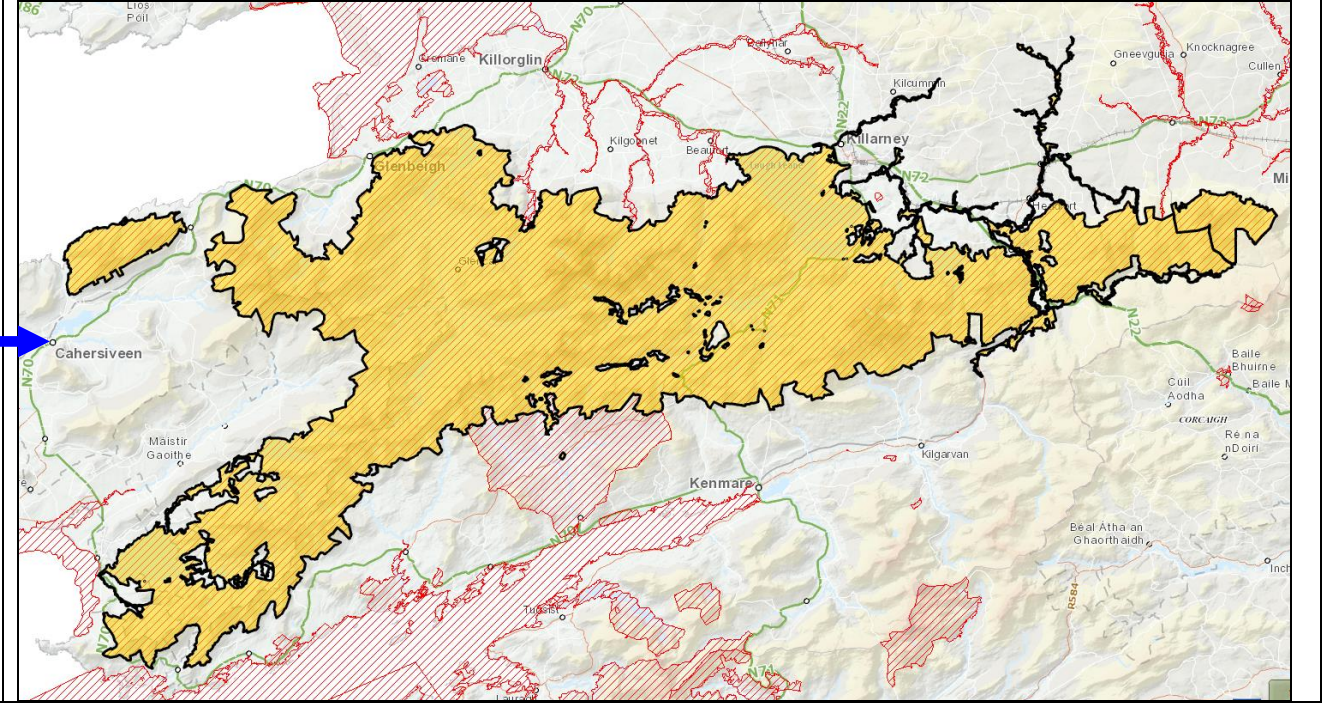
Alterations to tidal water flows, trap-shrimp fishing, dredging and fouling as could alter seabed characteristics constitute a threat to the sandflat, mudflat and estuarine habitats. The invasive alien species, *Spartina anglica* constitutes a threat to sandflats and mudflats. The major pressures and threats on the Large shallow inlets and bays habitat in Ireland have been identified as agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries and waste-water treatment and disposal.

**European (Natura 2000) Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)**

Name Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)

Site designation status Special Area of Conservation

Natura 2000 site highlighted in yellow. Cahersiveen town highlighted by the blue arrow.



Natura 2000 Site Description

This very large site encompasses the mountains, rivers and lakes of the Iveragh peninsula, and the Paps Mountains which stretch eastward from Killarney towards Millstreet. It is the most mountainous region in Ireland and includes Carrauntoohil (1039m), the highest peak in the Country.

