

Cork City Council

Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane

AA Screening Report

Reference: 304272-00 AA Screening Issue

Issue 3 | 31 October 2024

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 304272-00

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1. Introduction

This report contains the information required for the competent authority, Cork City Council (CCC) to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the proposed Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane project (hereafter referred to as the '*proposed development*').

The proposed development will consist of:

- Introduction of a Northbound contraflow bus lane on Anglesea Street between South Terrace and Old Station Road;
- Realignment of carriageway lanes from Infirmary Road at Sawmill Street to Anglesea Street/Old Station Road Junction;
- Realignment of the Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction;
- Removal of public parking on Anglesea Street;
- Upgrading pedestrian crossings on Anglesea Street and South Terrace to toucan crossings;
- New raised crossings and footpath build-outs at Anglesea Terrace and Hibernian Road;
- Removal of existing traffic island at Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction;
- New traffic islands at Anglesea Street/Old Station Road Junction and Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction;
- Removal of right turn lane on Copley Street; and
- Removal of existing traffic island at Anglesea Street/Copely Street Junction together with the extension of the northern footpath on Copley street at this junction.

See Figure 1.1 for an outline of the location of the proposed development. Further details of the proposed development are presented in Section 3 below. Refer also to the drawings provided in Appendix C.

This report has been prepared by Arup on behalf of CCC and contains the information required for CCC to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the proposed development.

The aims of this report are to:

- Provide information on, and assess the potential for the proposed development to significantly impact on Natura 2000 Sites (also known as European sites);
- Determine whether the proposed development is directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of any Natura 2000 Sites; and
- Determine whether the proposed development, alone or in combination with other projects and plans, is likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in view of their conservation objectives.

The screening information presented in this report is as follows:

- Methodology, Guidance and Data Sources, refer to Section 2;
- Characteristics of the proposed development, refer to Section 3;
- Ecological Overview, refer to Section 4;
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites (European sites) within the zone of influence and assessment of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, refer to Section 5;
- Assessment of Significance, refer to Section 6; and

- Conclusions, refer to Section 7.

The *Findings of No Significant Effects* report is presented in Appendix A. See also Appendix C for the relevant planning drawings which outline the proposed development.



Figure 1.1: Indicative redline boundary of the proposed development area | Background Mapping © Maxar, Microsoft | not to scale

This report has been by Dan Garvey of Arup. Dan has over 20 years' experience in environmental impact assessment (EIA), appropriate assessment (AA), industrial licensing, waste and GMM licensing, and planning. He has prepared more than 35 environmental impact statements / assessment reports.

The assessment presented in this report has not taken into account any measures intended to avoid or reduce any harmful effects of the proposed development on any Natura 2000 site(s). It is also important to note that any mitigation measures referenced in this EIA Screening Report (which is included in this planning package) are not relevant to the management of Natura 2000 sites and address potential impacts entirely separate from, and unrelated to, the consideration of potential effects on Natura 2000 sites.

2. Methodology, Guidance and Data Sources

2.1 Definitions

2.1.1 European Sites

European sites, as defined under Section 177R of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) are part of the Natura 2000 network and include those designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate SACs (cSACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or proposed SPAs (pSPAs).

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats¹ (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II species² as defined by the respective annexes of the Habitats Directive.

SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and all migratory birds and their habitats as defined by the respective annexes of the Birds Directive.

The Annex habitats and species, for which each site is selected, are termed the Qualifying Interests (QI) for SACs and termed Special Conservation Interests (SCI) for SPAs. Sites are considered within Section 5 of this report.

2.1.2 Conservation Objectives

Conservation Objectives (COs) for European sites are defined for the relevant QIs and SCIs. In its most general sense, a CO is the specification of the overall target for the species and/or habitat types for which a site is designated in order for it to contribute to maintaining or reaching favourable conservation status³.

The COs for a given site are underpinned by a list of attributes and targets for each QI/SCI, with those targets needing to be reached to maintain or restore favourable conservation condition of each QI/SCI.

2.1.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model is used to assess where a potential effect may result by examining the source, its pathway and the receptor. As per guidance from the Office of PR⁴ these can be defined as follows:

- **Source:** The origin of a potential effect which may include characteristics of a plan or project that have the potential to result in effects e.g. direct impacts such as loss of habitat.
- **Pathway:** How the potential effect may occur on the receptor. These are identifiable through linkages that may occur through the plan or project and European sites e.g. direct pathways such as physical proximity, hydrological connections or indirect pathways such as disturbance to migrating species; and
- **Receptor:** The European site network and respective QIs/SCIs, their ecological condition and sensitivities e.g. freshwater pearl mussel is sensitive to siltation in water.

2.1.4 Zone of Influence

A ZoI within any assessment of projects or plans considers the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed plan/project and associated activities. The ZoI is established using the SPR method.

¹ Annex I habitats are habitats whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

² Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

³ Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites (November 2012) European Commission, Doc. Hab.12-04/06. Accessed at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/commission_note2_EN.pdf

⁴ OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01. Accessed at <http://www.opr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/9729-Office-of-the-Planning-Regulator-Appropriate-Assessment-Screening-booklet-15.pdf> November 2023.

2.2 Guidance

The following guidance was used in carrying out the assessment:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 1/10 and PSSP 2/10.
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites: Methodical guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 20214).
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000).
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007).
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2019); and
- Office of the Planning Regulator Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).

The requirements for Screening for AA, and AA, for European sites, are set out in Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011) and relevant amendments (SI. 239/2021) with numerous relevant rulings and opinions issues in both Irish and EU courts.

2.3 Data Sources

A desk study was carried out. Sources of information utilised for this report and accessed during September 2024 include the following:

- Ordnance Survey Ireland OSI Mapping and aerial photography – www.osi.ie
- Bing aerial photography – www.bing.com/maps
- Google aerial photography – www.googlemaps.com
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) – www.npws.ie
- National Parks and Wildlife Service online data on protected flora and fauna
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – www.epa.ie (EPA Online Environmental Map Viewer)
- Information on environmental water quality data available from (EPA, www.catchments.ie)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre – www.biodiversityireland.ie
- BirdWatch Ireland – www.birdwatchireland.ie/
- Google Earth aerial photography
- Fossit (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council
- Cork City Council Development Plan 2022-2028

An ecological site walkover was also undertaken in September 2024, see Section 4 for details.

2.4 Methodology

In line with the relevant guidance and case law, the Screening for AA consists of the following steps, which are iterative in nature:

1. **Impact Prediction:** Identify the aspects of the proposed development likely to affect the COs of European Sites. The more general classification of impacts can include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A SPR model has been used to identify the zone of influence.
2. **Assessment of Potential Likely Significant Effects:** The potential impacts of the proposed development are assessed as to whether they are likely to result in potential likely significant effects thereby undermining the COs for a European site. This requires understanding of relevant QIs/SCIs and associated COs. Where likely significant effects cannot be excluded, those effects are subject to full AA.

Further, the AA then consists of:

1. **Assessment of Adverse Effects:** Here, following identification of the likely significant effects, these effects are assessed to determine whether they would give rise to an adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant European sites in view of the sites COs, either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects.
2. **Recommendation of Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation measures are identified to eliminate or render insignificant any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site either alone or in-combination with other projects and/or plans. Such mitigation measures are developed following full and precise analysis of the proposed development and its effects upon European sites.

If the potential for adverse effects remains after the completion of the AA process, there are two further stages to the process.

The assessment of alternative solutions which is 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.

Subsequently there is an assessment for when no alternative solution exists and where adverse impacts remain. This is an assessment of compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

2.4.1 Impact Prediction: Identifying the Zone of Influence

The ZoI is established using the SPR method and takes into consideration the scale of the elements of the proposed development. There is no overarching recommended ZoI, and guidance from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the plan/project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects (cumulative).

For an effect to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. QI or SCI of a European site), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse/drainage channel which connects a plan area to an SAC).

The identification of the European sites within the ZoI has been carried out by utilising GIS datasets from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The sites have been determined through the identification of the potential sources of the impacts of the proposed development and their pathways for effect to European sites.

2.4.2 Assessment of Effects

2.4.2.1 Understanding the Conservation Objectives of European Sites

The COs of European sites are focused primarily on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species of interest (i.e. the QIs and SCIs). European sites have Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs), which focus on the specific qualifying habitat or populations of species at each site by setting targets for appropriate attributes. The detailed SSCO area available from the NPWS

website⁵ and outline the attributes and targets for respective QIs and SCIs of European sites. Consideration of the implications of the proposed development against the SSCOs (where relevant) of European sites supports the assessment of whether the proposed development would have a likely significant effect or an adverse effect upon the integrity of such sites. For example, where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development would not impede any achievement of any SSCOs for a particular site, it would support a conclusion that the proposed development would not have a significant or adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant site.

2.4.2.2 Assessment of Effects of the Project

Guidance documents (see Section 2.2) provide proposed criteria to determine if a proposal is likely to have adverse effects. These criteria are particularly suited to AA of individual projects, as detail on the receiving environment will be available for analysis when project locations are known.

2.4.2.3 In-Combination Assessment of Effects

The consideration of in-combination effects discusses the potential for other projects and/or plans that may spatially or temporally overlap with the proposed scheme.

3. Characteristics of the Proposed Development

3.1 Introduction

As described previously in Section 1, the proposed development will consist of:

- Introduction of a Northbound contraflow bus lane on Anglesea Street between South Terrace and Old Station Road;
- Realignment of carriageway lanes from Infirmary Road at Sawmill Street to Anglesea Street/Old Station Road Junction;
- Realignment of the Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction;
- Removal of public parking on Anglesea Street;
- Upgrading pedestrian crossings on Anglesea Street and South Terrace to toucan crossings;
- New raised crossings and footpath build-outs at Anglesea Terrace and Hibernian Road;
- Removal of existing traffic island at Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction;
- New traffic islands at Anglesea Street/Old Station Road Junction and Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction;
- Removal of right turn lane on Copley Street; and
- Removal of existing traffic island at Anglesea Street/Copley Street Junction together with the extension of the northern footpath on Copley street at this junction.

3.2 Location of the proposed development and existing land-use

The proposed development will be located along a number of locations in Cork City including Anglesea Street, South Terrace, Old Station Road, Sawmill Street, Hibernian Road, Anglesea Terrace and Copley Street.

The area in which the proposed development will be located consists of existing publicly owned hardstanding of mostly road surface, cycle lanes and footpaths. The land use across the area of the proposed

⁵ NPWS Conservation Objectives. Accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives> March 2024.

development is classified as ‘*artificial surfaces*’ according to the EPA Corine (Coordination of Information on the Environment) land cover classification.

