

SOUTH KERRY GREENWAY (CLOGHANELINAGHAN SECTION)

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Prepared for:
Kerry County Council



Date: January 2026

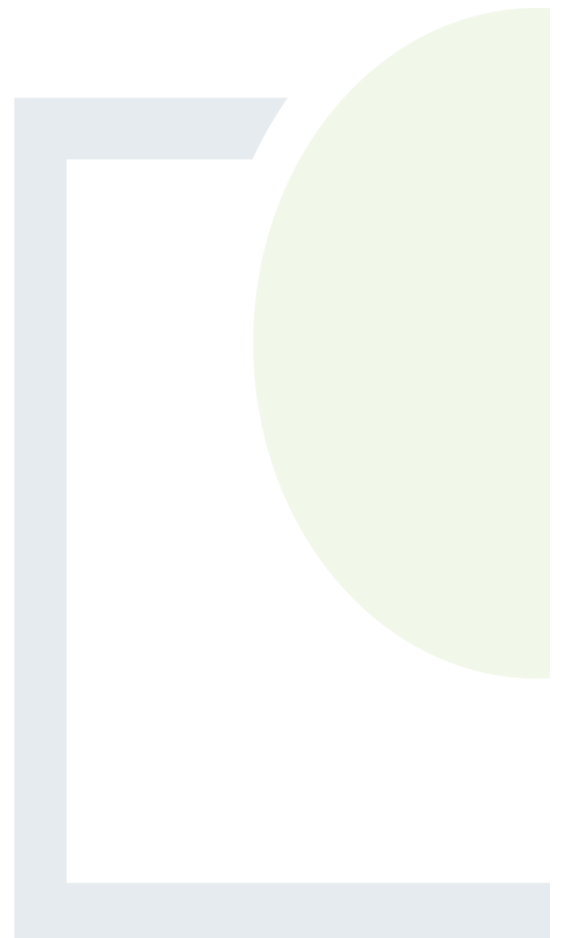
Document No:
P23228-FT-ZZ-ZZ-RP-EN-0006

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773, Ireland

T: +353 21 496 4133 | E: info@ftco.ie

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

www.fehilytimoney.ie



Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
P01	For Client Review	YM/NSC	AMC/ST	RM	05/12/2025
P02	For Approval	YM/NSC	AMC/ST	GF	08/01/2026
P03	Final Report	AMC	RM	GF	27/01/2026

Client: Kerry County Council

Keywords: Appropriate Assessment (AA), AA Screening, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, European (Natura 2000) Sites, Cloghanelinaghan, Cahersiveen, Active Travel, Greenway

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Appropriate Assessment Screening to Kerry County Council for South Kerry Greenway (Cloghanelinaghan Section).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Methodology	1
1.1.1 Guidance	1
1.1.2 Desk Study.....	2
1.1.3 Field Study.....	2
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
2.1 Purpose and Site Location of the Proposed Development	3
2.2 Description of the Proposed Development.....	3
2.2.1 Overview	3
2.2.2 Surface Water Drainage.....	5
2.2.3 Operational Phase.....	5
3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT	6
3.1 Summary of Desk and Field Study Results	6
3.2 Identification of relevant European sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model	7
3.2.1 Likely Zone of Influence	7
3.2.2 Connectivity or Ecological Continuity	8
3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	8
3.2.4 Summary of S-P-R Findings	15
3.2.5 In-Combination Effects	15
3.3 Screening Conclusion	16
4. REFERENCES	17

LIST OF FIGURES

Page

Figure 2-1: Proposed Development Layout.....	4
--	---

LIST OF TABLES

Page

Table 3-1: S-P-R Connectivity to European sites within the potential ZOI	12
--	----



1. INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney and Company have been commissioned by the applicant Kerry County Council (KCC), to provide consultancy services - including the preparation of this Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report - for the design of the proposed new greenway and associated facilities (hereafter, referred as the Proposed Development, the Proposed Project or the Application Site) in the townland of Cloghanelinaghan, northeast of Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry. The section of new greenway, comprising shared cycle and pedestrian infrastructure, will be approx. 1.3km in length.

This report presents an examination of whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge.

