

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL CORK CITY: ST. CATHERINE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Appropriate Assessment Screening

SRTS-CCC-EN-S01-RP-AA-0001 P00



Client: Cork City Council
Date: 02.04.24

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Issue and revision record

Date	Rev	Change Description	Author	Checker	Approver
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Detailed Change Log

Rev	Change Description
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1. Introduction

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AA Screening) is being undertaken to satisfy the legal requirements set out in Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (EC 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Amended 2010), and the European Communities (Habitats and Birds) Regulations 2011. Natura 2000 Sites are designated by EU Member States for the protection of Annex I-listed habitats and Annex II-listed plant and animal species; the Natura 2000 Sites is comprised of the following designations

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) – for the protection of habitat types or animal and plant species that are vulnerable or rare
- Special Protection Areas (SPA's) – for the protection of vulnerable or rare bird species

The subject of this assessment screening is St. Catherines National School, Cork City, which, under the Safe Routes to School Programme, is proposed to undergo a number of developments to improve safety and accessibility for school children.

The Competent Authority is required to determine likely significant effects (LSE's) of the development on Natura 2000 Sites, designated for special protection under the EU Habitats Directive with respect to their Qualifying Interests (QI's) and Conservation Objectives (CO's). This report comprises an Appropriate Assessment (Stage 1) Screening, which will allow the Competent Authority to make this determination.

2. European Sites Data

Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (004030)	
Conservation Objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as special conservation interests for this SPA.
Qualifying Interests	bar-tailed godwit, common tern (breeding), golden plover, ruff, whooper swan, black-headed gull, black-tailed godwit, common gull, curlew, dunlin, great crested grebe, grey heron, grey plover, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, little grebe, oystercatcher, pintail, red-breasted merganser, redshank, shelduck, shoveler, teal, and widgeon. This site is an internationally important wetland site supporting > 20,000 wintering waterfowl.
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Objectives for Cork Harbour SPA [004030] ConservationObjectives.rdl (npws.ie); • S.I. No. 391/2021 - European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (Cork Harbour Special Protection Area 004030) Regulations 2021 (irishstatutebook.ie); • Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (NPWS); • Site Synopsis Cork Harbour SPA Site Code 004030 (NPWS) SITE SYNOPSIS (npws.ie).

Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation (001058)	
Conservation Objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been designated.
Qualifying Interests	Mudflats, sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, estuaries, spartina swards, Atlantic salt meadows.
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Objectives for Great Island Channel SAC [001058] ConservationObjectives.rdl (npws.ie); • S.I. No. 206/2019 - European Union Habitats (Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation 001058) Regulations 2019 (irishstatutebook.ie); • npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/statutory_instrument_maps/MAP001058.pdf; • Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (NPWS); • Site Synopsis Great Island Channel Site Code 001058 SITE SYNOPSIS (npws.ie).

3. Proposed Development

Cork Safe Routes to School: St. Lukes National School	
Development consent type	Minor Works/Road Maintenance Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994
Development location	St. Catherines National School is located southwest of Cork City, on Bishopstown Avenue. Works will largely be carried out within the existing infrastructural framework.
Description of development	<p>The main features of the proposed works are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The widening of footpaths around the front of school areas to improve pedestrian safety. • The provision of six raised tables including eight uncontrolled courtesy crossings at the immediate surrounding areas of the school to facilitate traffic calming and pedestrian safety. • The provision of raised continuous footpaths across vehicular entrances to highlight pedestrian priority at the Front of School area. • The introduction of a one-way traffic system, flowing from North at the junction of Highfield Lawn, to South of Highfield Lawn. • The introduction of a one-way traffic system, flowing from West at the junction of Woodleigh Park to East of Bishopstown Avenue. • The provision of road markings to highlight a shared cyclist/vehicle carriageway. • The provision of advanced warning signage, road markings and high friction coloured surfacing, on the approach to the Front of School Gateways, as a means of calming traffic in the interest of cyclist and pedestrian safety. • Road realignment including narrowing of the carriageway to facilitate traffic calming. • Other necessary associated ancillary works.
Distance from SAC	At its closest point, the site of works is located 17.34km from Great Island Channel SAC (001058)
Distance from SPA	At its closest point, the site of works is located 15.77km from Cork Harbour SPA (004030)
Relevant strategies or policies	National Development Plan 2021-2030 Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (2040)
EIA screening/ EIAR completed?	EIA Screening Completed. EIAR not required.

4. Assessment of Impacts

Assessment of Likely Significant Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects	Yes/No
1) Is the proposed development directly connected or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
2) Is the proposed development located within or partially within any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
3) Is the proposed development located within 100m of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
4) Does the proposed development involve the extension or upgrade of a cycleway or walkway within 200m of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
5) Does the proposed development involve works in the intertidal or coastal zone within the potential impact zone of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
6) Could the proposed development increase the level of recreational or other use of marine or intertidal areas within the potential impact zone of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
7) Does the proposed development involve the excavation of previously undeveloped land within an area that has been identified to be at risk of flooding within the potential impact zone of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
8) Does the proposed development involve the removal of significant amounts of topsoil within 100m of any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
9) Does the existing wastewater treatment system have the capacity to treat any additional loading?	N/A
10) Could the proposed development result in direct surface water or other discharge to waterbodies in or feeding into any Natura 2000 Sites? a) Could it result in additional storm flows into a combined sewer and subsequently into a combined sewer overflow (CSO), resulting in increased frequency, quantity and/or duration of overflow from the CSO to watercourses feeding into any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
11) Does the proposed development involve dredging, or could it result in the mobilisation of marine sediments in any Natura 2000 Sites?	No
12) Does the proposed development increase the risk of oil or chemical spillage or leaks within the marine environment or watercourse within the potential impact zone of any Natura 2000 Site?	No
13) Are there relevant plans or projects which, in combination with the proposed development, are likely to give rise to any cumulative effects?	No

Comments or notes

The scheme will largely be developed within the existing infrastructural framework.

5. Screening Conclusion

Screening Conclusion Statement

In view of the above, and of best scientific knowledge, it is considered that:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Assessment Stage II is not required | The proposed development is directly connected/necessary to the conservation management of any Natura 2000 Designated Sites. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Assessment Stage II is not required | It can be excluded through screening that the proposed development will have significant effects on Natura 2000 Designated Sites. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further information is required | Potential impacts have been identified through initial screening/and or there is insufficient information to enable the planning authority to screen out impacts, but on balance it is determined that the issues could be resolved through minor modifications to the development or by appropriate conditions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Assessment Stage II is required | Significant effects have been identified and/or significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain, and the submission of a Natura Impact Assessment is required, or the proposed development must be rejected. |

Further information required / Comments / Notes

This Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise identifies that the likelihood of significant effects on all Natura 2000 Designated Sites as a result of the proposed development can be eliminated. In view of best scientific knowledge, it is the professional opinion of the author of this report that due to the lack of connectivity between the site of works and nearby Designated Sites, and the small scope of this project, a Stage II appropriate assessment is not required.