The proposed development is located along existing streets within an existing built-up area in the city. There are a number of commercial, office, residential and healthcare buildings located adjacent to the proposed development, namely Anglesea Street including Anglesea Garda Station, Breast Check Southern Unit and South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital.

3.3 Detailed Description of the Proposed Development

3.3.1 Anglesea Street

The elements of the proposed development along Anglesea Street from South Terrace to Old Station Road will consist of the following:

- Introduction of a Northbound contraflow bus lane. This is a proposed interim measure in advance of the Bus Connects Cork Sustainable Transport Corridor H, which proposes to introduce two-way general traffic along this street and provide an inbound bus lane. To accommodate the proposed contraflow bus lane, street parking between Anglesea Terrace and Old Station Road will be removed. The dedicated right turn lane from Anglesea Street to South terrace will also be removed.
- Street parking will be removed on the Western side of Anglesea Street between Hibernian Road and Anglesea Terrace. The remaining space inside the bus lane will turn into a loading bay;
- A new traffic island will be constructed for the bus lane at Anglesea Street/Old Station Road junction. A new bus lane only signal will be proposed and installed on this island;
- Introduction of a new raised crossing at Anglesea Terrace will shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians. To achieve this the footway will be extended on either side of the crossing. A dropped kerb arrangement will be proposed to maintain access to John Morris Tyre Centre at this location. These arrangements will improve accessibility to the footpaths;
- A raised crossing will be introduced at Hibernian Road to improve the safety of the crossing; and
- The pedestrian and cycle crossing on Anglesea Street near Hibernian Road will be changed to a Toucan crossing.

3.3.2 Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction

The elements of the proposed realignment of the Anglesea Street/Old Station Road Junction will consist of the following:

- Removal of one of the lanes from Infirmary Road onto South Terrace;
- Introduction of the Northbound contraflow bus lane starting at Sawmill Street;
- Removal of existing traffic island at the junction to allow for the bus lane extents;
- Proposed new traffic island west of the new bus lane. The new bus only signal will be installed on this proposed island; and
- Extension of the footway at the junction on the western side of Anglesea Street around the corner onto South Terrace. This is to facilitate a shared space between the pedestrian/cycle crossing on Anglesea Street and the pedestrian/cycle crossing on South Terrace. The crossing type on South Terrace will also be changed to a toucan crossing.

3.3.3 Copley Street

The elements of the proposed development on Copley Street will consist of the following:

- Removal of the right turn lane onto Anglesea Street. Traffic will no longer be able to make this turn; and
- Removal of existing traffic island at Anglesea Street/Copely Street Junction together with the extension of the northern footpath on Copley street at this junction. This will reduce the width of the crossing point for pedestrians and cyclist.

3.3.4 Drainage

The existing drainage network in the site boundary will be maintained. Relocation of some existing gullies will be required where the kerb lines are changing but these will tie into the existing drainage network and ultimately enter the River Lee via the outfall at Union Quay. Areas where gullies will need to be relocated are at the proposed raised crossings at Anglesea Terrace and Hibernian Street.

3.4 Construction of the Proposed Development

It is expected that construction will commence in Q3 2025, subject to approval. The expected duration of the construction works will be approximately 3 months. These types of works are straightforward, well understood, are carried out in the city on a regular basis and can be easily undertaken.

Given that Anglesea Street is a heavily-trafficked road and that existing traffic will need to be facilitated during the works, the Contractor will be required to develop and implement a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) at the outset to ensure that traffic disruption is kept to a minimum.

Construction works within the proposed development will include excavation of the street surfacing and breaking out and excavation of existing footpaths and kerbs. It is envisaged that the maximum depth of excavations on the street will be approximately 700mm for the full depth reconstruction required at the existing traffic island location. The majority of the street excavation is predicted to be resurfacing only with a depth of less than 100mm. The maximum depth of excavation on the footpaths is envisaged at approx. 400mm. Footpath and kerb excavations are foreseen to only take place at the raised crossing locations where there are footpath extensions proposed at Anglesea Terrace and Hibernian Street along with the footpath extension at Anglesea Street/South Terrace Junction.

Barriers and hoardings will be installed to restrict access and to provide safety measures for workers and passers-by. Excavation works will be carried out on a phased basis to limit the impact on the activity of the street. The phasing will be set out and agreed at Construction stage along with the implementation of the Traffic Management Plan. Access to the city centre and the properties where construction works are proposed will be maintained at all times during the construction phase.

The Contractor will ensure that the proposed works are carried out in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013). There is a low probability that accidents or pollution spillages will occur as the construction works are standard in nature and are minor (such as footpath replacement, road resurfacing and service excavations). This type of work is frequently carried out throughout Cork city and other cities throughout Ireland on a regular basis.

4. Ecological Overview

4.1 Introduction

This section provides a description of the ecological baseline within the proposed development boundary. Impacts from the proposed development generally on biodiversity are described in this section. Specific impacts on Natura 2000 sites are addressed in Section 5 below.

As described previously in Section 3.2, the area in which the proposed development will be located consists of existing publicly owned hardstanding of mostly road surface, cycle lanes and footpaths. The land use across the area of the proposed development is classified as ‘*artificial surfaces*’ according to the EPA Corine (Coordination of Information on the Environment) land cover classification.

The proposed development is located along existing streets within an existing built-up area in the city. There are a number of commercial, office, residential and healthcare buildings located adjacent to the proposed development, namely Anglesea Street including Anglesea Garda Station, Breast Check Southern Unit and South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital.

The baseline information for this section was gathered by desktop research and an ecological site walkover survey carried out during September 2024. The habitats and species identified during the desktop study and walkover survey are described in detail below.

4.2 Ecological Baseline

4.2.1 Habitats

Habitats within the proposed development area were identified during a site walkover survey and during desktop reviews. Habitat mapping was carried out in line with methodology outlined in the Heritage Council Publication, Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Heritage Council, 2011). The terrestrial habitats within or adjacent to the proposed development site was classified using the classification scheme outlined in the Heritage council publication A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000) and cross referenced with Annex I Habitats where required. A description of these habitats is described below. No rare plant species were recorded within the works area during the site survey. The habitats recorded on site are shown in Figure 4.1.

The ecological value of habitats has been defined using the classification scheme outlined in the Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2009). It should be noted that the value of a habitat is site specific and will be partially related to the amount of that habitat in the surrounding landscape. Habitats that are considered to be good examples of Annex I and Priority habitats are classed as being of International or National Importance. Semi-natural habitats with high biodiversity in a county context and that are vulnerable, are considered to be of County Importance. Habitats that are semi-natural, or locally important for wildlife, are considered to be of Local Importance (higher value) and sites containing small areas of semi-natural habitat or which maintain connectivity between habitats are considered to be of Local Importance (lower value).

4.2.1.1 *Buildings and Artificial Surfaces – BL3*

This habitat covers the majority of the proposed development area and includes all of the existing roadways and streets, footpaths, paved, tarmac and cement areas. This is a highly modified and disturbed habitat, with low species diversity and minimal ecological value. The modification of this habitat due to the proposed development will not result in significant impacts on biodiversity.

4.2.1.2 *Treelines*

This habitat covers the trees along both sides of Anglesea Street between Copley Street and South Terrace. This habitat consists of a treeline that is a narrow row or single line of trees that is greater than 5m in height and includes tree-lined roads or avenues, narrow shelter belts with no more than a single line of trees, and overgrown hedgerows that are dominated by trees. Most treelines are planted and trees are often regularly spaced. They commonly comprise a high proportion of non-native species. This habitat also covers a number of trees along the eastern end of South Terrace (on both sides of the street).

These trees comprise typical urban species, including London Plane and Hornbeam. The ecological value of this habitat is defined as local importance (higher value).

No trees will be removed during the construction of the proposed development.

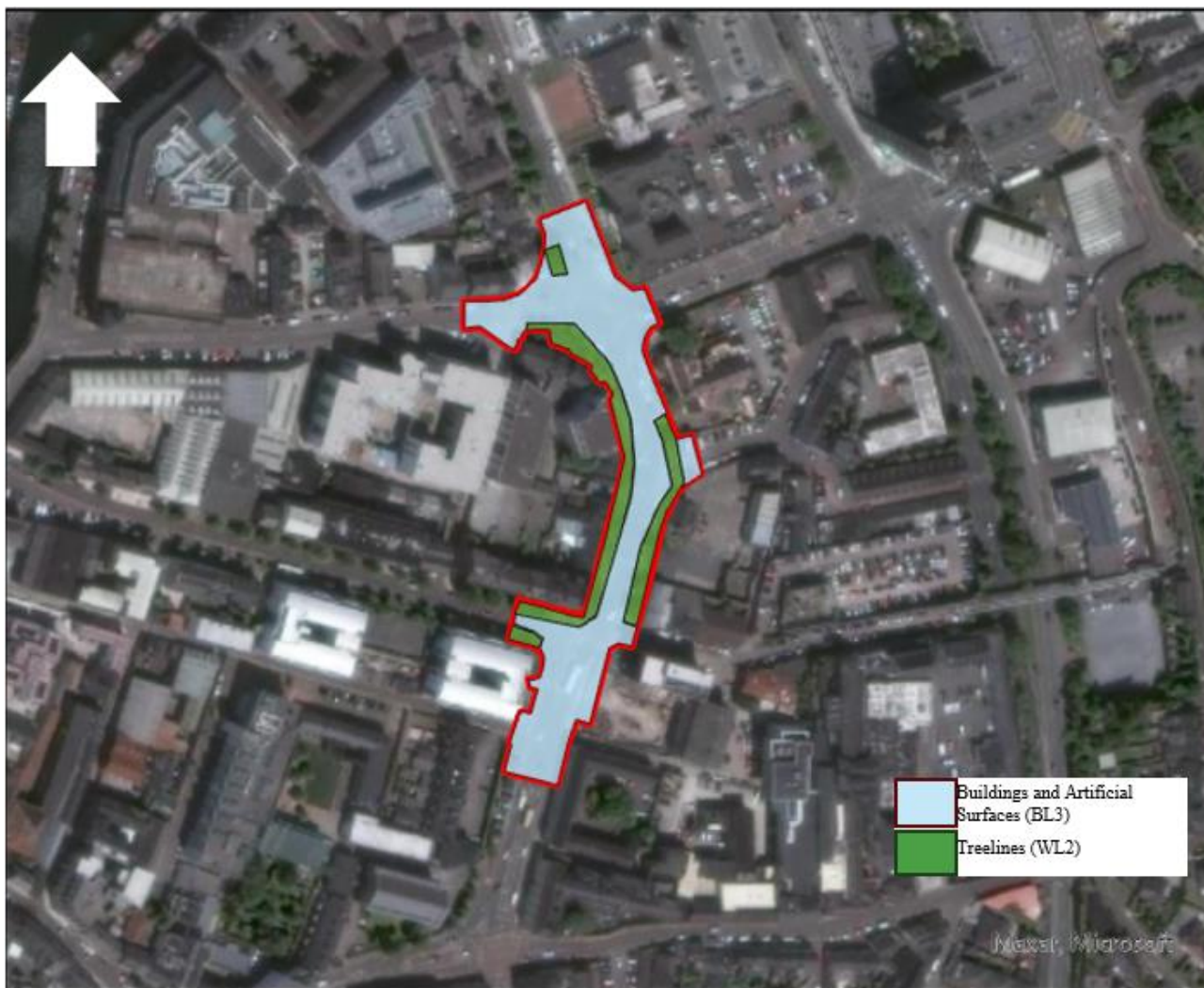


Figure 4.1: Habitat mapping of the proposed development area | Maxar, Microsoft | Background mapping © Maxar, Microsoft | not to scale