1.1 Methodology

1.1.1 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913.
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010).
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. (DEHLG, 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- OPR Practice Note (2021) PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. (DEHLG, 2021) Amendments to section 42 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and associated Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

In addition, consideration was given to the relevant plans and policies contained within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Kenmare Municipal District LAP 2024-2030. While there are no relevant policies or objectives within the Kenmare Municipal District LAP 2024-2030, there are some objectives of note in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, as follows:

- KCDP 11-1 Ensure that the requirements of relevant EU and national legislation, are complied with by the Council in undertaking its functions, including the requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.
- KCDP 11-2 Maintain the nature conservation value and integrity of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). This shall include any other sites that may be designated at national level during the lifetime of the plan in co-operation with relevant state agencies.



For a full list of all guidance consulted during the preparation of this AA Screening, see Section 4.

1.1.2 Desk Study

A desktop study was carried out to collate and review available information, datasets and documentation sources relevant for the completion of this Screening Report. The desktop study was undertaken in November 2025, and relied on the following sources:

- Information on the network of European sites, Qualifying Interests (QIs), Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) and site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs), obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) (available at: www.npws.ie)
- Text summaries of the relevant European sites taken from the respective Site Synopses (available at www.npws.ie)
- Information on waterbodies, catchment areas and hydrological connections obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (available at: www.gis.epa.ie)
- Satellite imagery and mapping obtained from various sources and dates including Google, Bing, EPA Maps and Ordnance Survey Ireland
- Information on other developments within the wider area with the potential for in-combination effects when undertaken alongside the Proposed Development from the National Planning Application Database (NPAD.ie) and the Kerry County Council Planning Website ([Online Planning Enquiry | kerrycoco.ie](http://OnlinePlanningEnquiry.kerrycoco.ie)).

1.1.3 Field Study

A preliminary ecological walkover survey was undertaken in September 2025, with the aim of capturing the following information where available in order to guide the assessment of the potential for likely significant effects on QI and SCI habitats and species:

- Habitats and Invasive Flora
- Mammals (in particular, Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*))
- Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) (and its foodplant, Devils-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*))
- Breeding and wintering bird suitability.



2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Purpose and Site Location of the Proposed Development

The scheme aims to provide a new section of the South Kerry Greenway / active travel facility in the townland of Cloghanelinaghan, northeast of Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry. The scheme is located approx. 600m northeast of the Valentia Estuary Viaduct. The scheme will mainly involve the installation of a new shared cycle and pedestrian infrastructure to improve active travel provision and local amenity.

2.2 Description of the Proposed Development

2.2.1 Overview

The proposed route of this section of greenway travels in a northeasterly direction from the starting point, approx. 600m northeast of the Valentia Estuary Viaduct. The alignment begins by running northwest along a field boundary for approx. 250m, before turning northeast and continuing parallel to the south of the L7528 Local Road for approx. 1,050m. The alignment will be located parallel to the south of the L7528 and will sit behind the existing hedgerow within the adjacent fields. The construction compound will be located directly east of the easternmost point of the Application Site boundary. The subject scheme would provide a safe route off of this section of the public road (L7528) for both pedestrians and cyclists, and an added benefit is that it connects into the permitted South Kerry Greenway infrastructure (approved under ABP Ref: 302450) to the west and east as shown on Figure 2.1.

In November 2020, ABP granted permission for the development of the South Kerry Greenway (ABP Ref: 302450) excluding the Cloghanelinaghan Section that is the subject of this AA Screening Report. The Cloghanelinaghan Section was omitted pending further investigations and consideration of an increased buffer zone between sections of the greenway infrastructure and its boundary with the Valentia Estuary shoreline. The Board at the time was not satisfied, on the basis of the plans and particulars submitted with the application, that the Cloghanelinaghan Section would not be adversely affected by the natural processes of erosion and the pattern of spring tides that occur within the estuary, or that the potential future impacts of climate change on estuarine dynamics (including rising sea levels and storm surges) and thus the proposed infrastructure, had not been adequately addressed.