The underlying geology is almost entirely Old Red Sandstone. The dramatic sandstone ridges and valleys have been shaped by glacial processes and many of the lakes are impounded by glacial moraines. Located close to the Atlantic in the south-west of Ireland, the site is subject to strong

European (Natura 2000) Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	oceanic influences. Generally, the Lusitanian flora and fauna is well represented, while the high peaks and cliffs support arctic-alpine relicts. The site is of great ecological interest, with at least ten habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax</i> (Killarney shad),</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern),</li> <li>• <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad),</li> <li>• <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry spotted slug)</li> <li>• <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary)</li> <li>• <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat)</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (European Brook Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel)</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (European Otter)</li> </ul>
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion;</li> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae);</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea;</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation;</li> <li>• European dry heaths;</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands;</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae;</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae);</li> <li>• Blanket bog;</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles;</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles;</li> </ul>

European (Natura 2000) Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>);</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> </ul>
Unit size	76,445Ha
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>An additional twenty-two Red Data Book plant species have been recorded, but only twelve of these have been seen recently. These are Pillwort (<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>), Kerry Lily (<i>Simethis planifolia</i>), Irish Lady's Tresses (<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>), Slender Cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>), Slender Cudweed (<i>Logfia minima</i>), Betony (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>), Heath Cudweed (<i>Omalotheca sylvatica</i>), Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), Alpine Saw-wort (<i>Saussurea alpina</i>), Hoary Whitlowgrass (<i>Draba incana</i>), Smooth Brome (<i>Bromus racemosus</i>) and Holly Fern (<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>). The first seven of these species are legally protected (Flora Protection Order, 1999). The site is very important for oceanic bryophytes, particularly the woodland species. It also contains good representative examples of the Northern Atlantic Hepatic Mat community and other oceanic montane communities. Killarney Oak woods and mountains have been nominated as a site of international importance for bryophytes. Additional plant species of interest include a fern (<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> subsp. <i>stilluppensis</i>) and a Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus anglica</i>), both at their only Irish locations.</p> <p>The Killarney Woods are notable for the number of rare species of Myxomycete fungus that have been recorded, namely <i>Collaria arcyronema</i>, <i>Craterium muscorum</i>, <i>Cribraria microcarpa</i> (only known Irish site), <i>C. rufa</i>, <i>C. violacea</i>, <i>Diderma chondrioderma</i>, <i>D. lucidum</i>, <i>D. ochraceum</i>, <i>Fuligo muscorum</i>, <i>Licea marginata</i>.</p> <p>The site has six bird species which are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. A small flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese, which winters on the boglands within the National Park, is now the only regular flock in the south-west. The site has one of the highest concentrations of breeding Peregrines in the country, as well as some breeding Merlin. Chough is found both in the coastal areas and inland areas of the site, with possibly up to 30 pairs breeding. Kingfisher is a species associated with the lakes and rivers, especially in the National Park and probably breeds. Finally, a</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site: Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
	<p>few pairs of Common Tern breed within the site. The woodlands provide habitat for a variety of breeding birds, most notably Garden Warbler, Blackcap, and probably a few pairs each of the rare Redstart and Wood Warbler. Lough Leane is a site for wintering wildfowl with the following the average counts for the two winters 1995/96 and 1996/97: Teal (208), Mallard (350), Pochard (81), Tufted Duck (323) and Coot (169).</p> <p>Also of note is the glacial relict, Arctic Charr (<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>), a Red Data Book fish species, a unique form of which is found in Lough Coomasaharn.</p> <p>Other invertebrate species of note include: three chironomids of international importance found in the River Flesk; a wood ant (<i>Formica lugubris</i>) at one of only four Irish sites; a snail (<i>Limnaea involuta</i>), in Lough Crincaum, at its only known location; two dragonflies (<i>Cordulea aenea</i> and <i>Somatochlora arctica</i>), the former at one of only two known sites in Ireland and the latter at its only known Irish location; and several other aquatic and woodland species at their only known Irish locations.</p>
Unit size	72,960Ha
Condition / threats	Grazing from sheep and deer is a threat to certain habitats within the site. Most of the lakes are very acid sensitive and therefore vulnerable to afforestation within the catchment areas. Most are also oligotrophic and so are vulnerable to nutrient pollution. The bogs are sensitive to grazing and are also threatened by turbary, burning and afforestation. The site is also under threat from invasive non-native species, including zebra mussels and rhododendron. A rhododendron removal programme is underway in Killarney National Park and in the McGillycuddy Reeks.