4.2.2 Records of Protected and Invasive Species

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) website (www.biodiversity.ie) contains a mapping tool that indicates known records of legally protected species within a selected 1km Grid Square. The proposed development site is located within two 1km grid squares – W6771 and W6871 and data on these squares was downloaded from the website on 3rd September 2024. It is noted that this list is not exhaustive, and an absence of records does not imply that they are not present within the given area.

The following protected species have been recorded in these 1km grid squares – Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), European Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Common Swift (*Apus apus*), Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*), Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*), Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*), Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), European Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*).

The following invasive species were also recorded within these 1km grid squares – Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Narrow-leaved Ragwort (*Senecio inaequidens*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Traveller's-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*), Greater White-toothed Shrew (*Crocidura russula*), Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Rhododendron ponticum, and Three-cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*).

No alien invasive species were recorded during the site walkover.

4.2.3 Birds

Given that the proposed development area consists predominantly of existing streets and hardstanding, it is considered that the proposed development area is not of significant importance for bird species.

Overall, the proposed development site is of local value for terrestrial bird species that are relatively common in the urban cities and in the Irish countryside. There are no terrestrial features or habitats of particular value, which would differentiate the proposed development site from large areas of similar habitat in the surrounding landscape. Similarly, the proposed development site does not provide important foraging or nesting habitat for any QI species.

This information is based on desktop research.

4.2.4 Mammals

4.2.4.1 Bats

According to the National Biodiversity Data Centre there are records for Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*), Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*) and Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) from Cork. However, the opportunity for suitable habitats is very limited at Anglesea Street and environs.

The proposed development site lacks any favourable features such as sheltering vegetation, hedgerows, significant treelines or cover from predators and the weather. It is also noted that due to the location of the proposed development site, which is situated within a heavily urbanised area, it is lit by street lighting and passing vehicle headlights, which is a known barrier to commuting bats. The proposed development does not include the demolition of any buildings/structures which may be used as a roosting site for bats. No trees will be removed to facilitate the proposed development.

4.2.4.2 Other

There are also records for Badger (*Meles meles*), Irish Stoat (*Mustela erminea*), Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), Eurasian Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*) and Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus*) within Cork City, however the proposed development area has limited suitability.

This information is based on desktop research.

Due to the absence of green space, ongoing city centre noise and disturbance and the influence of lighting, it is unlikely that the proposed development site is of any interest to other species.

4.2.4.3 Natura 2000 Sites

The closest European site (Natura 2000 site) to the proposed development site is Cork Harbour SPA, located approximately 2.5km east as the crow flies. The Great Island Channel SAC is located approximately 8.7km east as the crow flies.

Surface water from the proposed development will enter the existing drainage system and outfall to the River Lee and therefore there is a hydrological connection between the proposed development and the aforementioned Natura 2000 sites.

4.2.5 Potential Effects on Biodiversity

Potential effects on biodiversity have been considered under the following headings:

4.2.5.1 Habitat loss and habitat severance

Of the habitats mentioned in Section 4.2.1 above, only BL3-Buildings and Artificial Surfaces will be directly affected by the proposed development. While sections of this habitat will be removed as a result of the proposed development, this habitat is of low ecological value.

No trees (Treelines WL2) will be removed as a result of the proposed development.

Overall, any loss of this habitat associated with the proposed development, at most a negative effect at a local level.

4.2.5.2 *Disturbance to Fauna*

Some localised temporary dust, surface-water and noise emissions may be generated during the construction works within the road network. The proposed development area is of not of ecological importance and impacts will not be significant.

The Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, provides that it is an offence to cut, grub, burn or destroy any vegetation on uncultivated land, or any such growing in any hedge or ditch from the 1st of March to the 31st of August. Exemptions include the clearance of vegetation in the course of road or other construction works or in the development or preparation of sites on which any building or other structure is intended to be provided. Nonetheless, no vegetation will be removed to facilitate the proposed development.

Some noise emissions during the works within the proposed development area are expected during the construction phase. Any birds in the area will already be accustomed to a certain level of disturbance due to the existing traffic noise, ongoing construction projects and the urban nature of the area.

Therefore, no significant effects are predicted on fauna during the construction or operation of the proposed development.

4.2.5.3 *Impacts on Water Quality*

There will be no direct interaction with the River Lee itself during the construction or operation of the proposed development. The existing drainage network in the site boundary will be maintained. Relocation of some existing gullies will be required where the kerb lines are changing but these will tie into the existing drainage network and ultimately enter the River Lee via the outfall at Union Quay. Therefore, there is a hydrological connection between the proposed development and the River Lee.

Construction works within the proposed development will include excavation of the street surfacing and breaking out and excavation of existing footpaths and kerbs. Sediment and silt from these activities have the potential to enter the existing surface water drainage network and ultimately outfall to the River Lee. In addition, there is the potential for a pollutant spill from construction plant or machinery. However, the type of construction works proposed are not complex in nature and they are well understood. Thus, the risk of spillages is extremely low. Whilst there is the potential for a minor impact on water quality locally, if silt, suspended solids or pollutant spills were to enter the watercourse they would dilute very quickly given the tidal nature of river at this location. The river at this location is not extremely sensitive to sediment loading as it is located within a tidal area close to Cork Harbour which is subject to large diurnal tidal flows carrying substantial volumes of sediment. As such, any spillages would be quickly diluted.

Downstream of the outfall location is subject to shipping activity such as Kennedy Quay which is a working quay and is likely to be already subject to a certain level of minor diesel/oil spillages. Further the river channel downstream is subject to regular dredging for navigation. Thus, it is unlikely that the habitats and fauna in this section of the river are highly sensitive.

Thus, significant impacts on the biodiversity and water quality of the river due to accidental spillages during construction are not predicted to arise.

The risk of accidental pollution events arising during the operational phase will not change from the current scenario and may even reduce at some locations due to the potential uptake in the use of public transport. Thus, significant impacts on the biodiversity and water quality of the river due to accidental spillages during operation are not predicted to arise.

5. Natura 2000 Sites

5.1 Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development

The zone of influence comprises the area within which the proposed development may potentially affect the conservation objectives or qualifying interests (QI) of a Natura 2000 site. There is no recommended zone of influence, and guidance from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects (cumulative). In addition, guidance from the OPR notes that the ZoI should be established using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) approach.

Natura 2000 sites (European sites) are only at risk from significant effects where a SPR link exists between a proposed development and a Natura 2000 site(s). This can take the form of a direct impact (e.g. where the proposed development and/or associated construction works are located within the boundary of the Natura 2000 site(s)) or an indirect impact where impacts outside of the Natura 2000 site(s) affect ecological receptors within (e.g. impacts to water quality which can affect riparian habitats at a distance from the impact source). Consideration is therefore given to the SPR linkage and associated risks between the proposed development and Natura 2000 sites.

The identification of risk does not automatically mean that an effect will occur, nor that it will be significant. The identification of these risks means that there is a possibility of environmental or ecological damage occurring. The level and significance of the effect depends upon the nature of the consequence, likelihood of the risk and characteristics of the receptor.

The precautionary principle is applied for the purposes of screening to ensure that consideration and pre-emptive action is undertaken where there is a lack of scientific evidence.

The proposed development area as described in Section 3.2 is located on hardstanding areas with low ecological potential.

The type of construction works proposed as described in Section 3.4 above are not complex in nature and are well understood. Emissions will be localised, temporary and minor. The only habitat to be removed is Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3). This is a highly modified and disturbed habitat, with low species diversity and minimal ecological value. The potential for significant disturbance effects on fauna will not arise due to the small scale, duration and location of the proposed works. Whilst there is potential for silt, sediment or pollutant spills to enter the River Lee (via the existing surface water drainage network), significant effects on water quality and water quality dependant habitats are not predicted due to the small scale and nature of the proposed works, the low levels of siltation associated with the excavation works, the low risk of a significant pollution event arising and the large capacity of the River Lee estuary to dilute and disperse sediments and or pollutants.

The habitats within the proposed development site are not significant foraging or breeding or commuting habitat for any mobile QI species.

Thus, it was determined that the likely zone of influence of the proposed development would not extend further than the immediate area around the construction site. However, given that there is a hydrological connection between the proposed development site and the River Lee via the existing surface water drainage network, consideration has also been given to the potential for indirect effects on European sites which are hydrologically linked downstream of the proposed development.

5.2 European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development and Potential Effects

There are no Natura 2000 sites within the construction footprint boundary. No habitat loss will occur within any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this proposed development. The proposed development site is not of importance for the QI species of any Natura 2000 site.

Consultation of NPWS online data identified two designated sites within 15km of the proposed development – one Special Protection Area and one Special Area of Conservation both of which are hydrologically linked via the River Lee. These sites along with their qualifying interests and conservation objectives are outlined in below and in Appendix B.

The closest European site (Natura 2000 site) to the proposed development site is Cork Harbour SPA, located approximately 2.5km east as the crow flies (or 4.5km downstream of the outfall at Union Quay). The Great Island Channel SAC is located approximately 8.7km east as the crow flies (or 9.5km downstream of the outfall at Union Quay). Refer to Figure 5.1.