The route of the Cloghanelinaghan Section that is subject to this AA Screening Report has been located away from the shoreline to instead follow the route of the L7528 which is located approximately 200m from the shoreline at its nearest point. The proposed route will not be adversely affected by the natural processes of erosion and the pattern of spring tides that occur within the estuary, or that the potential future impacts of climate change on estuarine dynamics (including rising sea levels and storm surges).

The overall length of the greenway is approx. 1.3km. The alignment crosses 10 field accesses and gated access will be provided on both sides of the greenway to facilitate landowner access. The greenway will not be lit. Line marking & signage will be required to supplement proposed infrastructure.

The greenway will consist of the following items:

- A 3.0m wide shared use path with 1.0m verges and earthworks where required.
- Fencing will typically be required along one side of the greenway when parallel to the existing road, with the existing hedgerow providing containment on the other side. However, fencing on both sides will be required from the start point up to the local road.



- The greenway will be accessible to pedestrians and cyclists from the L7528 at two locations, the first at the western end of the scheme and the second towards the eastern end. A staggered gated system will be provided at each access point.
- A 2.1m high x 3.0m wide (internal dimensions) underpass at approx. ch. 950 will be provided to facilitate livestock crossing of the existing L7528 Local Road and the proposed greenway. This underpass will take the form of a precast box culvert. Provision of the animal underpass will require temporary traffic management arrangements to be implemented on the L7528 and the excavation of approximately 260m³ of material to facilitate installation of the underpass. Upon installation, the underpass will be backfilled and the road surface reinstated.
- The greenway is contained entirely within agricultural lands. Excavation for the greenway pavement will extend up to approx. 250mm to 300mm below existing ground. Additional earthworks may be required at the western end of the scheme, between the start point and the L7528 Local Road, where the existing topography is relatively steep.
- Drainage for the scheme will consist of over the edge drainage along the length of the scheme with precast concrete piped culverts required at up to 9 locations where the greenway crosses existing field drains/watercourses.
- Vegetation removal will be necessary when the alignment passes through existing hedgerows, and this will occur at 13 locations. Vegetation will also be removed for approx. 40m on the existing rail embankment at the western tie-in.

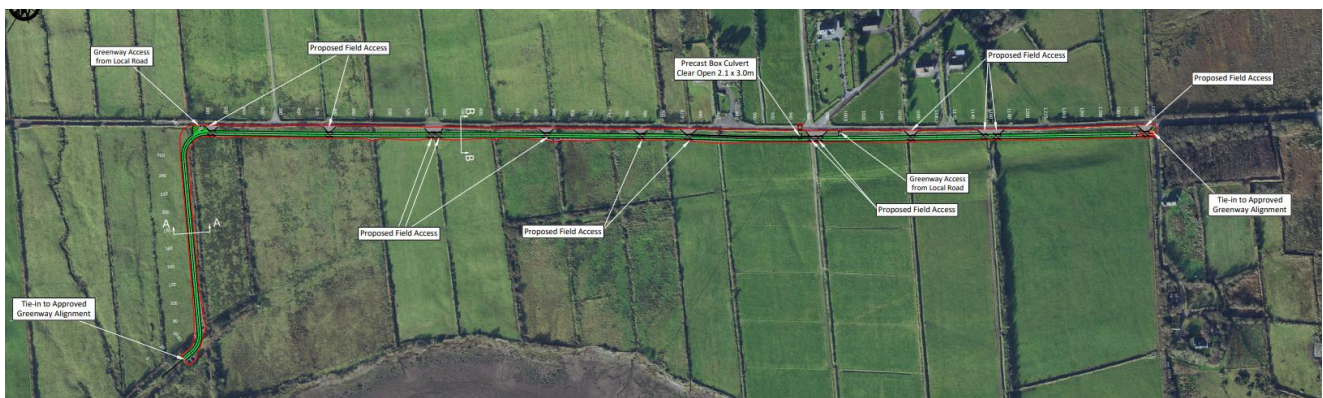


Figure 2-1: Proposed Development Layout

During construction typical machinery/vehicles used include:

- Mini excavator
- Tracked excavator
- Dumper
- Asphalt laying vehicle
- Concrete transportation vehicle
- Other construction materials transportation vehicle



2.2.2 Surface Water Drainage

Drainage for the scheme will consist of over-the-edge drainage along the length of the scheme with precast concrete piped culverts required at up to 9 locations where the greenway crosses existing field drains. Culverts will be precast off-site, comprising precast standard box concrete culverts, so there is no potential for contamination of existing drains or any downstream waterbodies with liquid concrete. The culverts will be placed on a granular bedding, lifted into place, and backfilled with granular material.