## 5. Identification and description of potential individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project

Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project	
<p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on European (Natura 2000) Sites</p>	<p><b>Consideration of ‘in combination’ effects</b></p> <p>The proposed development sites are located within the area of influence of the ‘West Iveragh Local Area Plan’ and the ‘Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028’. These documents outline the importance of public realm, urban renewable, transport connectivity, smarter travel and of biodiversity protection. It is noted that aquaculture activities are licensed in the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC, which are subject to Appropriate Assessment, through the foreshore licensing regime. It is further noted that a section of the South Kerry Greenway has also been permitted and that this project has commenced. An Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment were undertaken for the South Kerry Greenway Project. The following are other Kerry County Council projects for the Cahersiveen area:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(i) The proposed Conservation, Renovation and Extension of the Carnegie building Project.</b></p> <p>The proposal is for the conservation, renovation and extension of the Carnegie Building a Protected Structure, Kerry County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS 79-9-2) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Registration No. 21400902). The project is located in Cahersiveen Town, at the junction of Chapel St. N70 and Bridge St, within a site area of 0.06Ha. The building will utilise the existing water services and no land take is required to facilitate the works. No overly specialised, complex or technical design work is required. It is estimated that the project works would be undertaken within 14 months. This is a relatively small-scale inner urban development project which can avail of services located within Cahersiveen, including public transport, retail services, amenities etc. A site compound with welfare facilities will be facilitated within the red line of the proposed site. Key details are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demolition of the existing two storey flat roof section to the rear of this building and demolition of the existing public toilets.</li> <li>• Construction of a two-storey extension incorporating a tourist office, meeting rooms,</li> </ul>

**Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project**

offices, toilets, canteen, lift, stairs and fire escape.

- Upgrade and conservation works to the existing building including community/performance space.
- Revisions to the internal layout with relocated entrance onto bridge street and new entrance to external courtyard.
- Upgrade of mechanical, electrical, fire and associated services.

**(ii) Culvert replacement and ancillary works, Garranebane, Caherisveen, Co Kerry Project**

This proposal seeks to help alleviate the ongoing flooding issue that exists at the rear of the Ring of Kerry Hotel, Valentia Road, Caherisveen. The works proposed involve the following:-

- Provision of a coarse grating (roughing screen) in the river channel, 5-10m upstream of the headwall
- Installation of 2.2m length of 900mm diameter pipe to connect to the existing 700mm diameter pipe in the hotel car park. This would replace the existing rectangular culvert at the intake.
- A new manhole to form the connection between the new pipe and the existing 700mm diameter pipe. This would also reduce the severity of the bend at this location
- Installation of the headwall at the intake
- Restoration of the hotel boundary wall

A planning search revealed no other permitted (unbuilt) developments at the general location of the proposed works, which could result in 'in-combination' effects.

**Elements of the project, either alone or in combination, with theoretical potential to give rise to impacts and requiring further consideration:-**

- The mobilisation of sediments, fuel spillage or leakage, and the use of concrete products during site works pose a theoretical risk of water pollution. The proposals, therefore, have theoretical potential to affect the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC and the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC, by way of impacting water quality in the River Fertha estuary during the construction stage of the proposals.

Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction works generate noise and general disturbance. The development proposals also have potential to generate noise and general disturbance at operational stage. The proposals have theoretical potential to affect the Iveragh Peninsula SPA at construction and operational stages by way of noise and general disturbance (though this is unlikely given the location of the works relative to the SPA boundaries).</li> </ul>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size and scale</li> <li>Land-take</li> <li>Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site</li> <li>Resource requirements</li> <li>Emissions</li> <li>Excavation requirements</li> <li>Transportation requirements</li> <li>Duration of construction, operation etc</li> <li>Others</li> </ul>	<p><b>Size and scale</b> The proposals, while significant for Cahersiveen are relatively small in size and scale. The works generally consist of upgrade works to existing infrastructure and reallocation of road and urban space for public realm and active travel purposes.</p> <p><b>Distance from European (Natura 2000) Site or key features of the Site</b> The proposals, at their nearest are located 750m from and upstream of the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC, 600m from the Iveragh Peninsula SPA and is 2.75km downstream from the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC.</p> <p><b>European Site land take</b> None required</p> <p><b>Resource and excavation requirements</b> No large-scale or deep excavation works are required. Resource requirements are typical of road and building construction projects.</p> <p><b>Emissions</b> No realistic potential for significant increases in emissions.</p> <p><b>Transportation requirements</b> Works will be facilitated by the existing national secondary road network serving Cahersiveen.</p> <p><b>Duration of construction, operation etc</b> It is anticipated that these works will be carried out on a phased basis over a 2.5-to-3-year period so as</p>

**Identification and description of the individual and cumulative impacts of the Plan or Project**

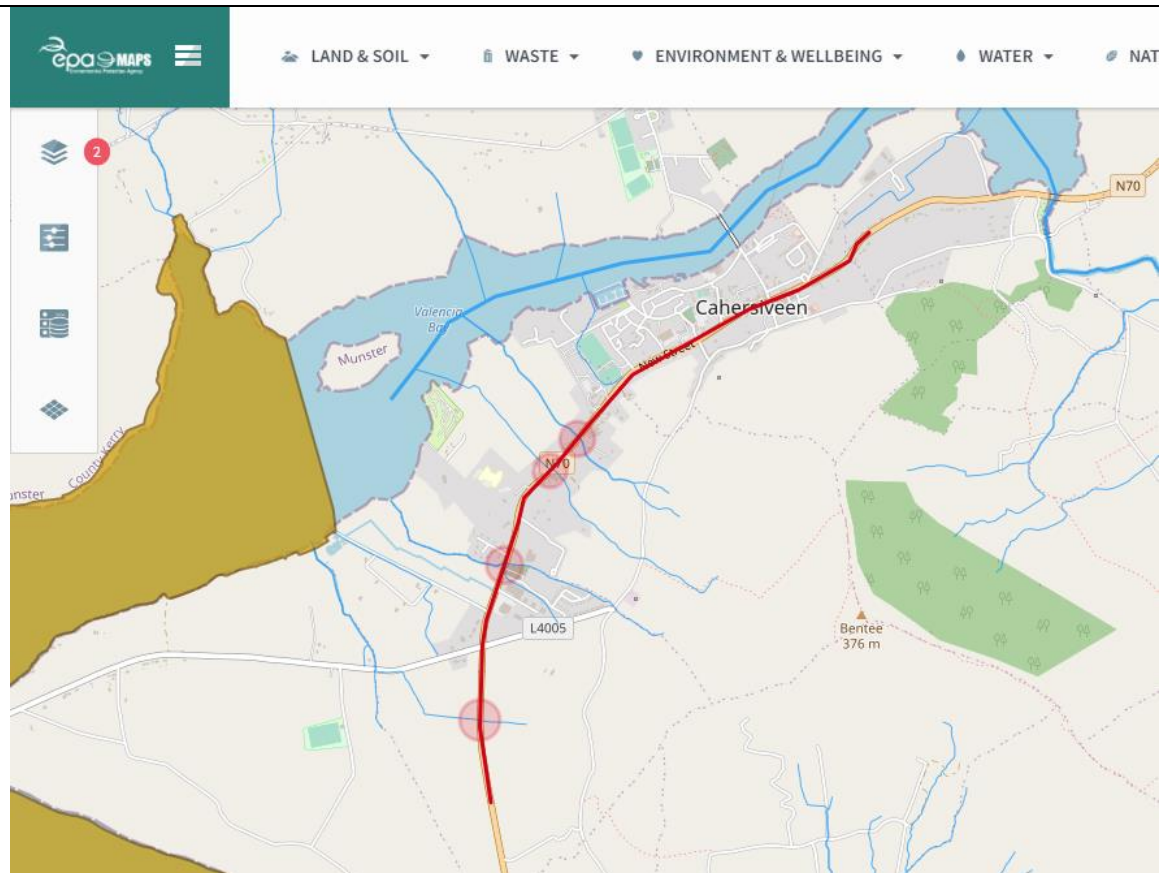
to facilitate traffic management in the town. Elements of the two projects outlined are likely to be undertaken concurrently, subject to funding and appropriate traffic management. The operational aspects of the proposals will be permanent.