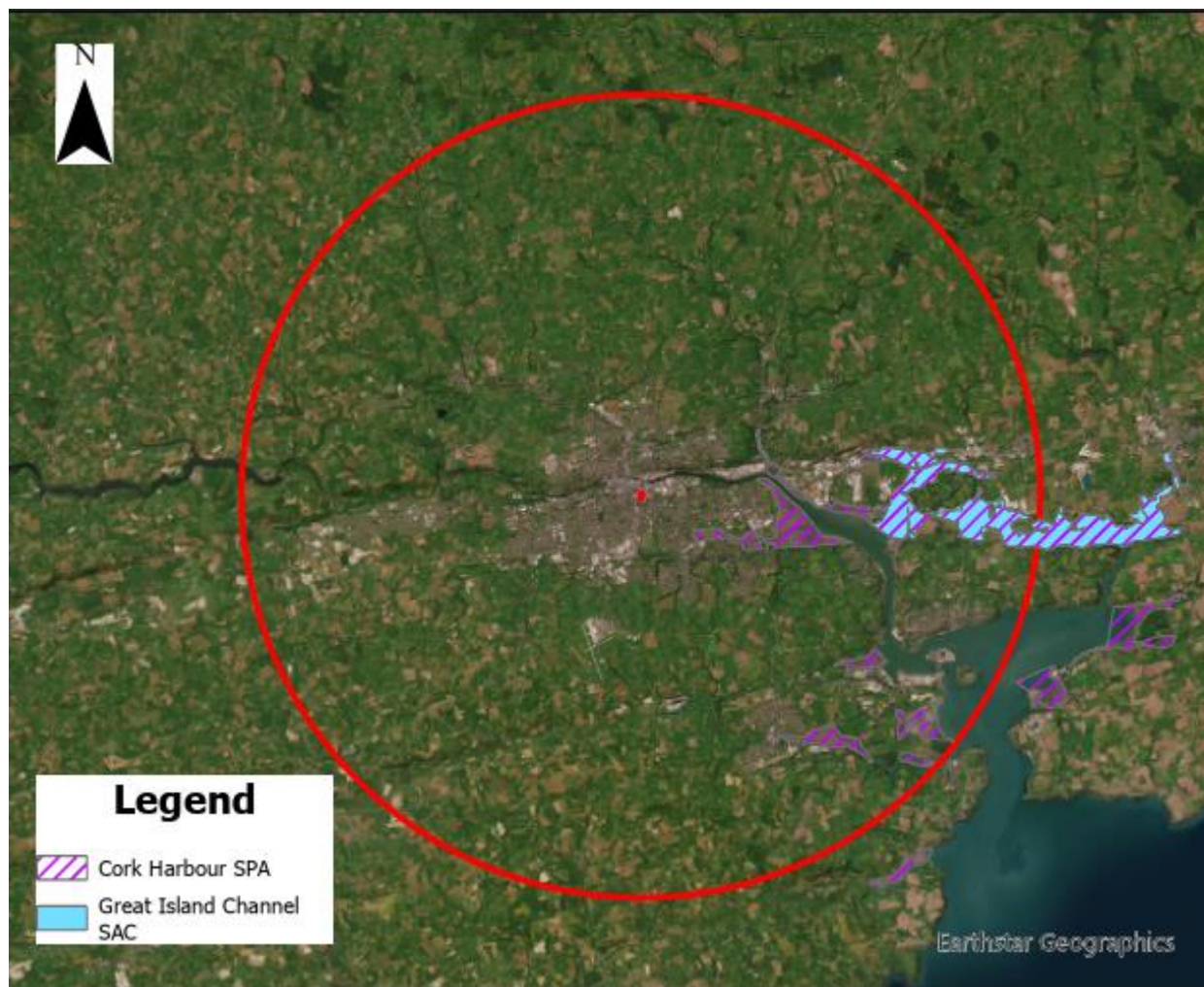


Figure 5.1: Natura 2000 Sites within the Zoi of the proposed development | Background Mapping © Bing Maps | not to scale

5.2.1 Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives of the relevant Natura 2000 Sites

5.2.1.1 Qualifying Interests

Cork Harbour SPA

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004]

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005]

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [A028]

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]

Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
 Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
 Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
 Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]
 Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]
 Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
 Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
 Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
 Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
 Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
 Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]
 Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
 Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
 Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]
 Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]
 Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

Great Island Channel SAC

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]

5.2.1.2 Conservation Objectives

Details on the Conservation Objectives set out by the NPWS for the Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC are included in Appendix B.

5.3 Potential Effects

5.3.1 Qualifying Interests and key environmental conditions supporting site integrity

In order to identify potential significant effects, it is necessary to describe the Natura 2000 site in the context of why it has been designated i.e. in terms of its Qualifying Interests and the environmental and ecological conditions that maintain the condition of these features. The underpinning conditions that are required to maintain the ‘health’ of these features are listed in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: Qualifying interests and key environmental conditions supporting site integrity

Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity	Current threats to Qualifying Interests
Wetlands & Waterbirds	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes and loss of wetland habitat	A number of pressures have been identified by Crowe (2005). These pressures include: the modification of wetland sites, particularly for industry or housing and increased levels of

Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity	Current threats to Qualifying Interests
		disturbance, largely related to recreational activity. Eutrophication at a number of wetland sites as a result of nutrient inputs from a range of polluting activities were also identified as a potential pressure. However, this latter pressure is now being alleviated through stricter control of activities associated with water discharge/runoff etc. Climate change was also noted as a significant factor underlying changes in trends of wintering waterbirds in Ireland.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Surface and marine water dependant. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes.	Aquaculture, fishing, dumping of wastes and water pollution.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime.	Overgrazing, erosion, invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), infilling and reclamation and accretion.

5.3.2 Potential for Significant Direct and Indirect Effects on Natura 2000 sites in view of the conservation objectives of the site

Taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed development (as described in Section 3 above), the ecological baseline (as described in Section 4 above), the potential impacts on biodiversity (Section 4.2.5), the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites and targets and attributes (Appendix B) and the key environmental conditions supporting site integrity (Table 5.1), the potential for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites has been considered. Table 5.2 below sets out the results of the impact assessment. It is highly unlikely that the proposed development could affect the targets and attributes set for the conservation objectives of these Natura 2000 sites.

Table 5.2: Impact Assessment on European Sites in view of conservation objectives

European Site Name and Conservation Objectives/Qualifying Interests	Is there a possibility of significant effects in view of the conservation objectives of the site		
	Habitat Loss	Water Quality and Water Dependent Habitats	Disturbance
Cork Harbour SPA (004030) To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following Special Conservation Interest bird species: Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover (Annex I), Grey Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit (Annex I), Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed gull, Common Tern (Annex I) (Breeding)			No. Due to the nature of the works in an already urban environment will not result in significant disturbance effects.
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in the SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that use it	No. Direct nor indirect significant effects will not arise. Wetland habitats are greater than 4km downstream.	No direct nor indirect effects. The minor nature and scale of the construction works will not result in significant volumes of construction related pollution or sediment release. The risk of accidental pollution events arising during the operational phase will not change from the current scenario and may even reduce at some locations due to the potential uptake in the use of public transport. Thus, the proposed development will not result in deterioration of habitats nor smothering of wetlands nor impact macroinvertebrate fauna.	N/A
Great Island Channel SAC <i>To maintain the favourable condition of mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater</i> <i>To restore the favourable condition of Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco Puccinellietalia maritimae)</i>	No. Direct nor indirect significant effects will not arise. Habitats are greater than 9km downstream	No direct nor indirect significant effects. The minor nature and scale of the construction works will not result in significant volumes of construction related pollution or sediment release. The risk of accidental pollution events arising during the operational phase will not change from the current scenario and may even reduce at some locations due to the potential uptake in the use of public transport. Thus, the proposed development will not result in the deterioration of habitats nor smothering of mudflats nor impact macroinvertebrate fauna.	N/A

5.4 Other Designated Sites

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) can be considered to be ‘stepping stones’ between Natura 2000 sites. There are no NHAs within 15km of the proposed development. However, there are 17 pNHAs within 15km of the proposed development. These are outlined in Table 5.3 below along with their respective distances from the proposed development. None of these will be significantly directly nor indirectly impacted by the proposed development. None of these sites will be significantly impacted for the same reasons as those outlined above in Section 5.3.2 and Section 4.2.5.

Table 5.3: pNHAs within 15km of the proposed development

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)	Site Code	Distance (km)
Cork Lough	001081	1.38
Douglas River Estuary	001046	2.32
Lee Valley	000094	3.78
Dunkettle Shore	001082	4.74
Glanmire Wood	001054	4.75
Blarney Bog	001857	5.79
Shournagh Valley	000103	7.29
Rockfarm (Quarry), Little Island	001074	7.48
Blarney Lake	001798	7.68
Blarney Castle Woods	001039	7.74
Ardamadane Wood	001799	7.82
Great Island Channel	001058	7.86
Ballincollig Cave	001249	9.22
Monkstown Creek	001979	9.56
Owenboy River	001990	10.26
Lough Beg (Cork)	001066	12.15
Cuskinny Marsh	001987	13.41

5.5 In-Combination Effects

As concluded earlier in Section 5.3, none of the potential impacts associated with the proposed development will result in any perceptible residual effect on the receiving environment or on the qualifying interests/special conservation interests in the Cork Harbour SPA or Great Island Channel SAC. Therefore, there will not be any residual impacts associated with the proposed development that significantly effect these Natura 2000 sites in view of their conservation objectives.

This section of the report presents the assessment carried out to examine whether any other plans or projects have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed development to result in significant effects on Cork Harbour SPA or Great Island Channel SAC. The projects and plans identified are listed and analysed below.

5.5.1 Projects

The Cork City Council Planning webpage and An Bord Pleanála website were reviewed in September 2024 for applications which may have the potential to result in in-combination effects with the proposed development.

No projects were identified which could give rise to in-combination effects with the proposed development.

5.5.2 Cork City Council Development Plan 2022-2028

The potential for in-combination effects to arise in the proposed development area or in the River Lee from any existing or proposed land-use plans or developments is regulated and controlled by the environmental protective policies and objectives of the Cork City Council Development Plan 2022-2028. The Cork City Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same ZoI of the proposed development site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts.

In this way, any in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the development area and surrounding townlands in which the development site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the proposed development area will be assessed on a case-by-case basis initially by Cork City Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

6. Assessment of Significance

The proposed development will not result in any significant direct, indirect or in-combination effects on Natura 2000 sites. Table 6.1 below has been used to determine whether significant impacts are likely.