2.2.3 Operational Phase

During the Operational Phase, there will be maintenance works, namely, trimming back of hedgerows on an annual basis in September if they encroach onto the greenway. Otherwise, activity will be restricted to foot and cycle traffic.



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Summary of Desk and Field Study Results

Field and desk survey results are included in this section where they are relevant to the assessment of the potential for likely significant effects on European sites.

No QI habitats were identified as being present within or directly adjacent to the Proposed Development. Habitats within and adjacent to the Site comprise primarily private dwellings, agricultural grasslands for livestock and hay meadows, wet grassland, drainage ditches intersecting agricultural fields. No invasive flora was identified on or adjacent to the Site.

Habitats possibly capable of supporting Otter are present within the Site, namely, the 9 no. drainage ditches which traverse the Site as shown in Figure 2-1: , however, given the suboptimal nature of the drainage ditches to support fish on which otter feed, and the more suitable available foraging and commuting habitats in the wider area in the form of the habitats of Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC, Valentia Harbour and the variety of watercourses in the wider area, the Site is not deemed of significance for Otter. In addition, there were no breeding holts identified within 150m of the Proposed Development, nor have Otter been historically recorded within the NBDC 2km grid squares which encompass the Site (V48Q and V48V). Lastly, the estuarine habitats that lie south of the Proposed Development are generally less vulnerable to sedimentation than freshwater habitats given their natural turbidity and greater assimilative capacities, while the c. 200m of vegetation between the Proposed Development and the estuary to the south may act to facilitate natural interception of sediments from surface water runoff.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosts are identified within the Conservation Objectives document for Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (NPWS, 2017). The foraging range of Lesser Horseshoe is primarily concentrated within 2.5km of the roost (core sustenance zone) (NPWS & VWT, 2022). The identified QI Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosts and their core sustenance zones within the Conservation Objectives document for this SAC (NPWS, 2017) are noted as being c. 22km away from the Proposed Development at its closest point. As the conservation objectives for QI Lesser Horseshoe outlined within this document specifically relate to those identified roosts and their core sustenance zones, the nearest of which is c. 22km away, there is no pathway for the propagation of significant effects from the Proposed Development to this QI.

The suitability of the Proposed Development Site and its surrounding environs to support SCI birds of nearby SPAs (namely, Iveragh Peninsula SPA) was assessed during the field and desk study. This SPA is designated for cliff nesting birds and seabirds. Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) and Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*). There is no suitable nesting habitat to support any of the above species within or directly adjacent to the Site. While chough may forage in agricultural fields such as those within the Proposed Development Site, only one individual chough was recorded during the walkover survey. Furthermore, as outlined in the Bord Pleanála Technical Note 318672 dated (July 2024) (REF), " *The home range radius / foraging range of breeding Chough in Ireland is considered to be generally less than 2km (Robertston et al., 1995) with research from Ireland and elsewhere showing that breeding birds mainly forage close to the nest site with coastal breeding pairs spending up to 80% of time within 350m of the nest*". Given the c. 3.6km separation distance between the Proposed Development (at its closest point) and Iveragh Peninsula SPA, it can be assumed that this chough does not belong to the SPA population.



3.2 Identification of relevant European sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model

Consideration is given to whether the Proposed Project is likely to have a significant effect upon any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', states that in identifying European sites (Natura 2000 sites), which may be affected by the project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely Zol of the Proposed Project. European sites located in the surroundings of the project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy; and
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

There are no European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the project. As such, further consideration is given to the 'likely Zone of Influence (Zol)' and 'connectivity or ecological continuity'.

The OPR practice note on AA screening states that the Zol must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. In this regard, consideration is given to the nature and extent of the proposed project and the characteristics of the immediate environment along with the consideration of potential pathways for connectivity to European sites, which are assessed having regard to available Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The Proposed Project is located wholly outside of any European Site.