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## 6. Assessment of the significance of the impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites

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<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of habitat area</li> <li>• Disturbance of key species</li> <li>• Habitat or species fragmentation</li> <li>• Reduction in species density</li> <li>• Changes in key indicators of conservation value</li> <li>• Climate change</li> </ul>	<p><b>Changes in water quality as a potential key indicator of conservation value</b></p> <p>Construction projects can release sediment once soil is disturbed, and the use of concrete and machinery can also present a risk to watercourses. However, in this instance, there is limited potential for water pollution arising as connectivity between works are and European Sites is poor and generally interrupted. Four small stream cross the N70 road improvement project to the southwest of the town but no instream works are required at or near these locations. Only one of these discharges directly to the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel SAC at a point 1.2km downstream from the works area. There are no freshwater streams or rivers passing through or adjacent to the Cahersiveen urban realm works area. The River Fertha Estuary adjoins the site to the north but as outlined in S1.3.6 of Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP, coastal and estuarine waters such as this are generally less vulnerable to sedimentation than fresh waters, as they can have greater dilution capabilities and can be more naturally turbid. This section of the CDP also outlines that urban drainage systems, such as that found within Cahersiveen, can play a role in passively catering for sediment and run-off likely to arise.</p>
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**Above: Watercourses in the vicinity of the works area with crossing points and Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel highlighted.**

Having regard to the nature, extent and location of the proposals, it is considered that the proposal would not be likely to make any discernible or appreciable impact on receiving waters. In the unlikely event of an accidental fuel leak any potential spillage would be restricted to a relatively confined area; however, in the normal course of events fuel leaks are not a common or likely occurrence. With regard to the use of concrete, this will be ready mixed when delivered to site and handled in contained and controlled circumstances. Any of this material falling to waste will be removed on an ongoing basis and directed to the appropriate waste

stream for management and disposal. It is noted no stockpiling of material is proposed given the urban and peri urban nature of the sites and that only shallow excavations are required and that these would be undertaken on a rolling phased basis to facilitate traffic flow management along the N70 National Secondary roadway and through the town. The existing Kerry County Council and creamery cross site compounds are available to be used so there is no requirement for additional compounds of any great scale.

Any sediment/hydrocarbon/concrete run-off generated from the proposals would not be likely to make any discernible or appreciable impact on the receiving waters of the Fertha Estuary – which currently enjoy good status. The dilution factor and flushing capacity available in the Valencia Harbour and Portmagee Channel is sufficient beyond reasonable scientific doubt to ensure that any potential water pollutants generated would be fully dissipated and assimilated so as not to be felt within the waterbody. The proposal would not significantly degrade qualifying interest or key supporting habitat in the area including within the Valencia Harbour or Portmagee Channel SAC which is downstream or within the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC, which is located upstream of the works, or any other European Site. No cumulative or in combination effects on water quality are considered likely. As part of this, it is noted that the South Kerry Greenway Project contains water quality protection measures.

**Reduction in species density and or changes in key indicators of conservation value**

Proposal has no realistic potential to impact on water quality in watercourses or to otherwise reduce species density or change key indicators of conservation value.