Table 6.1: Significant Impacts Checklist

Does the project have the potential to	Yes or No
Reduce the area of key habitats?	No
Reduce the population of key species?	No
Change the balance between key species?	No
Reduce biodiversity of the site?	No
Result in disturbance that could affect population size or density or the balance between key species?	No
Result in fragmentation?	No
Result in loss or reduction of key features (e.g. tree cover, tidal exposure, annual flooding, etc.)?	No
Cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?	No
Interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?	No
Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site?	No
Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site?	No
Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem?	No
Change the dynamics of the relationships (between, for example, soil and water or plants and animals) that define the structure and/or function of the site?	No

Does the project have the potential to	Yes or No
Interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site (such as water dynamics or chemical composition)?	No

In addition, this judgement has been arrived at on the following basis:

- All development activity will take place within the proposed development boundary. No works will take place within any Natura 2000 site. No material or spoil from the works will be deposited in any Natura 2000 site. There will be no encroachment on the habitats or species of any Natura 2000 site.
- There will be no loss of Natura 2000 site habitat area, no fragmentation of the habitats of Natura 2000 sites, no disturbance to the qualifying species of the Natura 2000 sites, no impacts on population density of these species, no impacts on water resources and no impacts on water quality of the Natura 2000 sites.
- There will be no significant emissions to air or soil during construction or operation. There will also be no significant noise emissions during the construction or operational phase.

7. Screening Statement and Conclusions

This AA screening report has been prepared to assess whether the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, and in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).

The screening exercise was completed in compliance with the relevant European Commission guidance, national guidance, and case law. The potential impacts of the proposed development have been considered in the context of the European sites potentially affected, their qualifying interests or special conservation interests, and their conservation objectives.

Through an assessment of the source-pathway-receptor model, which considered the ZoI of effects from the proposed development and the potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects, the following findings were reported:

The proposed Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane, either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects, does not have the potential to significantly affect any European Site, in light of their conservation objectives.

Therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is deemed not to be required.

Cork City Council will make the final determination.

Appendix A

Findings of No Significant Effects Report

A.1 Findings of No Significant Effects Report

Name of Project:

Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane

Name of Natura 2000 Sites of relevance to the proposed development:

There will be no direct nor indirect significant negative effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of the proposed development. However, listed below are the two Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the proposed development with which there is an indirect hydrological pathway.

Site Name	Site Code
Cork Harbour SPA	004030
Great Island Channel SAC	001058

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?

No.

Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?

No.

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.

It is the opinion of Arup that it is possible to rule out likely significant impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.

Explain why these effects are not considered significant.

- All development activity will take place within the proposed development boundary. No works will take place within any Natura 2000 site. No material or spoil from the works will be deposited in any Natura 2000 site. There will be no encroachment on the habitats or species of any Natura 2000 site.
- There will be no loss of Natura 2000 site habitat area, no fragmentation of the habitats of Natura 2000 sites, no disturbance to the qualifying species of the Natura 2000 sites, no impacts on population density of these species, no impacts on water resources and no impacts on water quality of the Natura 2000 sites.
- There will be no significant emissions to air or soil during construction or operation. There will also be no significant noise emissions during the construction or operational phase.

Guidance and Sources of Data:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 1/10 and PSSP 2/10.
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites: Methodical guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2014).
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000).

- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007).
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2019); and
- Office of the Planning Regulator Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).
- Ordnance Survey Ireland OSI Mapping and aerial photography – www.osi.ie
- Bing aerial photography – www.bing.com/maps
- Google aerial photography – www.googlemaps.com
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) – www.npws.ie
- National Parks and Wildlife Service online data on protected flora and fauna
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – www.epa.ie (EPA Online Environmental Map Viewer)
- Information on environmental water quality data available from (EPA, www.catchments.ie)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre – www.biodiversityireland.ie
- BirdWatch Ireland – www.birdwatchireland.ie/
- Google Earth aerial photography
- Fossit (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council
- Cork City Council Development Plan 2022-2028

Overall Conclusions

This AA screening report has been prepared to assess whether the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, and in view of best scientific knowledge, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).

The screening exercise was completed in compliance with the relevant European Commission guidance, national guidance, and case law. The potential impacts of the proposed development have been considered in the context of the European sites potentially affected, their qualifying interests or special conservation interests, and their conservation objectives.

Through an assessment of the source-pathway-receptor model, which considered the ZoI of effects from the proposed development and the potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects, the following findings were reported:

The proposed Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane, either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects, does not have the potential to significantly affect any European Site, in light of their conservation objectives.

Therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is deemed not to be required.

Cork City Council will make the final determination.

Appendix B

Natura 2000 Sites – Conservation Objectives

B.1 Natura 2000 Sites - Conservation Objectives

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Cork Harbour SPA 004030



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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Gaeltacht.**

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Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

004030	Cork Harbour SPA
A004	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
A005	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
A017	Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
A028	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>
A048	Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
A050	Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
A052	Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
A054	Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
A056	Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>
A069	Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>
A130	Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
A140	Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
A141	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
A142	Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
A149	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
A156	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>
A160	Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
A162	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
A179	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
A182	Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>
A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>
A193	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>
A999	Wetlands

Please note that this SPA overlaps with Great Island Channel SAC (001058). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year : 2014
Title : Cork Harbour SPA (site code: 4030) Conservation objectives supporting document V1
Author : NPWS
Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year : 1985
Title : Breeding seabirds on the east Cork coastline
Author : Smiddy, P.
Series : Cork Bird Report 1984: 46-50

Year : 1995
Title : Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland: a compilation of methods for survey and monitoring of breeding seabirds
Author : Walsh, P.; Halley, D.J.; Harris, M.P.; del Nevo, A.; Sim, I.M.W.; Tasker, M.L.
Series : JNCC, Peterborough

Year : 1996
Title : Handbook of birds of the world volume 3: hoatzin to auks
Author : del Hoyo, J.; Elliott, A.; Sargatal, J.
Series : Lynx Edicions, Barcelona

Year : 2000
Title : Common terns *Sterna hirundo* nesting on Cork Harbour
Author : Wilson, J.; O'Mahony, B.; Smiddy, P.
Series : Irish Birds Vol. 6(4)

Year : 2014
Title : Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) Database
Author : JNCC
Series : <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/smp/Default.aspx>

Year : 2014
Title : BirdLife International Seabird Ecology and Foraging Range Database
Author : BirdLife International
Series : <http://seabird.wikispaces.com>

Year : 2014
Title : Chapter 15 in: Ringaskiddy Port Redevelopment. Environmental Impact Statement
Author : RPS
Series : Report to Port of Cork

A004 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Little Grebe in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by little grebe, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A005 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Great Crested Grebe in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by great crested grebe, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Cormorant in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by cormorant, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A028 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Heron in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey heron, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A048 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shelduck, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by wigeon, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A052 Teal *Anas crecca*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A054 Pintail *Anas acuta*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by pintail, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A056 Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shoveler in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shoveler, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Red-breasted Merganser in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by red-breasted merganser, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A130 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document

A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lapwing, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A164 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Greenshank in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by greenshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document

A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A182 Common Gull *Larus canus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by common gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lesser black-backed gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A193 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Tern in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). Wilson et al. (2000) provides background summary population information for the Cork Harbour area. In 2012 the total population of common terns that nested within the wider Cork Harbour was between 85 and 95 pairs, a proportion of which now breeds outside the SPA (RPS, 2014)
Productivity rate: fledged young per breeding pair	Mean number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) (JNCC, 2014) provides population data for this species
Distribution: breeding colonies	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline	Common tern breeding colonies can be sited in both coastal and inland areas using a wide variety of habitats including sandy, rocky or well-vegetated islands in estuaries, lakes and rivers. This species can also use artificial substrates (Del Hoyo et al., 1996). First recorded nesting in saltmarsh in 1969-70 (Smiddy, 1985), the colony now largely breeds on artificial structures in at least two locations (see Wilson et al., 2000 and RPS, 2014)
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline	Key prey items: Small fish, crustaceans, insects and occasionally squid. Key habitats: common tern forage in/over shallow coastal waters, bays, inlets, shoals, tidal-rips, drift lines, beaches, saltmarsh creeks, lakes, ponds or rivers. Foraging range: max. 37km, mean max. 33.81km, mean 8.67km (Birdlife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2014))
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase	Seabird species can make extensive use of marine waters adjacent to their breeding colonies. Foraging range: max. 37km, mean max. 33.81km, mean 8.67km (BirdLife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2014))
Disturbance at the breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding common tern population	In the Cork Harbour area, this species largely breeds on artificial structures (see Wilson et al., 2000 and RPS, 2014)

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Cork Harbour SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,587 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 2,587ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document



Legend

 Cork Harbour SPA 004030

**An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

**MAP 1:
CORK HARBOUR SPA
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SPA DESIGNATION**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

**SITE CODE:
SAC 004030; version 2.04. CO. CORK**

0 1 2 3 4 km

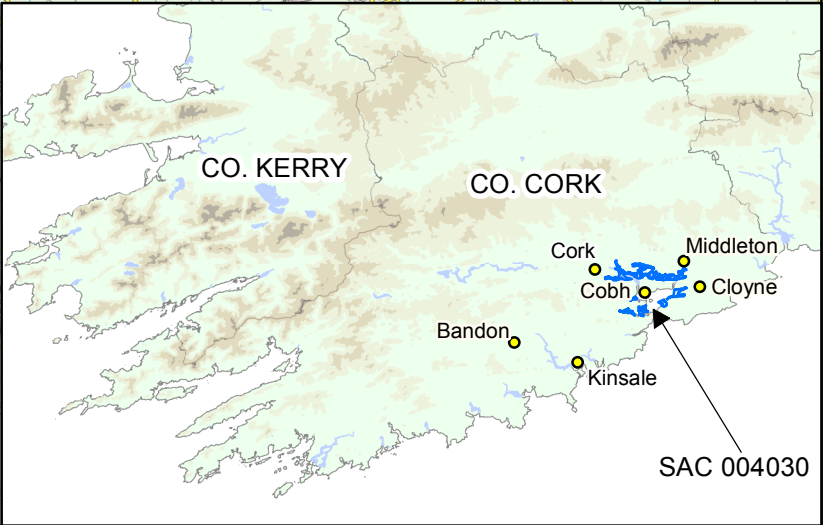
The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No EN 0059214 ©. Ordnance Survey of Ireland Government of Ireland