3.2.1 Likely Zone of Influence

As per CIEEM guidelines (2018), the Zol for the Proposed Development is defined having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of potential biophysical changes in the environment which might occur because of the development and throughout its lifetime. As such, the Zol extends beyond the footprint of the works and considers potential direct and indirect links to sensitive receptors of European sites.

In defining the potential zone of influence for the proposed development on habitats and species, the following published data is referred to:

- The potential for biophysical change by disturbance/damage/degradation to habitats is taken as the footprint of the works (including any site clearance) plus 10m beyond (based on Ryan Hanley, 2014).
- The potential disturbance zone for birds beyond the footprint of the proposed development was considered having regard to Cutts et al (2013) and was defined as 500m.
- The NRA (2008) Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes notes a 150m potential disturbance zone for otter. As such the study area included the Proposed Development site plus a 150m buffer.
- The potential disturbance zone for marine mammals is taken as 500m having regard to DEAHG (2014) 'Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters'.



3.2.2 Connectivity or Ecological Continuity

Connectivity or ecological continuity refers to the degree to which different parts of a landscape, ecosystem, or habitat are physically or functionally linked, allowing the movement of organisms, nutrients, energy, or ecological processes across space. Consideration is therefore given to whether there could be landscape or ecological connectivity to any protected habitats or species of European sites from the Proposed Development.

As such, while there are no European sites within the ZoI, consideration is given to the potential for lands within the disturbance and impact ZoIs (as described above) to support the qualifying interests (QIs) / special conservation interests (SCIs) of European sites. Consideration was given to existing records for qualifying features in the locality of the Proposed Development and an assessment of the potential for mobile qualifying features of European sites to use the lands within the disturbance and impact ZoIs. Furthermore, given the drainage ditches present within the Site's bounds, consideration is also given to any European sites and their associated QIs/SCIs which may lie downstream of the Site.

The lands surrounding the Site comprise the rural areas near the town of Cloghanelinaghan, northeast of Cahersiveen, and the Ferta estuary c. 80m of south from the southernmost boundary of the Site. As discussed above in Section 3.1, habitats within/adjacent to the Site compromise private dwellings, agricultural grasslands for livestock and hay meadows, wet grassland, drainage ditches intersecting agricultural fields. A small patch of rich fen was identified approx. 173m south of the Site.

Taking the above into consideration, three European sites were identified as being present within the potential ZoI of the Proposed Development, namely:

- Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365)
- Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262)
- Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154)

3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment

3.2.3.1 *Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC*

Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365) lies approx. 1km northeast of the Proposed Development. This SAC is designated for a number of QIs, although there is no downstream hydrological pathway between this SAC and the Proposed Development. There are, however, a number of mobile QIs present within this SAC, with the potential to traverse far outside the bounds of the SAC.

Otters are present within this SAC; they are an aquatic and terrestrial mobile QI species. However, as described above in Section 3.1, the Site's habitats are suboptimal for Otter, particularly in comparison with the more optimal habitats found within this expansive SAC, along the coastline and within river waterbodies which are frequently occurring in the wider area. Although the above does not preclude Otter presence at the Site, given that Otters are widespread throughout Ireland's waterbodies, in terms of significance in the context of the wider SAC, the site-specific conservation objectives for QI Otter within this SAC, and the temporary timeframe of the works, there is no potential for significant effects on Otter as a result of the Proposed Development.



Marsh Fritillary is a QI species for which this SAC is designated, occurring approx. 48km from the Proposed Development, well outside the range of Marsh Fritillary¹. This species is generally limited to locations in which its foodplant is found and do not wander far from this area; a breeding location generally comprises a patch of at least 100m x 50m. Its foodplant, Devil's-bit scabious, is essential for breeding, and is not found within or adjacent to the Proposed Development, nor is any Devil's-bit scabious proposed for removal. As such, there is no potential for significant effects on Marsh Fritillary as a result of the Proposed Development.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat is also present within this SAC. As described above in Section 3.1, the Site is not within the core foraging range of identified QI Lesser Horseshoe roosts based on the identified roost locations and core sustenance ranges contained within the Conservation Objectives document for this SAC (NPWS, 2017), to which the listed site-specific conservation objectives for Lesser Horseshoe specifically relate. As such, there is no pathway for the propagation of significant effects between the Proposed Development and this QI.

