



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
SCREENING REPORT
&
SCREENING DETERMINATION**

**Cork North Docks Public Realm and
Transport Infrastructure**

May 2025

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Cork City Council

Section 177 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Article 6(3) and 6(4) EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

Due to the specific context of Cork City relative to the location of the European sites identified below a combined appropriate assessment screening report is used to assess potential impacts on both sites.

1. EUROPEAN SITE DATA

Great Island Channel candidate Special Area Of Conservation (site code 001058)	
Conservation objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.
Qualifying interests	Annex I listed habitats: mudflats, sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, estuaries, spartina swards, Atlantic salt meadows.
References and further information	<i>Conservation Objectives for Great Island Channel SAC [001058] (NPWS), Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (NPWS), Site Synopsis Great Island Channel Site Code 001058 (NPWS) (see www.npws.ie for further details)</i>

Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (site code 004030)	
Conservation objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as special conservation interests for this SPA.
Qualifying interests	Annex I-listed bird species: bar-tailed godwit, common tern (breeding), golden plover, ruff, whooper swan. Other birds of special conservation interest include black-headed gull, black-tailed godwit, common gull, curlew, dunlin, great crested grebe, grey heron, grey plover, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, little grebe, oystercatcher, pintail, red-breasted merganser, redshank, shelduck, shoveler, teal, and widgeon. This site is an internationally important wetland site supporting > 20,000 wintering waterfowl.
References and further information	<i>Conservation Objectives for Cork Harbour SPA [004030] (NPWS), Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (NPWS), Site Synopsis Cork Harbour SPA Site Code 004030 (NPWS) (see www.npws.ie for further details)</i>

Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area Of Conservation (site code 002170)	
Conservation objective	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.
Qualifying interests	Annex I listed habitats: Estuaries, Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation, Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles, Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Twaite Shad, Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern.
References and further information	<i>Conservation Objectives for Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC [002170] (NPWS), Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (NPWS), Site Synopsis Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Site Code 002170 (NPWS) (see www.npws.ie for further details)</i>

2. DETAILS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Reference no.	Cork North Docks Public Realm and Transport Infrastructure
Development consent type	Local authority development (Part 8 Planning Development Regulations 2001)
Development location	Horgan's Quay, Water Street and small sections of adjoining streets, including Alfred Street, Penrose Quay and Lower Glanmire Road, Cork City
Distance from cSAC	7.28km
Distance from SPA	2.25km
Description of development	The proposed development will consist of the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realignment of the N8 national road between Lower Glanmire Road and Alfred Street to a new alignment closer to the rear of Kent Station, removing road traffic from Horgan's Quay. The realigned road will be approximately 720m long and will comprise two traffic lanes, a bus lane, footpaths and planted verges. • Demolition of single-storey dockside shed on Horgan's Quay (Dowdall Building). • Part-demolition of single-storey railway shed in Kent Station yard. • Creation of a new promenade on the waterfront along Horgan's Quay. The new promenade will be approximately 690m long and will include pedestrian and cycling infrastructure along the waterfront. The promenade will comprise new surface finishes, feature structures, recreational amenities, seating areas and planted landscape areas. • Creation of a new public park of 6000m² in area. The new public park will comprise new surface finishes, a water feature, recreational amenities, seating areas, feature structures and planted landscape areas. • Creation of a new gateway public park along Water Street, providing a landscaped pedestrian link from Lower Glanmire Road to the new waterfront promenade. • Other associated works, including public lighting, surface water drainage, signage and road markings.
Relevant strategies or policies	Cork City Development Plan, Draft Cork Docklands Framework Masterplan, Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.
EIS submitted?	no
NIS submitted?	no

3. 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 diversity 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
Interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site (such as water dynamics or chemical composition)?	No
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Comments or notes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This assessment has been undertaken following full consideration of the information in the Report for Screening for Appropriate Assessment prepared by OCSC. • All development activity will take place within the site works 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. • In addition to the proposed development, other relevant proposed or permitted projects in the surrounding areas of Cork City have been considered. Due to the nature and short-term duration of the works and the location of the proposed development in relation to any Natura 2000 Sites, the likelihood of significant impacts as a result of cumulative or in-combination effects can be excluded. 	

4. SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT

In view of the above it is considered that (tick one box only):

Appropriate Assessment is not required
The proposed development is directly connected / necessary to the conservation management of a site.

Appropriate Assessment is not required The possibility of significant effects on the sites has been excluded through screening.

Further information is required
Potential impacts have been identified through initial screening and/or there is insufficient information to enable the planning authority to screen out impacts, but on balance it is determined that the issues could be resolved through minor modifications to the proposed development or by appropriate conditions. The information required is specified below.

Appropriate Assessment is required
Significant issues have been identified and/or significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain, and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required, or the proposed development must be rejected.

Further information required / Comments or Notes

Please refer to attached report for screening for appropriate assessment as prepared by OCSC Environmental team on behalf of Cork City Council.

- There is no potential for the proposed development to significantly impact on Natura 2000 Sites.
- The proposed development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of any Natura 2000 sites.
- The proposed development, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in view of their conservation objectives.

Name:	
Position:	Director of Services, Infrastructure Development on behalf of Cork City Council.
Date:	26/5/25

J. St. Peter SE Infrastructure Dev. 26/5/25.