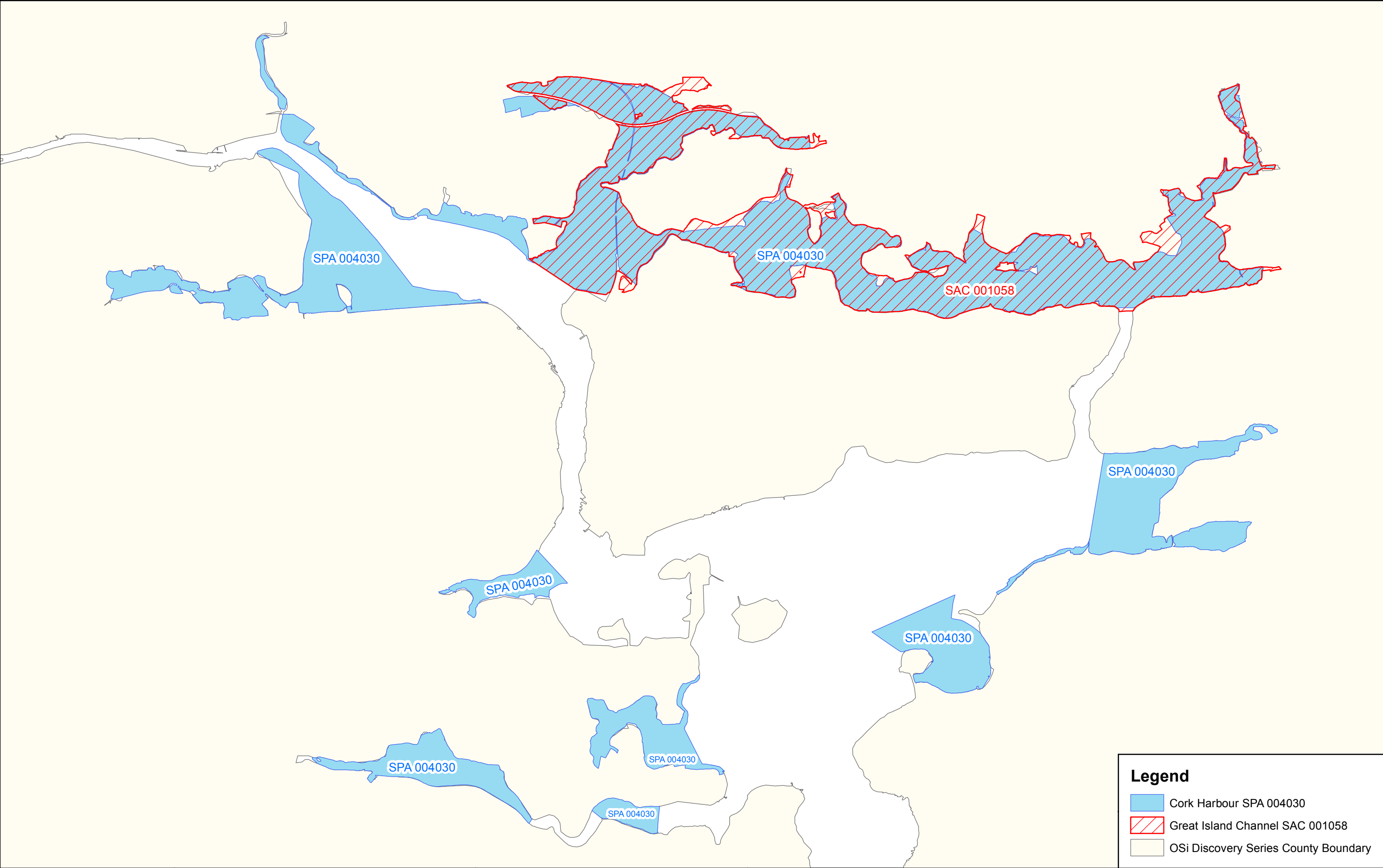
Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuimhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbheithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059214. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann

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**Map Version 1
Date: Dec 2014**





Legend

- Cork Harbour SPA 004030
- Great Island Channel SAC 001058
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Great Island Channel SAC 001058



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage
and the Gaeltacht.**

**Series Editor: Rebecca Jeffrey
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Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

** indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

001058	Great Island Channel SAC
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Cork Harbour SPA (004030). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	2006
Title :	A survey of intertidal mudflats and sandflats in Ireland
Author :	Aquafact
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2009
Title :	Saltmarsh monitoring project 2007-2008
Author :	McCorry, M.; Ryle, T.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2014
Title :	Great Island Channel SAC (site code:1058) Conservation objectives supporting document-coastal habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2014
Title :	Great Island Channel SAC (site code:1058) Conservation objectives supporting document-marine habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	1998
Title :	The saltmarshes of Ireland: an inventory and account of their geographical variation
Author :	Curtis, T.G.F.; Sheehy Skeffington, M.J.
Series :	Biology and Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 98B: 87-104
Year :	2012
Title :	Benthic sampling of water bodies of County Cork under the Water Framework Directive
Author :	EcoServe
Series :	Report to the Marine Institute
Year :	2012
Title :	Intertidal benthic survey of Great Island Channel SAC and Cork Harbour SPA
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

Spatial data sources

Year :	Interpolated 2014
Title :	Intertidal surveys 2006, 2011; subtidal survey 2011
GIS Operations :	Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on interpolation of marine survey data. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1140, Marine community types (maps 3 and 4)
Year :	2005
Title :	OSi Discovery series vector data
GIS Operations :	High water mark (HWM) and low water mark (LWM) polyline feature classes converted into polygon feature classes and combined; EU Annex I Saltmarsh and Coastal data erased out if present
Used For :	Marine community types base data (map 4)
Year :	Revision 2010
Title :	Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Version 1
GIS Operations :	QIs selected; clipped to SAC boundary; overlapping regions with Coastal CO data investigated and resolved with expert opinion used
Used For :	1330 (map 5)

Conservation Objectives for : Great Island Channel SAC [001058]

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Great Island Channel SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, OSi data subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated using as 723ha using
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Mixed sediment to sandy mud with polychaetes and oligochaetes community complex. See map 4	Based on intertidal and subtidal surveys undertaken in 2006 (Aquafact, 2007) and 2011 (EcoServe, 2012; MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information

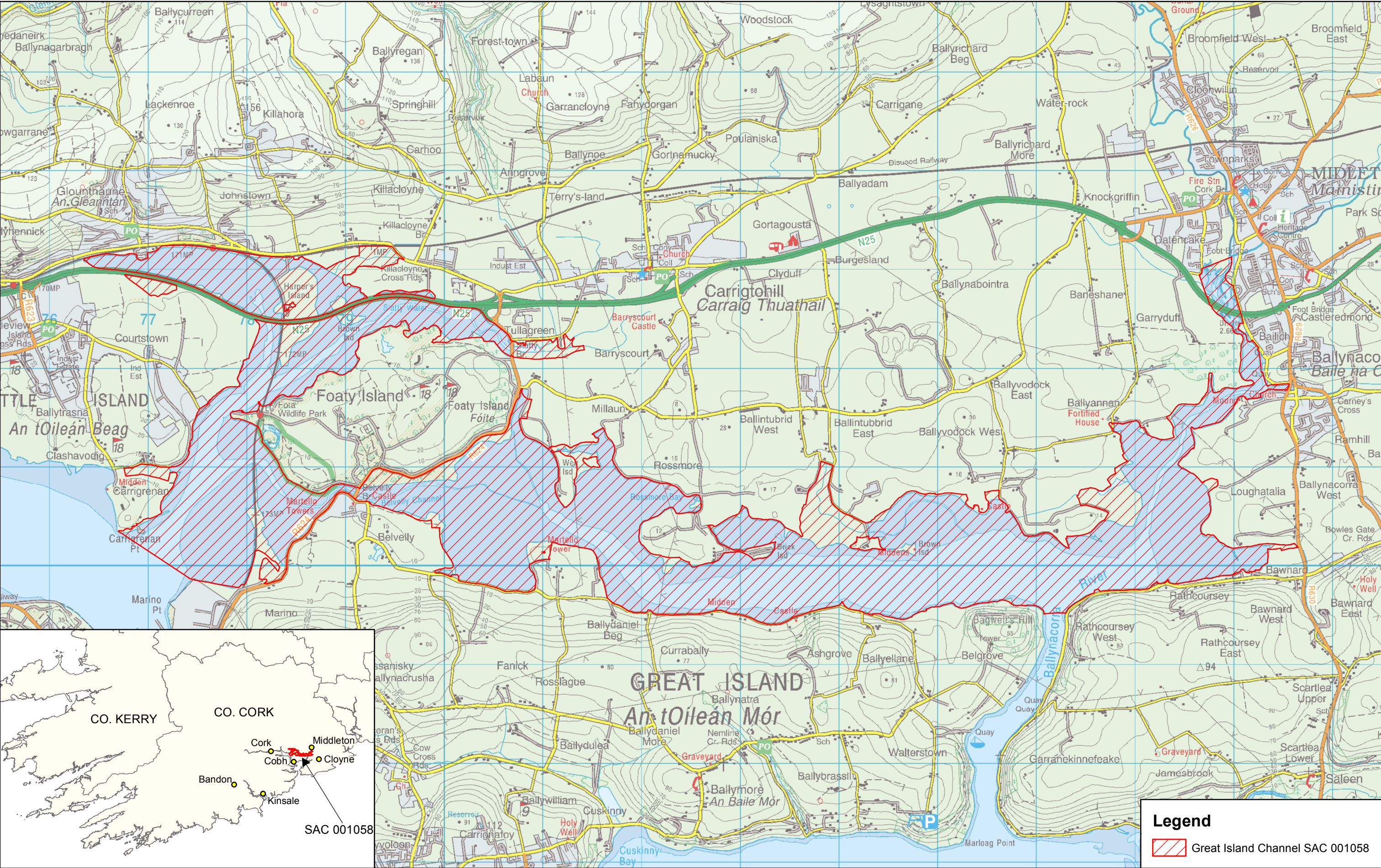
Conservation Objectives for : Great Island Channel SAC [001058]