The closest QI Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchment lies approx. 20km from the Site at its closest point, with no hydrological pathway present between it and the Proposed Development. There is no potential for significant effects on Freshwater Pearl Mussel as a result of the Proposed Development.

Other mobile aquatic QI species of note comprise:

- *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]

Information is not provided on extant locations of the above QI species and as such it can be presumed via the precautionary principle that they are present downstream of the Site within Ferta Estuary (as the drainage ditches on-Site are not suitable to support the above species as they are not consistently wetted). Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) are not included in the above list as they do not inhabit estuaries but live exclusively in freshwater habitats.

Sea and River lamprey both spawn in clean gravel beds between May and June, meaning that while they may be present within estuaries to forage, breeding occurs exclusively within the lower reaches of rivers (freshwater habitat). As such, breeding lamprey will not be affected by the Proposed Development. While there may be foraging / commuting juvenile lampreys present within the Ferta Estuary, populations present are not of significance in the context of the wider SAC population which primarily inhabit the waterbodies within the SAC's boundaries. Furthermore, given the temporary nature of the proposed works and the assimilative capacity of the coastal and transitional waters of Ferta Estuary and Valencia Harbour, and given that culverts will be pre-cast off-Site, avoiding any potential runoff of pollutants, it is determined that there is no potential for significant effects on lamprey as a result of the Proposed Development.

¹ [Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#) [Accessed November 2025]



Atlantic salmon are a QI species currently in a favourable conservation condition as per the Conservation Objectives document for this SAC (NPWS, 2017). Notably, the site-specific conservation objective for this species states that the conservation limit for Atlantic Salmon, defined as "*the spawning stock level that produces long-term average maximum sustainable yield as derived from the adult-to-adult stock and recruitment relationship*" is consistently exceeded within the Ferta Estuary, indicating QI salmon within this SAC are meeting their target populus. Furthermore, other targets comprise no artificial barriers to migration, noting there are none within the Ferta, no significant decline in abundance of smolt, which is noted as affected primarily by sea lice produced by farmed fish, of which there are none within the Ferta, and that Q values comprise at least Q4 at all sample sites, which within the Ferta, they do. Taking the above into consideration, and given the temporary nature of the proposed works (6 months or less), the assimilative capacity of the coastal and transitional waters of Ferta Estuary and Valencia Harbour, and given that culverts will be pre-cast off-Site, avoiding any potential runoff of pollutants from the Site into Ferta Estuary, it is determined that there is no potential for significant effects on Atlantic Salmon as a result of the Proposed Development.

The remaining QIs for which this SAC is designated comprise static habitats and species which lie outside the ZOI of the Proposed Development and will not be affected by the Construction or Operation of the Proposed Development. **As such, there is no potential for significant effects on Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365) as a result of the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development. There are no pathways for the propagation of significant effects from the Site to this SAC during the Operational Phase.**

3.2.3.2 *Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC*

Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262) lies approx. 2.9km downstream of the Site in the event of uncontrolled surface water runoff carrying pollutants, via the drainage ditches which traverse the Site and subsequently Ferta Estuary. This SAC is designated for three coastal / marine QI habitat types, namely, Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] and Reefs [1170]. No mobile QIs are present within this SAC.

Considering the above, and given that culverts will be precast off-Site, the temporary timeframe within which works will be undertaken (6 months or less) and the assimilative capacity of the intervening coastal and transitional waters, and the nature of the QIs for which Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC is designated, **there is no potential for significant effects during Construction propagated via a hydrological pathway. There are no pathways for the propagation of significant effects from the Site to this SAC during the Operational Phase.**

3.2.3.3 *Iveragh Peninsula SPA*

Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) is situated approx. 1.5km west of the Site as the crow flies, and is designated for the following species, which comprise seabirds and/or cliff-nesting birds.

- Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]
- Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
- Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]
- Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]



Noise disturbance effects resulting from the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development was assessed following Cutts (2013)² and BSI (2014)³ for the combining noise level of the machinery and vehicles which will be used in the Construction Phase. Taking a noise level of 120dB at the source, the noise level reaching the SPA (at its closest point) caused by the Construction Phase at a separation distance of 1.5 km, will be approx. 45dB. For context, this noise level is comparable to a quiet library, and works are not expected to exceed 6 months in duration and thus any disturbance will be temporary.

Furthermore, habitat at the Site does not provide suitable *ex-situ* habitat to support the above SCI species nor were any recorded during the field survey, aside from Chough, which is assessed separately in the subsequent paragraph.

As described in the field survey results in Section 3.1, only one individual Chough was recorded just outside the Site's bounds, which is not of significance in the context of the wider SPA population. As per the Site Synopsis for this SPA (NPWS, 2015), high densities of Chough occur within Valentia Island (42 birds), while up to 64 birds have been observed in Rossbehy and 33 birds in Derrynane, all of which lie >40km from the Site. Furthermore, foraging mainly occurs within 300m of clifftop breeding Sites, again, far outside the Zol of the Proposed Development.

In the Operational Phase, it is unlikely that the hedgerow trimming works be a significant disturbance to the SPA, given the separation distance between the Application Site and the SPA, and small-scale, temporary nature of this type of work. In addition, the SCI species for which this SPA is designated do not nest in hedgerows.

As such, there is no potential for significant effects on the SCI species of Iveragh Peninsula SPA as a result of the Construction or Operational Phases of the Proposed Development.

3.2.3.4 *Summary of Assessment*

Table 3-1 summarises the potential for S-P-R connectivity to European sites within the potential Zol of the Proposed Development.

² Cutts N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013). The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.

³ BSI (2014) Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise. ISBN 978 0 580 77749 3. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2014.



Table 3-1: S-P-R Connectivity to European sites within the potential Zol

Site Code	European Site Name	List of Qualifying Features	Distance from the proposed scheme (km)	S-P-R Assessment Summary	Considered further in screening in relation to significance of potential effect (Y/N)
000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</p> <p>European dry heaths [4030]</p> <p>Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</p> <p><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</p> <p><i>Calaminarian</i> grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</p> <p>Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p>	1.0km northeast	No notable pathways for the propagation of significant effects between the Proposed Development and this SAC and its QIs were identified.	No



Site Code	European Site Name	List of Qualifying Features	Distance from the proposed scheme (km)	S-P-R Assessment Summary	Considered further in screening in relation to significance of potential effect (Y/N)
		<p>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]</p> <p><i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]</p> <p><i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</p> <p><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <p><i>Euphydrias aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]</p> <p><i>Alosa fallax killarnensis</i> (Killarney Shad) [5046]</p> <p><i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i> (Killarney Fern) [6985]</p>			
002262	Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</p> <p>Reefs [1170]</p>	2.9km southwest	No notable pathways for the propagation of significant effects between the Proposed Development and this SAC and its QIs were identified.	No



Site Code	European Site Name	List of Qualifying Features	Distance from the proposed scheme (km)	S-P-R Assessment Summary	Considered further in screening in relation to significance of potential effect (Y/N)
004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	1.5km west	No notable pathways for the propagation of significant effects between the Proposed Development and this SPA and its associated SCIs were identified.	No



3.2.4 Summary of S-P-R Findings

In identifying European sites which may be affected by the Project, the following is concluded:

- There are no European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the Project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them.
- There are no European sites with ecological connectivity via air and hydrological pathways caused by the Proposed Development during any of its phases.

Hence, further assessment of potential for significant effects on European sites from this Project alone will not be required in this report.

3.2.5 In-Combination Effects

Although this Project acting alone does not have the potential to cause significant effects on any European sites, the potential for significant effects resulting from if this Project being undertaken simultaneously with other projects in the vicinity is assessed.

A search of planning applications located within a precautionary 500m radius of the Application Site or with a connection to Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154), Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262) was conducted using the National Planning Application Database⁴. Planning applications (excluding retentions) since 2020 were assessed for their potential to act in-combination with the Proposed Development and cause likely significant effects on the relevant European sites. The majority of planning applications within this search area comprise small-scale residential developments (i.e. individual dwellings) and retentions; no large-scale planning applications (LRDs, Wind Farms etc) lie within the vicinity of the Application Site.