**Loss / Reduction / fragmentation of habitat**

Proposed works will be temporary in nature and are confined to the urban area of Cahersiveen and its approach roads, and for the most part within the existing road space. Invasive species were not recorded within the proposed works area. TII have been implementing an invasive species management project for the N70 for a number of years. There will be no habitat loss, reduction, fragmentation or land take from a Natura 2000 site or of functionally linked habitat. Otter habitat of potential importance and Lesser horseshoe bat (foraging and commuting) habitat of potential importance, as outlined in the Conservation Objective Report for the Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC are geographically removed from the site works and the proposals would not impact or effect same. Potential for effect or impact on qualifying interest habitats or functionally linked habitats can be ruled out with certainty.

	<p><b>Disturbance of key species</b> Disturbance of key species is unlikely to arise as a result of this proposal. Specifically, disturbance of birds associated with the Iveragh Peninsula SPA, including Chough can be ruled out with certainty, given the distance of the proposed works to habitats of potential importance, the nearest of which are located above the high-water mark on lands located on the opposite (northern) side of the estuary. More generally, wildlife at this location can be expected to be habituated to vehicles / machinery and urban activities at this location within and approaching the urban area of Cahersiveen Town. While night-time noise and lighting may be a characteristic of the project construction and operation, it is considered that there is no realistic possibility of effecting QI or SCI species.</p> <p><b>Climate change</b> Climate change is likely to result in more extreme weather events. The proposals which incorporate nature-based storm water management principles would have positive impacts in this regard.</p> <p>Having regard to the above it is considered that significant changes to Natura 2000 sites or to key habitats or species are not likely to occur.</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interference with the Key relationships that define the structure of the site</li> <li>• Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site:</b> Key relationships that define the structure of the Natura 2000 Sites will not be interfered with or impacted by way of this proposal.</p> <p><b>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site:</b> Key relationships that define the function of the Natura 2000 Sites will not be interfered with or impacted by way of this proposal.</p>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of</p>	<p>Construction works associated with this project are geographically removed from European Sites, are contained within the urban area of Cahersiveen Town and its approach roads, are relatively minor in scale, complexity and duration and do not have the potential to have significant effects on European (Natura 2000)</p>



<p>elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>sites. It is noted that an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken in respect of the proposals for the South Kerry Greenway Project. Notwithstanding the geographical proximity between elements of this project and the South Kerry Project, they are not likely to interact in any meaningful way as could result in significant (cumulative) effects, particularly in view of the nature of the works proposed which largely consist of upgrade works within a contained urban area and within existing road space.</p> <p>The potential for significant effects of the proposal, by itself and in combination with other plans and projects, has been ruled out beyond reasonable scientific doubt. Consequently, this Appropriate Assessment screening exercise concludes that a Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement / Appropriate Assessment is <u>not</u> required in this instance.</p>
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## 7. Conclusion of Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

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### Conclusion Statement

It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed projects, individually or in combination with other plans/projects are not likely to have a significant effect on European (Natura 2000) sites. It is therefore considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment / Natura Impact Statement is not required.

### Reasons for Conclusion

- The location of the proposed works within the urban boundaries of Cahersiveen Town and its approach roads and geographically removed from European Sites,
- The nature of the works which constitute urban development and infrastructure renewal and upgrade works, which are relatively small in scale and which would be phased and short in duration and which would involve limited excavation works at any particular location,
- The nature and location of the proposals are such that there is no realistic potential to disturb or effect Qualifying Interest species or Species of Conservation Interest, either at the construction or operational stage,
- The risk of water pollution is considered to be low and notwithstanding same any such pollution which could possibly arise would be quickly dissipated on reaching the receiving estuarine waters with no likely appreciable / possible effect on same,
- There would be no significant loss or degradation of European (Natura 2000) habitat or functionally linked habitat,
- There would be no significant direct or indirect impact on qualifying habitat or species associated with European (Natura 2000) sites as a result of the proposal,
- The lack of significant in-combination effects arising from other proposed and permitted development in the vicinity.

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



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**Environmental Assessment Unit**

**08.11.2023**