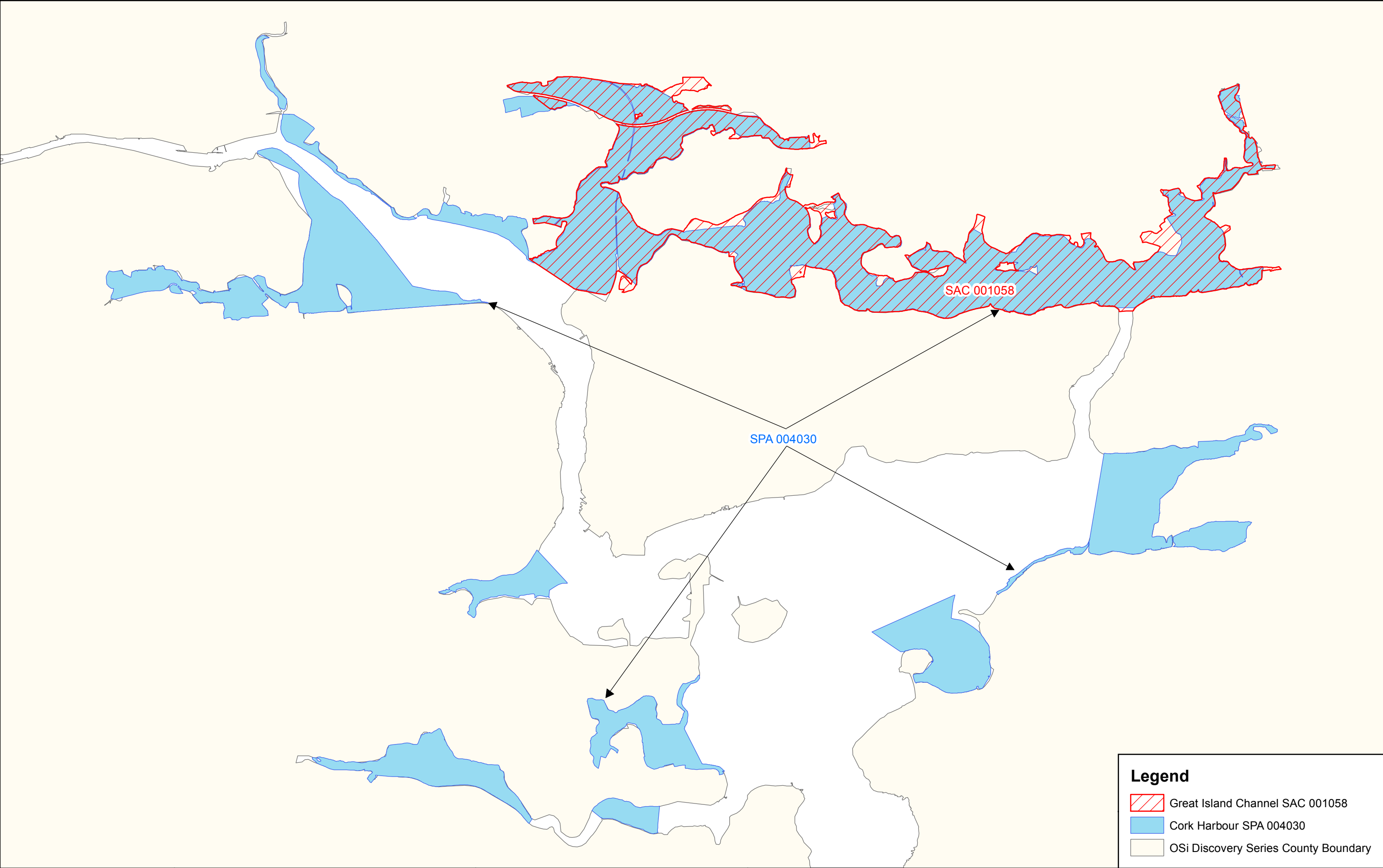
1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

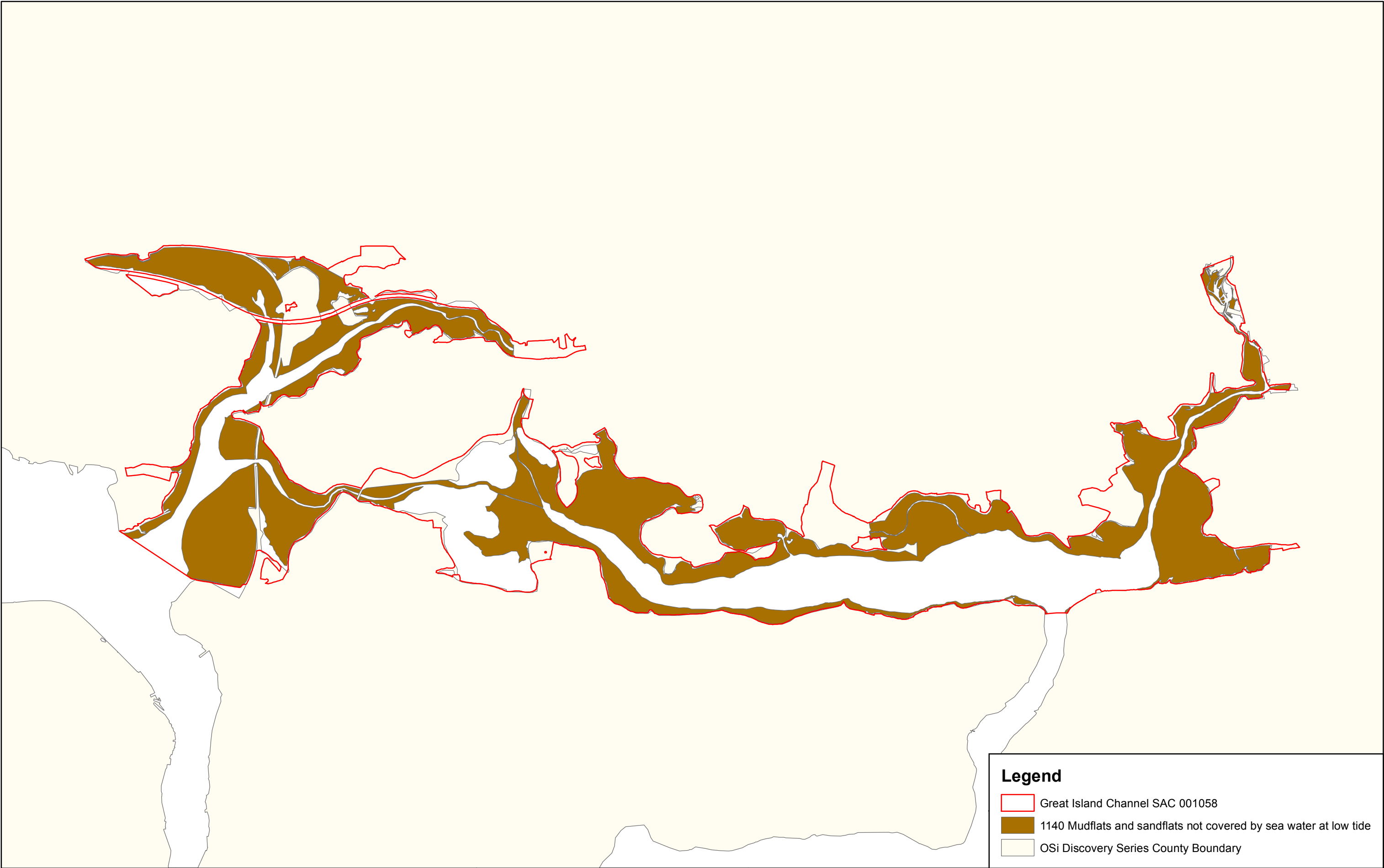
To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) in Great Island Channel SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-sites mapped: Bawnard - 0.29ha; Carrigatohil - 1.01ha. See map 5	Based on data from Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). Two sub-sites that supported Atlantic salt meadow were mapped (1.30ha) and additional areas of potential saltmarsh (17.60ha) were identified from an examination of aerial photographs, giving a total estimated area of 18.90ha. Saltmarsh habitat has also been recorded at two other sub-sites within the SAC (Curtis and Sheehy Skeffington, 1998). NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Within the sites surveyed by the SMP, estuary type saltmarsh over a mud substrate is most common and ASM is the dominant saltmarsh habitat. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). At Bawnard there is a seawall that was constructed in the 18th-19th centuries. At Carrigatohil the northern and eastern shorelines have been significantly modified by road construction. Part of the saltmarsh has also been infilled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). The ASM at Carrigatohil is poorly developed, though some of the larger sections contain salt pans. The smaller sections, however, tend to be quite uniform in topography. The saltmarsh topography at Bawnard is poorly developed with few typical saltmarsh features. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). At Bawnard, the entire bay empties at low tide to expose soft intertidal mudflats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Zonations to <i>Salicornia</i> flats and intertidal mudflats occurs at Carrigatohil. At Bawnard, there is succession from saltmarsh to brackish saltmarsh and wet grassland as well as zonation to intertidal mudflats at the lower saltmarsh boundary. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). At Carrigatohil, the sward height is quite tall due to lack of grazing. At Bawnard only part of the site is grazed. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Some poaching was noted in places at Bawnard. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). <i>Spartina</i> occurs at both sub-sites in this SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
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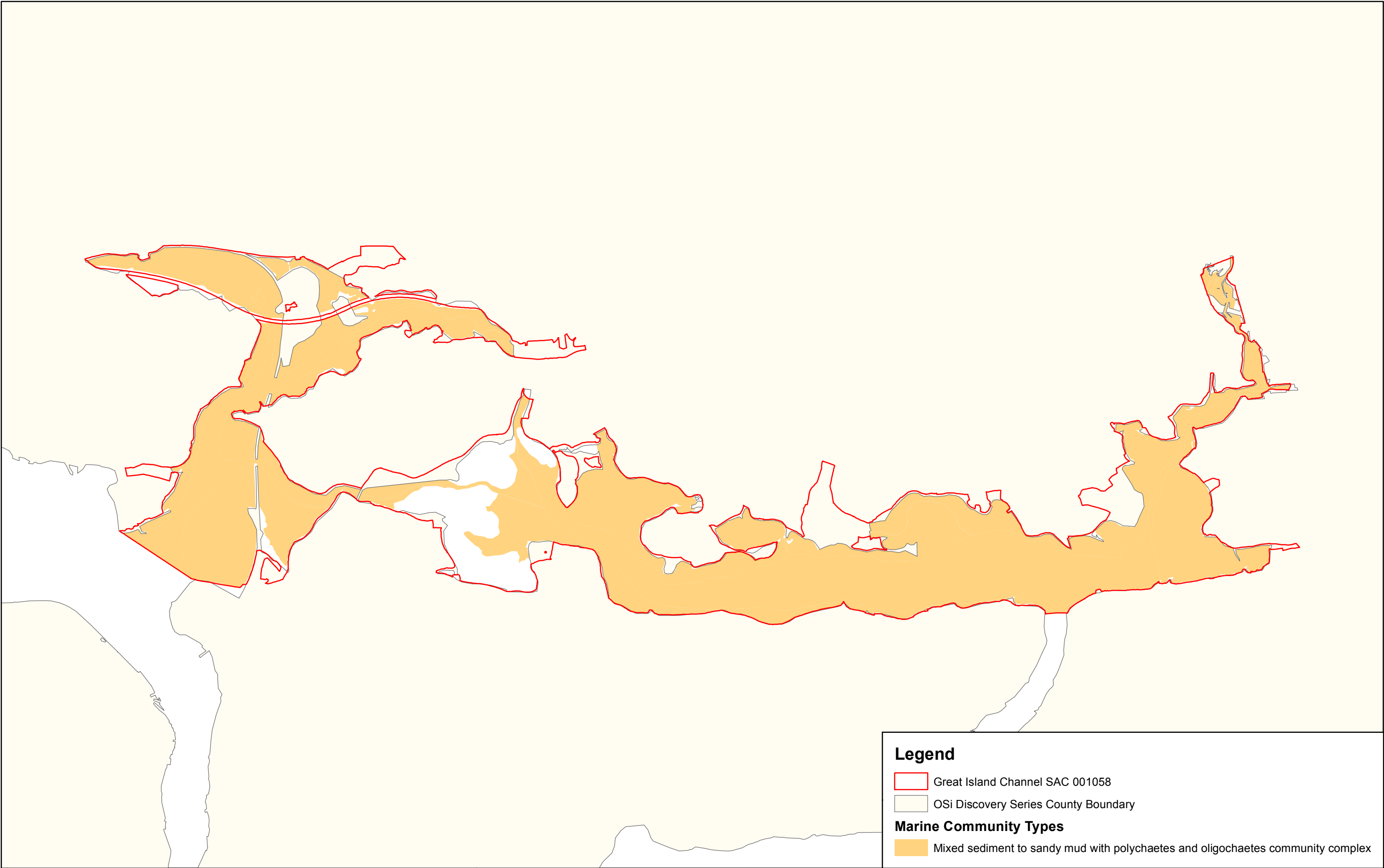