Of note is the South Kerry Greenway (ABP Ref: 302450) which was granted by ABP in November 2020 and is currently undergoing construction. While this lies outside of the 5-year period within which the planning application search was conducted, it is included here for clarity. This project will meet with the Proposed Development to form a complete greenway route between Glenbeigh and Cahersiveen. There may be some overlap between the two construction phases, however, notably, submitted as a component of the granted planning application is a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which includes a range of mitigation measures within to ensure the protection of any potential QI and SCI receptors of European sites. The NIS objectively concluded, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, and subject to the full implementation of the mitigation measures, that the effects identified in the NIS will not result in any adverse effects in contravention of the site-specific conservation objectives of any QI or SCI of a European site. Mitigation measures include water quality protection measures to protect foraging and commuting Otter, timing of works to protect Lesser Horseshoe, buffer zones around known Lesser Horseshoe roosts and an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) who will be present throughout the duration of the Construction Phase ensuring the mitigation measures are carried out ensuring the protection of all SCI species and QI habitats and species for which nearby SPAs and SACs are designated. Upon implementation of the measures outlined within the NIS, and there will be no residual effects on any European sites, including those assessed within this AA Screening Report, namely, Iveragh Peninsula SPA, and the cliff-nesting SCI birds for which it is designated, and Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC, in particular and of relevance, QI Lesser Horseshoe Bat and Otter.

As such, it is determined that no in-combination residual effects of significance are anticipated as a result of these two projects being undertaken concurrently.

⁴ National Planning Application Map Viewer - My Plan [Accessed 27 November 2025]



3.3 Screening Conclusion

The results of the S-P-R assessment has identified that there is no potential for significant effects on European sites. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the sources for impacts, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying interests or special conservation interest or the associated site-specific conservation objectives of any designated European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects. This is for the following reasons:

- The location of the Proposed Development is not located within any European site nor any QI habitat;
- The proposed works are temporary in duration;
- There are no notable or meaningful pathways for the propagation of significant adverse effects between the Proposed Development and any European sites, and thus there will be no significant direct or indirect impacts on any QIs or SCIs of any European site;
- There is no potential for in-combination effects arising from this Proposed Development being undertaken simultaneously with any other nearby permitted development.

Thus, there is no requirement to proceed to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report is not required in this case.



4. REFERENCES

- An Bord Pleanála (ABP) (2024) Technical Note: Ecology 318672. Available at: [r318672a.pdf](#) [Accessed January 2026]
- BSI (2014) Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise. ISBN 978 0 580 77749 3. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2014.
- CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester
- Cutts, N., Hemingway, K. and Spencer, J. (2013) The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.
- DEAHG (2014) Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters.
- DEHLG (2010) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. DEHLG, Dublin. (Rev. Feb 2010).
- European Commission (2000) Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. Commission of the European Communities, Brussels.
- European Commission (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. European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission (2019) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission. (2021). Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Brussels, 28.9.2021
- Fehily Timoney & Company (2025) Scheme Overview: South Kerry Greenway Cahersiveen to Reenard. Drawing no. P23228-FT-AL-ZZ-DR-CE-0001.
- Fossitt, J. (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.
- King, J.J. & O' Gorman, N. (2018) Initial observations on feeding juvenile sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus* L.) in Irish lakes. *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, 118B(2), 113–120.
- NPWS (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- NPWS (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.



NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC 002262. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) Site Synopsis: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014) Site Synopsis: Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC 002262. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) Site Synopsis: Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report.

NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS & VWT (2022) Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022- 2026. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.

NRA (2008) Guidelines for the treatment of Otters prior to the construction of national road schemes. The National Roads Authority, Dublin 4.

Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021) Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management.

Ryan Hanley (2014) Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment Screening Methodology for the Maintenance of Arterial Drainage Schemes. Prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Office of Public Works (OPW)



FEHILY TIMONEY

DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

www.fehilytimoney.ie

 **Cork**

 **Dublin**

 **Carlow**