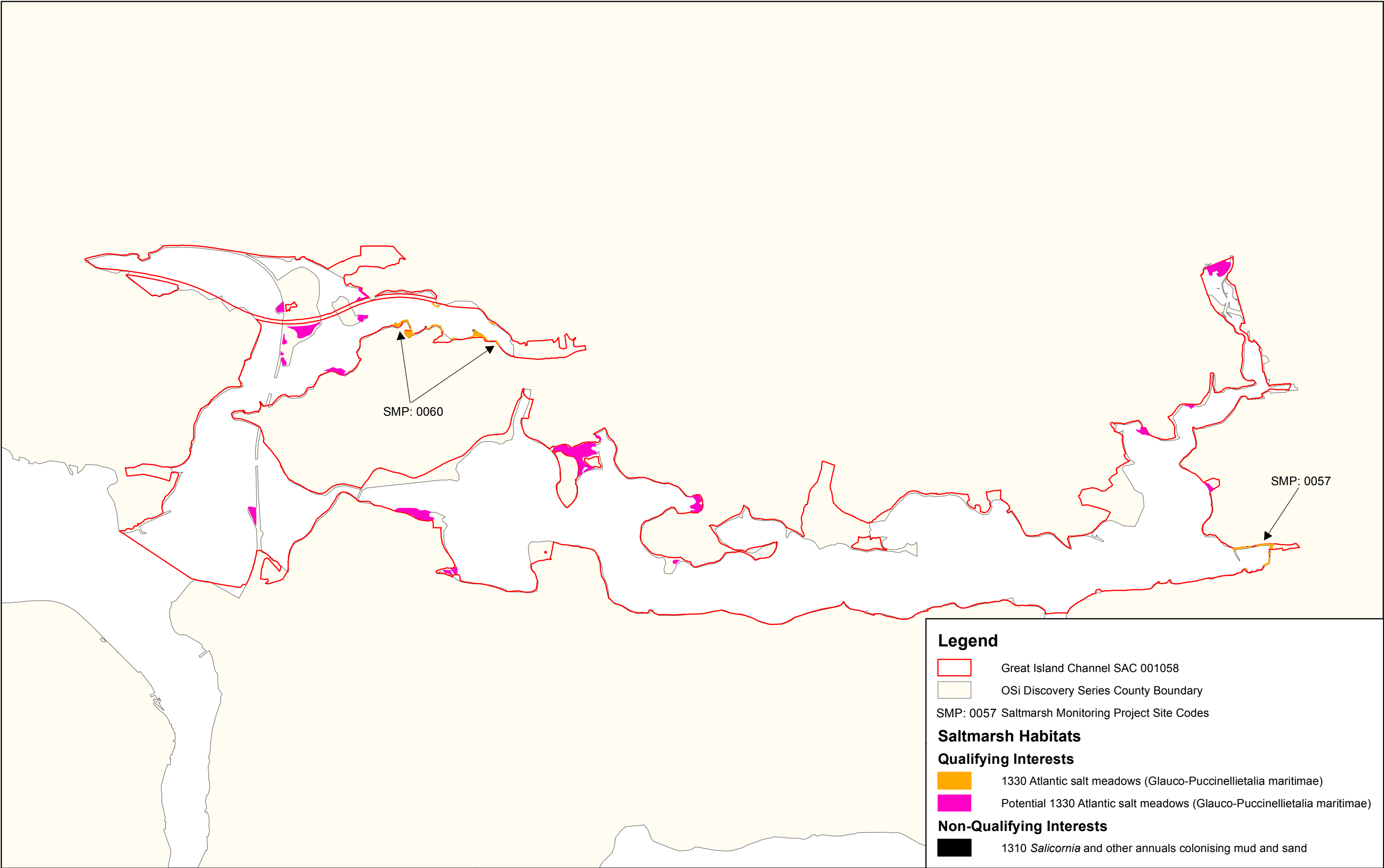
Legend

Great Island Channel SAC 001058

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide

OSi Discovery Series County Boundary





Legend

- Great Island Channel SAC 001058
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- SMP: 0057 Saltmarsh Monitoring Project Site Codes

Saltmarsh Habitats

Qualifying Interests

- 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- Potential 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

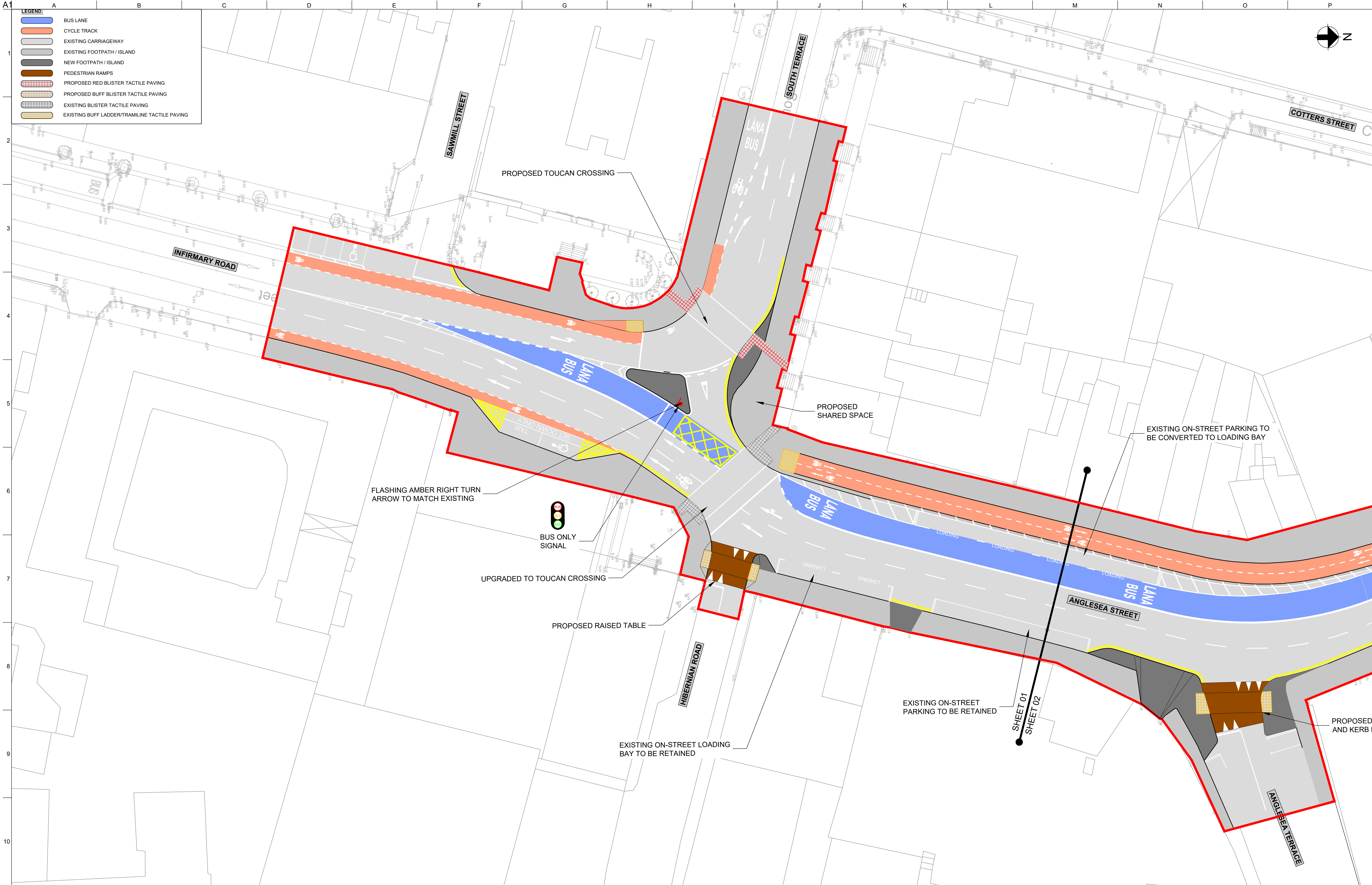
Non-Qualifying Interests

- 1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

Appendix C

Planning Drawings

C.1 Planning Drawings



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c. Information concerning the position of apparatus shown on this drawing is based on drawings supplied by the utility owners and/or the utility works contractor, whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this drawing, positions should be taken as approximate and are intended for general guidance only

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P03	30/10/24	MP	AM	BB
P02	23/10/24	MP	AM	BB
P01	26/08/24	MP	AM	BB
Rev	Date	By	Chkd	Appd

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Cork City Council


Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Project Title
**Anglesea Street
Contraflow Bus Lane**

Drawing Title
**General Arrangement
Sheet 01 of 02**

Scale at A1
1:250 @ A1

Role Transport Infrastructure	Rev P03
Suitability Planning	
Arup Job No 304272-00	
Name 304272-ACBL-ARU-E-XX-DR-CH-01	

